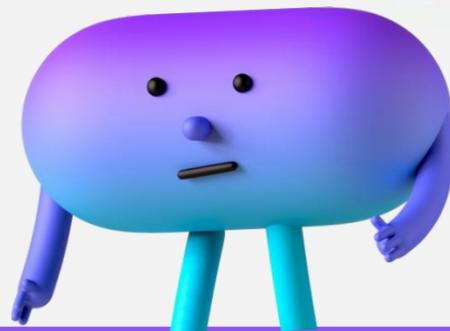


TWGHs MA KAM CHAN MEMORIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Puppets in Action - Characters Created for Inspiration

★ What is the key to writing an  
impactful story?



Presented by:  
Andrew Wright (NET)  
and  
Phoenix Chung (EPC)

#### Disclaimer

*To enhance the teaching content, teachers can exercise their professional judgment and consult relevant scholarly work when adopting the learning and teaching resources prepared by educators and other teachers. In support of the implementation of the English Language Education KLA Curriculum, teachers can also select appropriate parts of the resources for classroom learning or extended learning based on pedagogical consideration and the learning needs of students.*



# Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Ma Kam Chan Memorial Primary School

Located in Sheung Shui

Wide variety of ability levels, with  
many cross-border students

High priority on values education



# Objectives

**To share experience in...**

- ❖ integrating character strengths in English language learning through a puppetry performance**
- ❖ exploring techniques that breathe life into stories**
- ❖ achieving student learning outcomes through supported writing practice**

# Promoting Values Education at Ma Kam Chan

Explicit values education,  
(e.g. teaching virtues) can  
help understanding

**Cognition Level**  
To enhance students'  
understanding of positive  
values and attitudes and skills  
in making moral  
judgements and  
decisions

**Promoting  
students'  
positive values  
and attitudes**

**Affection Level**  
To nurture students' empathy  
and positive attitudes  
towards life

**Action Level**  
To provide students with  
authentic learning  
experiences so that they  
know how to put  
positive values and  
attitudes into practice

# Learning the 24 Character Strengths



Gratitude



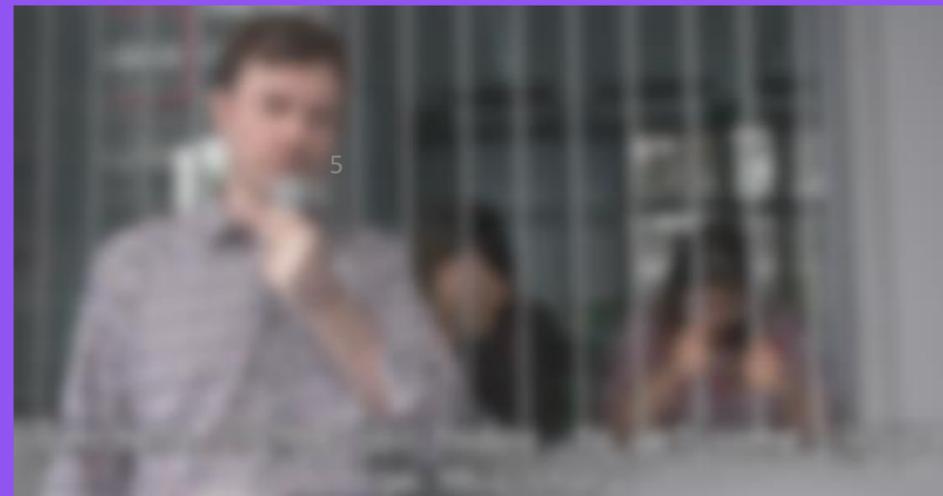
Leadership



Love



Creativity

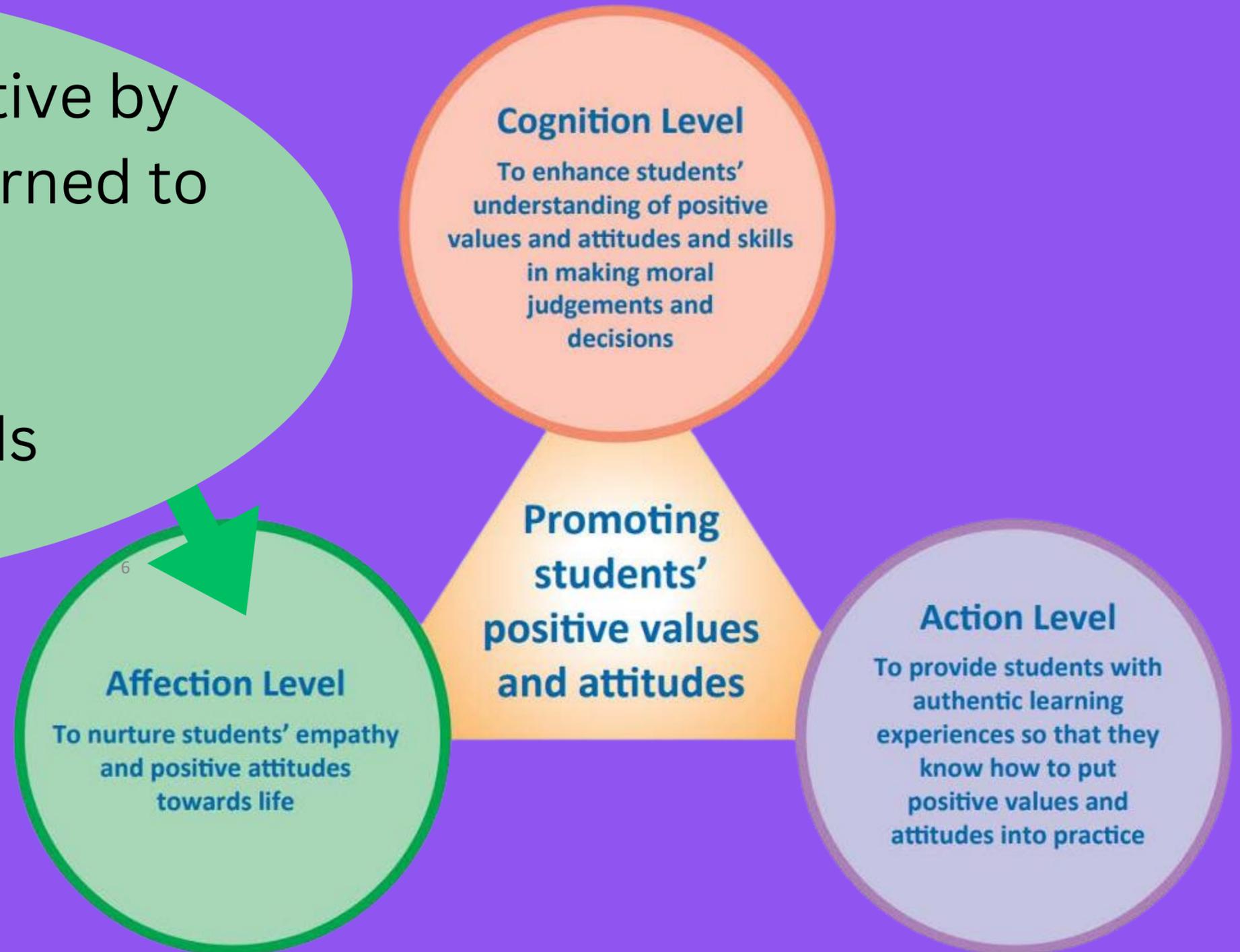


Making videos to promote the character strengths

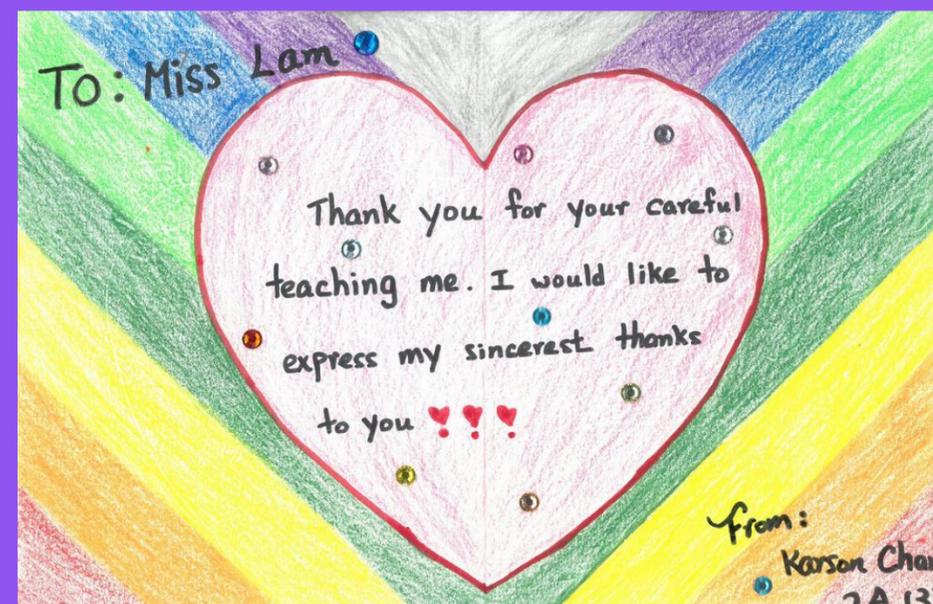
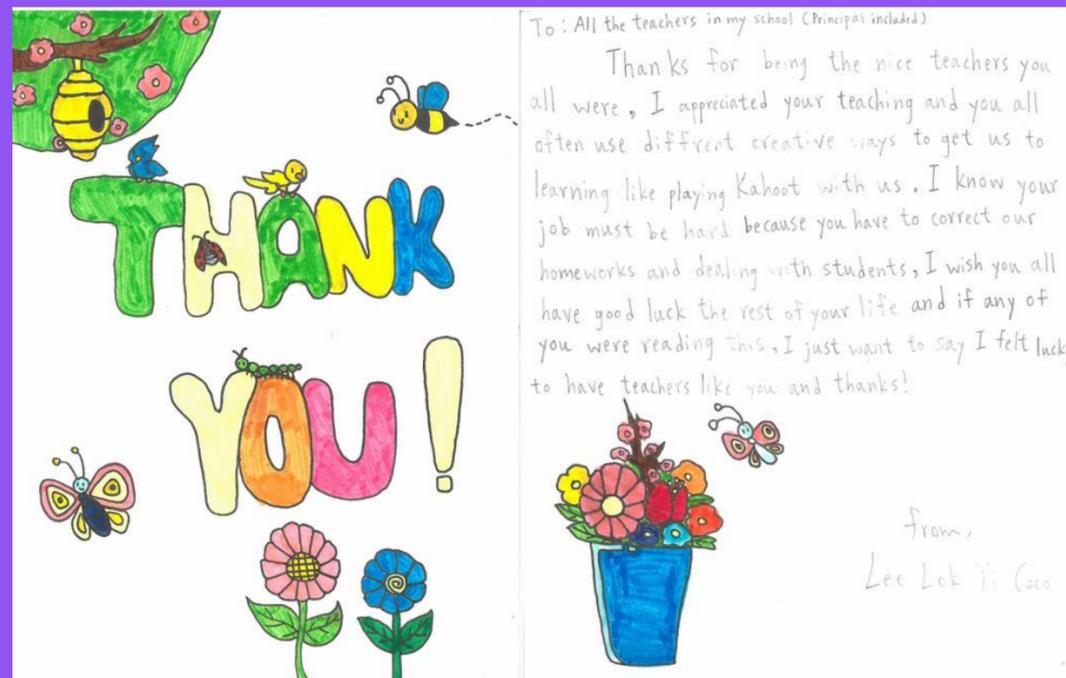
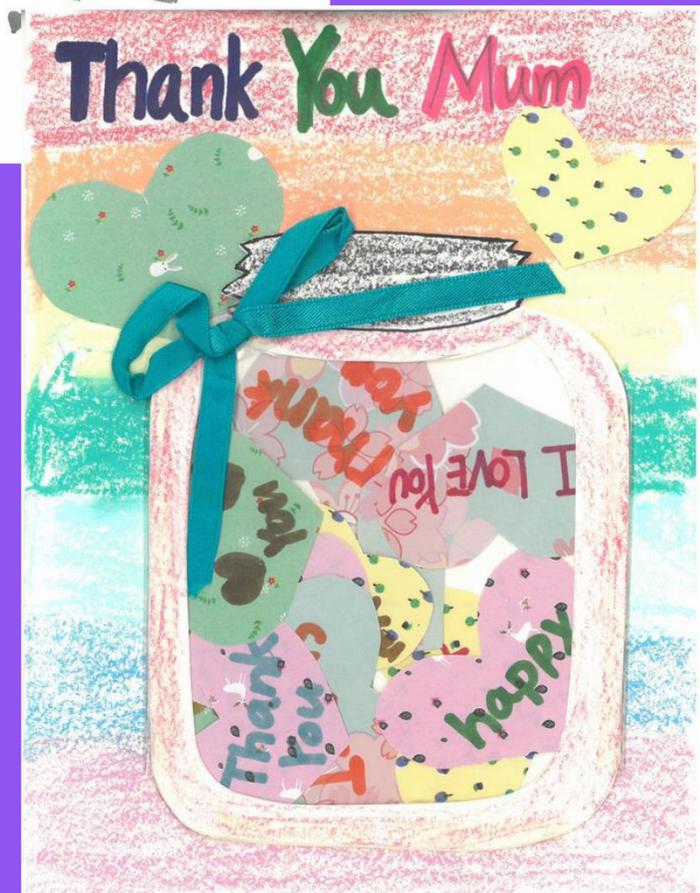
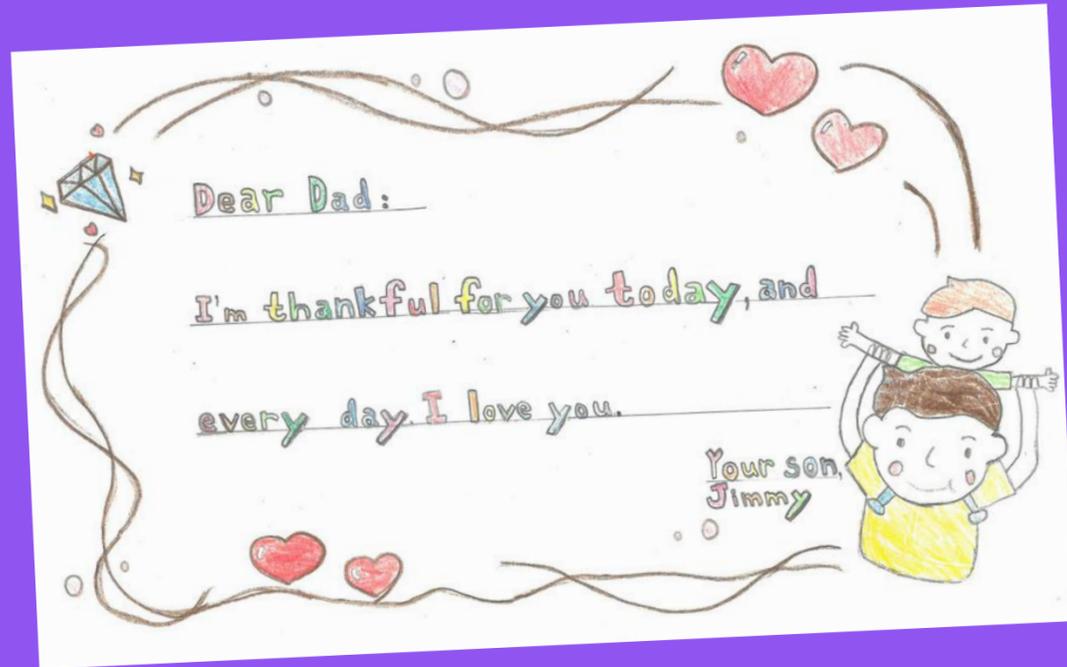
# Promoting Values Education at Ma Kam Chan

Students learn to feel positive by applying what they have learned to their lives.

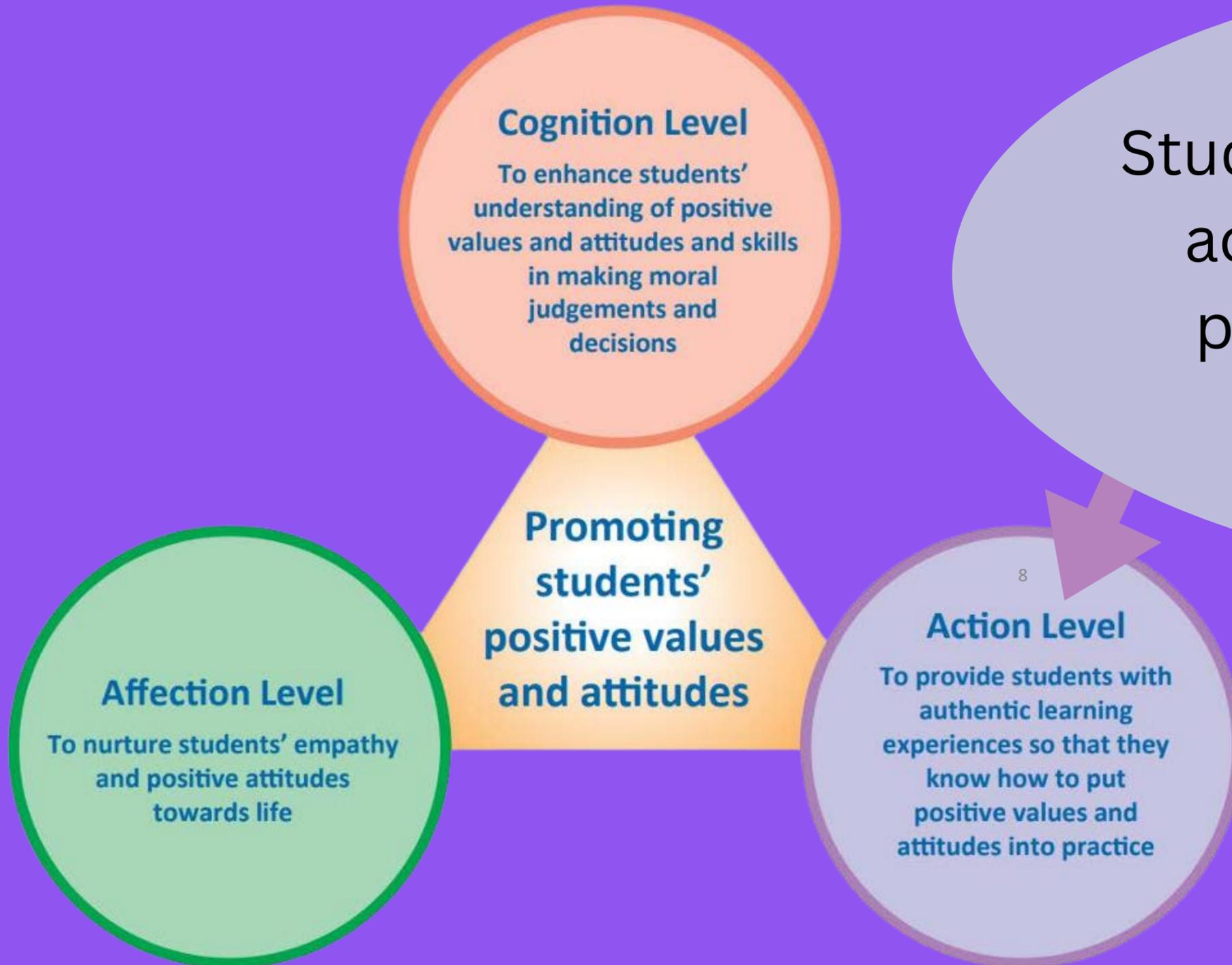
e.g.: thankfulness cards



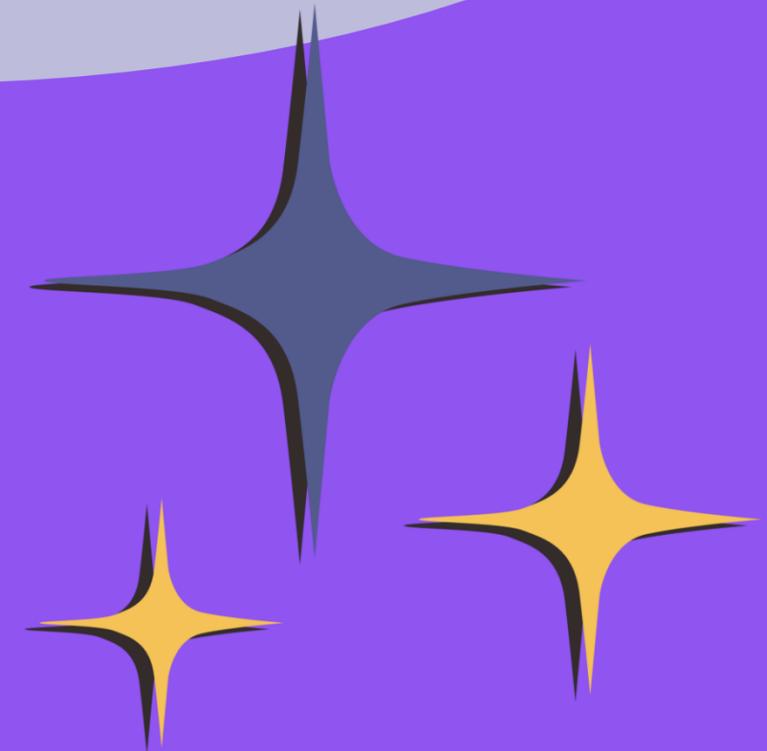
# Writing "Thank you" notes and cards to show gratitude



# Promoting Values Education at Ma Kam Chan



Students can become involved in activities where they can use positive values in their lives, e.g. nursing home visits.



# Promoting Values Education at Ma Kam Chan



**What is the key to  
writing a good story?**



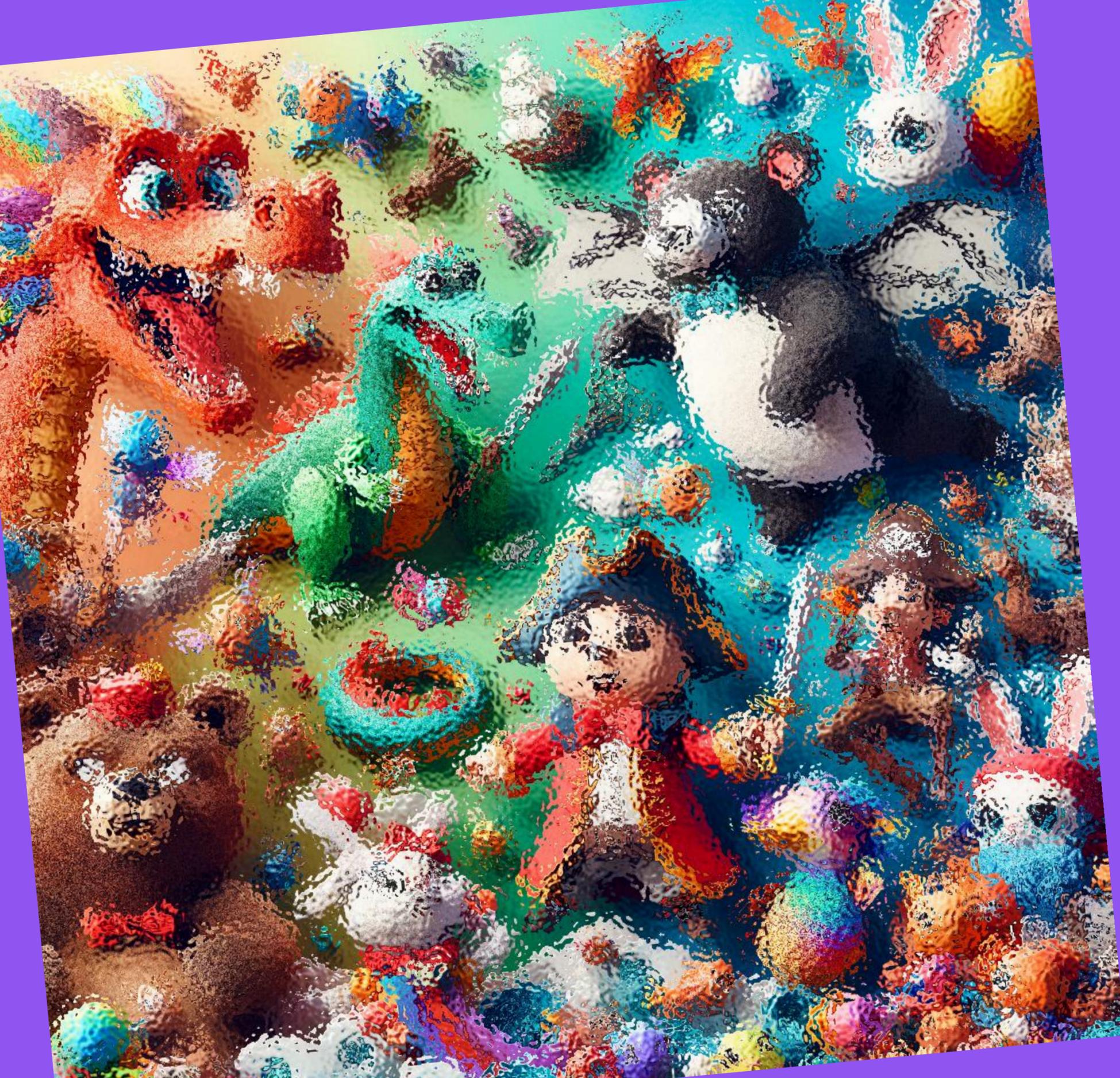
# What is the key to writing a good story?

That can transmit positive core values...

...and students can do it...

...and not be too much work.





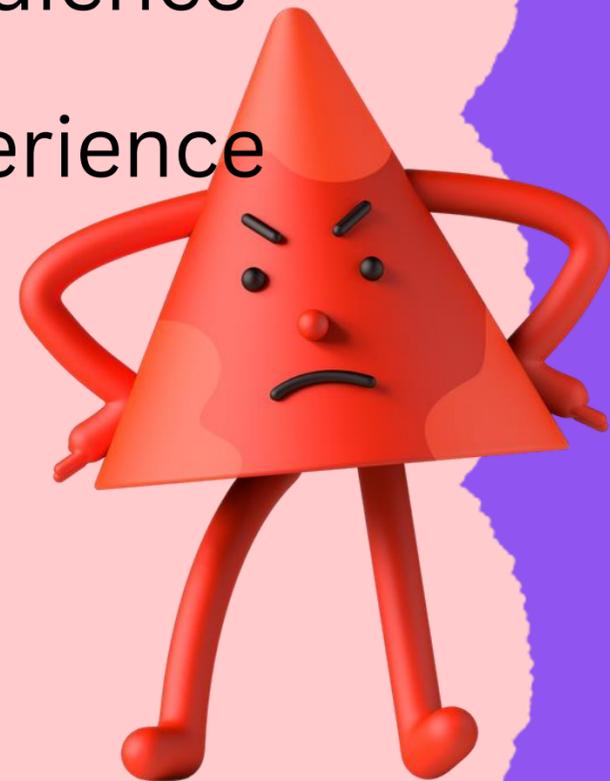
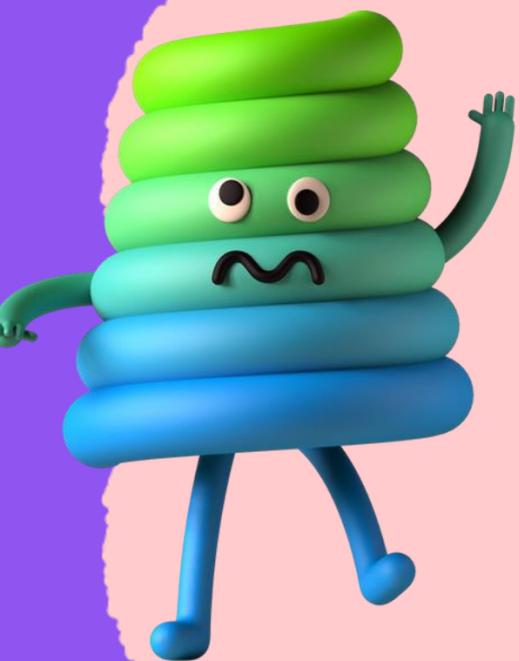
# Characters

(duh)

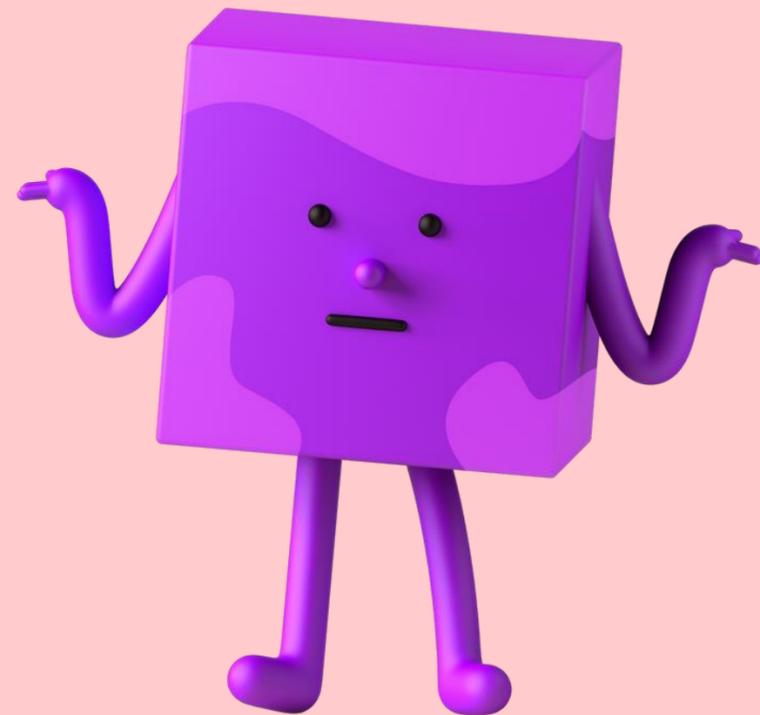


# Storytellers' Challenges

- ❖ No puppetry competition **experience**
- ❖ A range of **language skills** required for the performance
- ❖ Delivering an **effective** story within the performance time
- ❖ Staging a puppetry show that **engages** a diverse audience
- ❖ **Coaching** student performers with little acting experience



# Typical Solutions



- Use character arcs
- Create backstories
- Avoid recycling old storylines

# Typical Solutions



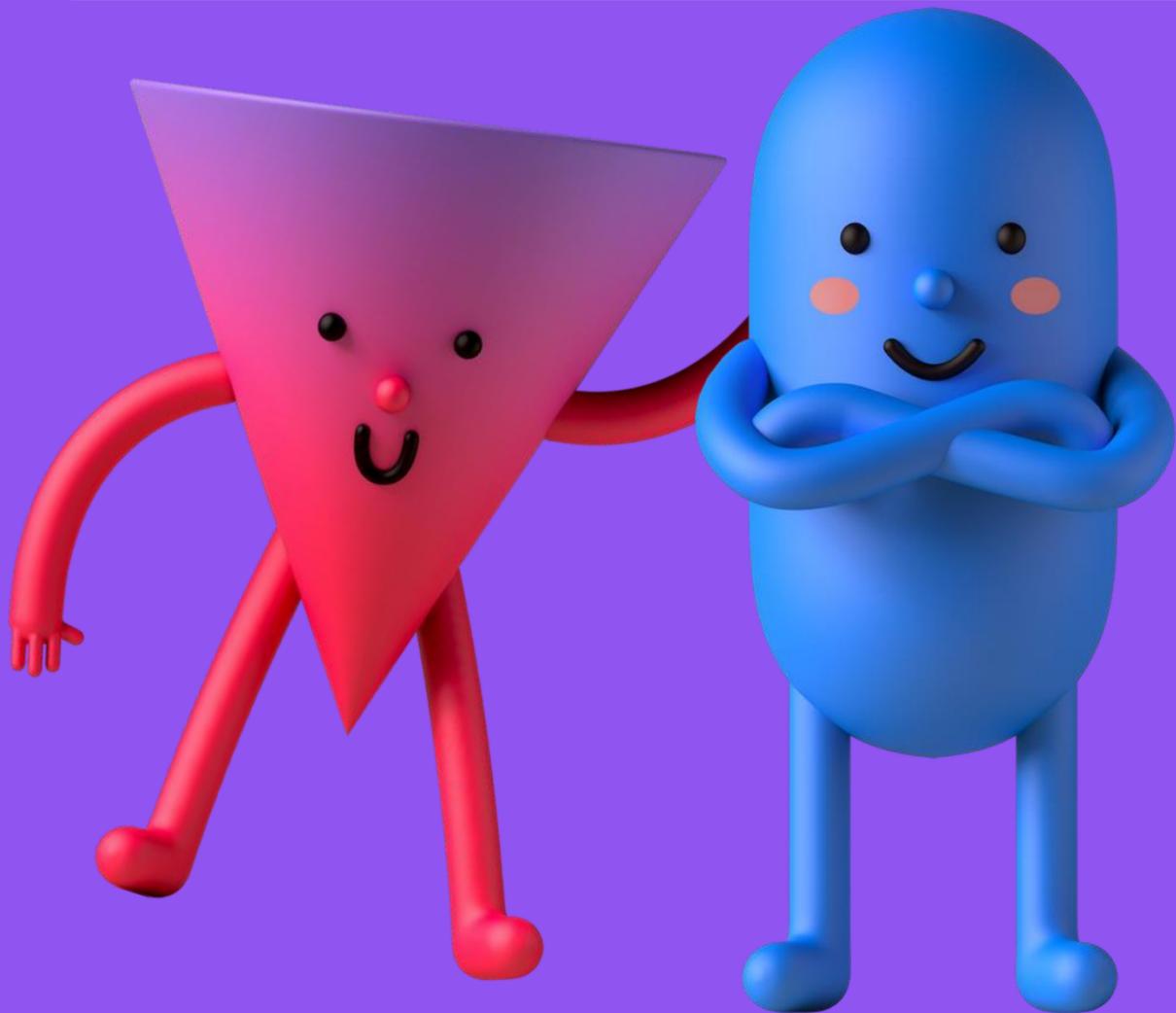
- Use character arcs
- Create backstories
- Avoid recycling old, tired storylines

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**NO !!**

DON'T DO IT.  
IT'S NOT A BOOK.

- Use character arcs
- Create backstories
- Avoid recycling old, tired storylines



# instead...

- Use character archetypes (including animals)
- Use obvious conflicts with clear stakes
- *Do* recycle famous stories

Keep it simple, use

# archetypes

Character archetypes are **widely-recognised symbolic identities** used throughout literature, film and storytelling.

Examples:

**HERO**

**VILLAIN**

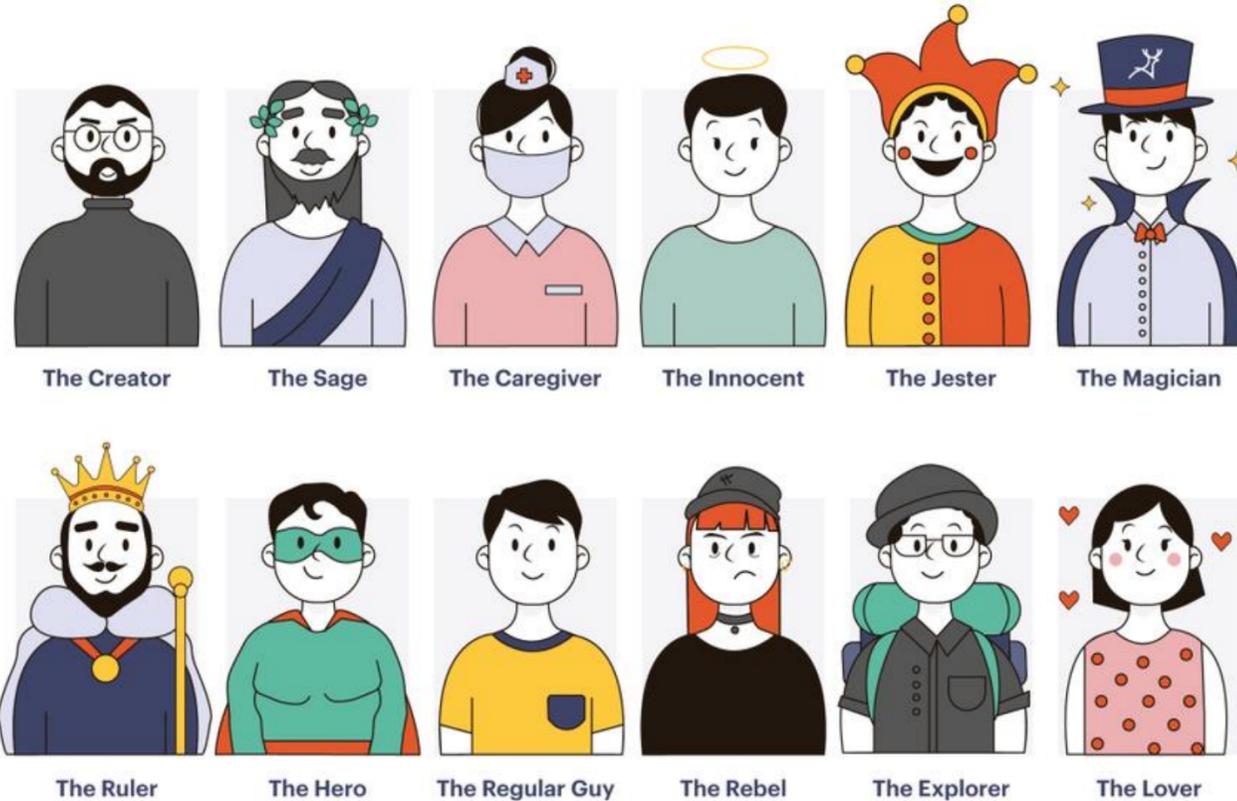
**SIDEKICK**

*caregiver*

Wise old person / mentor



# Archetypes



Archetypes are useful because they are easily recognised and feel **familiar**.

They get the point across **simply** and **quickly**.

Remember this quote by Shakespeare?

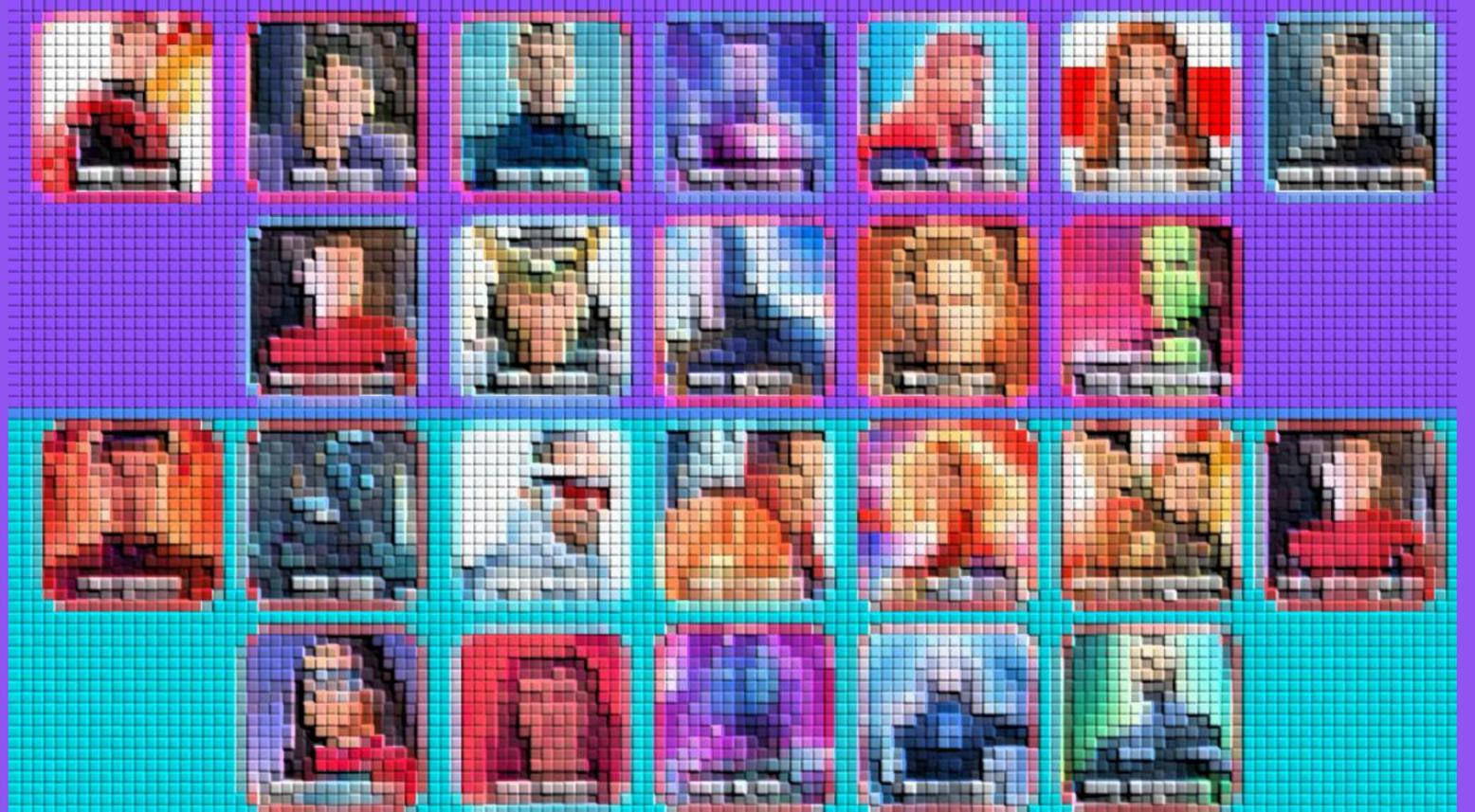
**Good artists borrow,  
great artists steal.**

The fact that you remember makes it **feel true**.

# Example

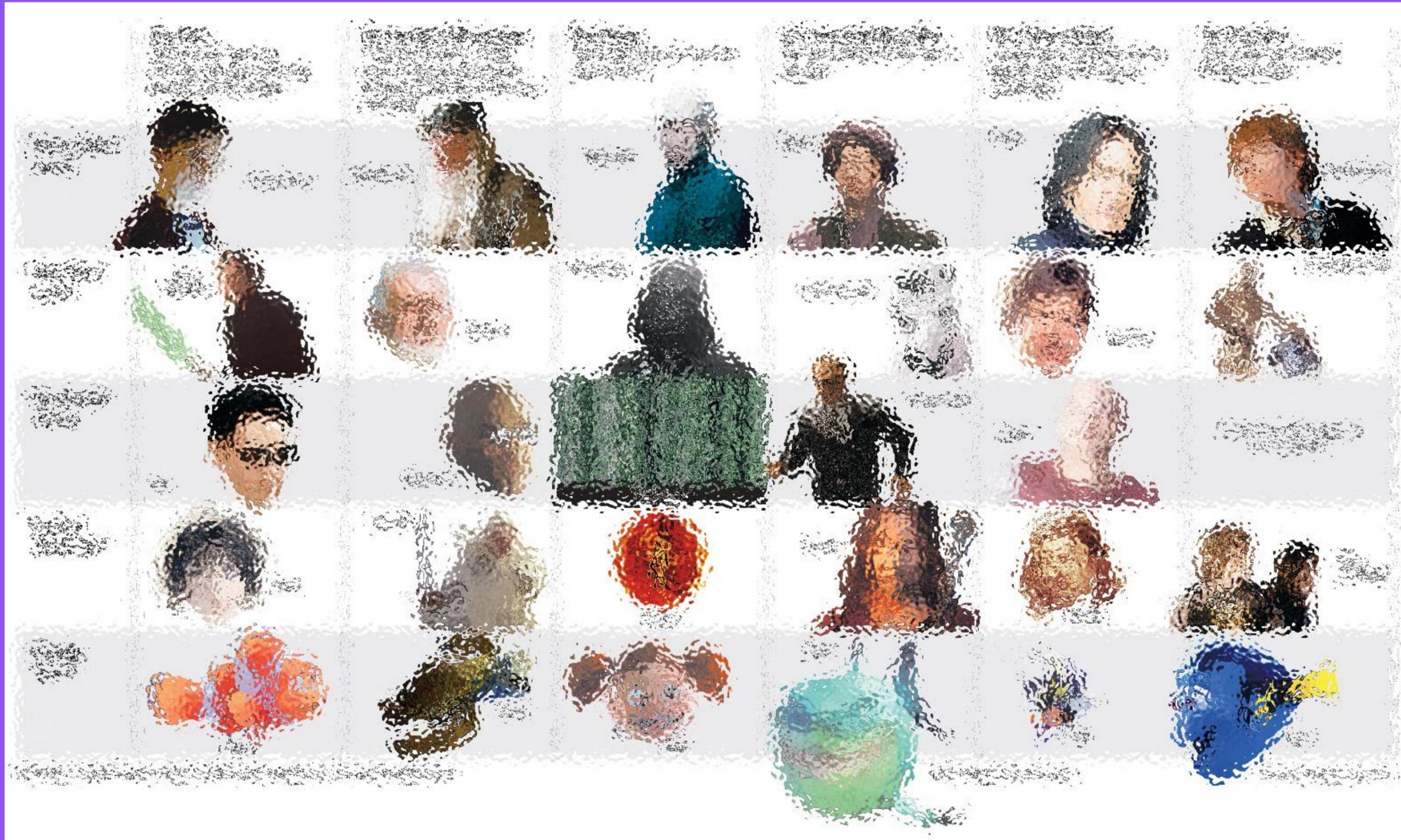
# Archetypes

But how popular are they?



**Example**

# Archetypes



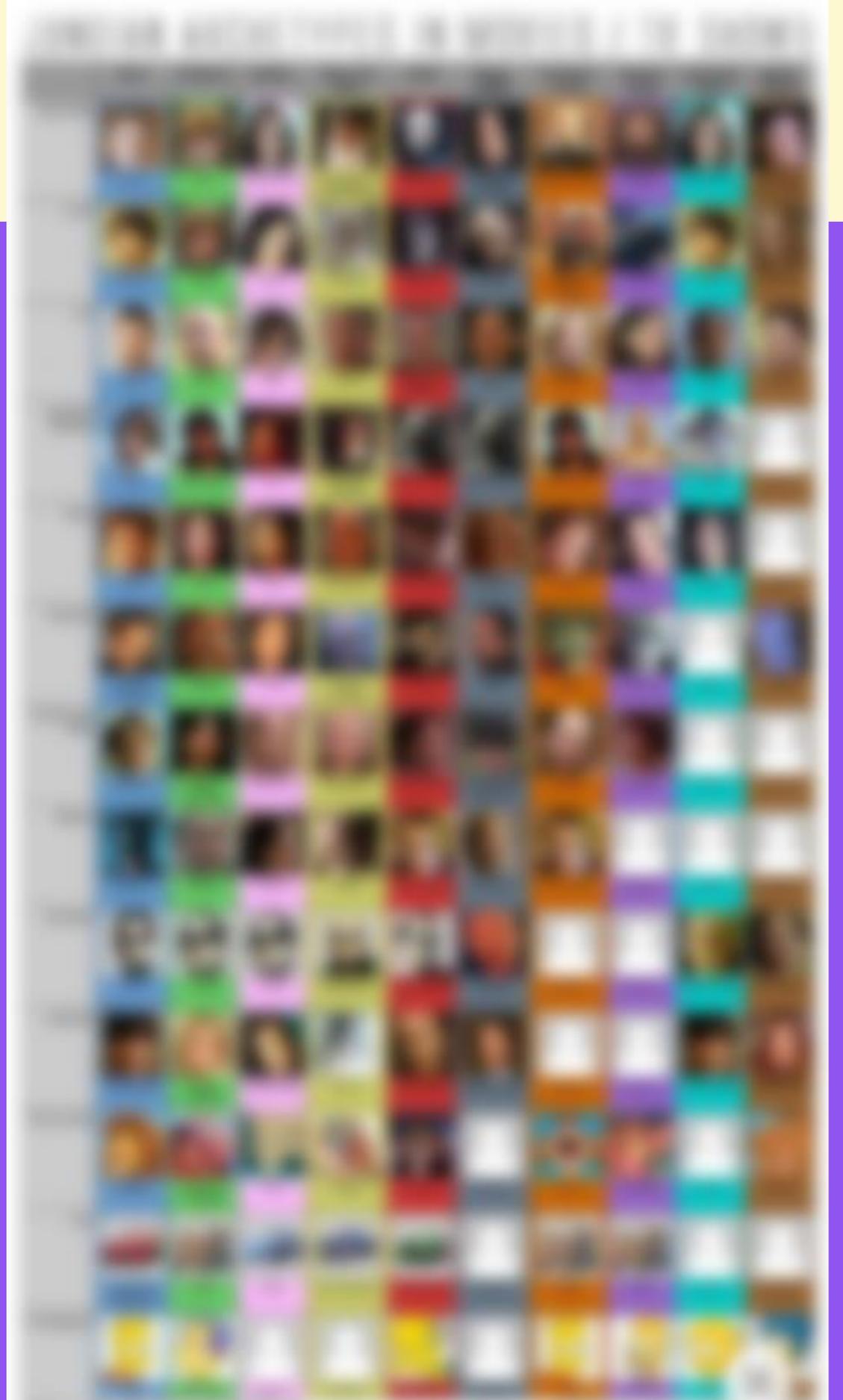
# Example

# Archetypes

These are just one type of character archetype (as defined by Carl Jung).

There are many other frameworks!

**TV Tropes**



# Creating characters for our puppet show

- Started with brainstorming various archetypes
- Wrote story outlines & combined ideas:
  - ‘outgoing one’
  - ‘shy guy’
  - ‘wise elder’
  - ‘antagonist’
  - ‘friend’

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Characters

Who is going to fall in love?  
Why are they different?  
What is their archetype?  
(role)

Lesson:

Conflict (problem)

What do they want and why isn't it easy to get?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

# Story-writing: **Play (and replay) the hits**

## Why reuse stories?

**Classic stories**  
are a shortcut to  
established associations.  
If you name a character  
Romeo or Cinderella, the  
audience knows what to  
expect.

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**Our story must be:**

- short
- simple
- entertaining

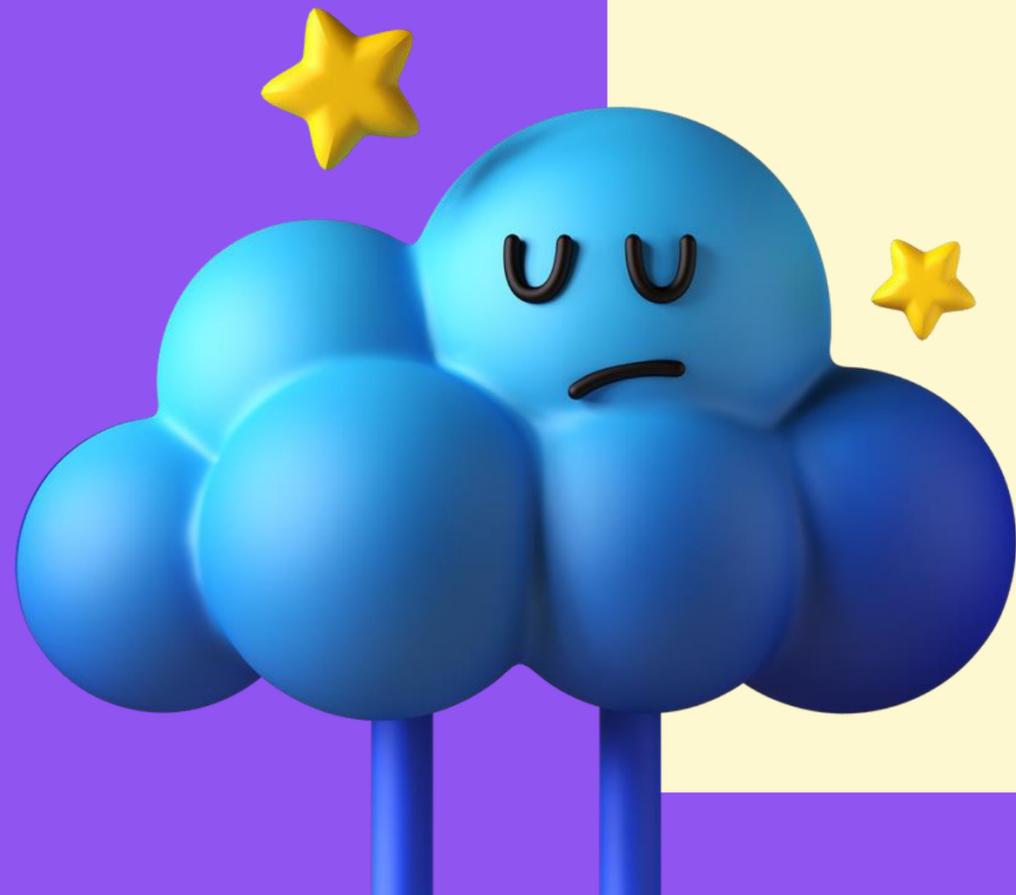


**reuse ideas**  
**clear conflict**  
**use humour**

# Conflict: Hit people over the head

Our story should be:

- short
- simple
- entertaining



- Have your characters **say what they need/want.**
- **Tell, don't show.**
- Pick a conflict that is easy to know when it's over. **Define the terms of success!**
- Making someone feel better does not make a story.

# Choosing a conflict: **Romance**

We went with romance as a genre:

- Huge **emotional stakes** - embarrassment, love
- **Recycled plot:** mistaken identity
- Great opportunities for **humour**

## On humour:

You can study Shakespeare and be quite elite  
And you could charm the critics and have nothing to eat  
Just slip on a banana peel, the world's at you feet  
Make 'em laugh, make 'em laugh,  
Don't you know everyone wants to laugh?



# Animals

are our friends

## Why animals?

Animals come with **pre-made associations** in our minds. These ideas are shortcuts for the storyteller. (Also, affordable puppets can be considered.)

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What qualities would you ascribe to these characters?

# Creating **animal** characters



- No wise owl -> wise monkey (glasses)
- Shy guy -> shy duck
- Crocodile antagonist (natural predator)
- Talking parrot
  
- Physical incompatibility -> humour

# Filming / Video Sharing



# Student Outcomes

- One surprising benefit was *stress* - yes, really!
- Overcoming challenges together -> teamwork
- Rewards of hard work

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