

Integration of American and Italian Cultures through Cartoon/Comics

Grade Level 6
2 Days, 60 Minute Lessons

Materials

- Acrylic
- Watercolor
- Brushes
- Water Bucket
- Glue Stick
- Colored Pencil
- Black Marker
- Paper
 - Heavy
 - Lightweight

Resources

- Roy Lichtenstien
- Charles Schulz
- Eleanor Davis
 - *Stinky*
 - *Secret Science Alliance*

Theme

Students will explore cultural identity by creating narratives of a hybrid food character representing Italian and American culture. Students will experiment with color mixing, line quality, and aspects of composition to tell a story.

Key Concepts

- What are the significant cultural symbols of both countries?
- How can the aspects of these cultures be combined to create a hybrid character?
- What personality traits will this character personify?
- How can you use variation in line and color to embody character traits?

Objectives

- The students will integrate symbolic images of Italian and American culture to create a character that will be explored through narrative in the comic strip.
- Characters will be made up of primary and complementary colors in acrylic and watercolor.
- Students will introduce this character into the imaginary world of the comic strip, while learning about variation in line quality and composing the comic strip for their story.

Instruction

Day 1

1. On each separate sheet draw with **pencil** one Italian and one American **food**.
2. Demonstrate **primary** and **secondary mixing** techniques, and paint one food primary and its respected secondary for the other food.
3. While waiting for paintings to dry demonstrate cleaning **brushes**.
4. **Cut** both paintings of Italian and American foods, combine, and past onto lightweight paper.
5. Outline the new hybrid foods with **black marker**.

Day 2

1. Fold heavyweight paper in half to create **comic book**.
2. Brainstorm character **personality traits** on scrap paper.
3. Paste hybrid on the **cover page** and give name and body to character (have teacher show examples of book orientation and human or animal characters).
4. Inside book, compose **frames** for the **narrative** of the comic (teacher shows examples of comics and frames from *Resources* list).
5. Demonstrate **line quality** to portray *movement, depth, weight, pattern, contour*.
6. Create **narrative** that illustrates hybrid character's personality using **colored pencils** and **black markers**. Comic theme can include commentary on the similarities and differences in Italian and American cultures.

Vocabulary

Acrylic – acrilico

Black Marker – pennarello nero

Brush – pennello (s) spazzole (pl)

Colored Pencil – matita colorata

Comic Book – fumetti

Cover Page – copertina

Cut – tagliare

Draw – disegnare

Food – cibo

Frames – cornici

Line Quality – linea di qualità

Mixing - miscelazione

Narrative – narrazione

Paint – vernice (n), dipingere (v)

Paper – carta

Pencil – matita

Personality Traits – tratti di personalità

Primary – primario

Secondary – secondario

Watercolor – acquerello