Title: Create A Stop Motion Animation About Kindness

A Hexagon Project Lesson Plan

From Kris Fontes, PAEA Emeritus Division Director

National Board Certified Teacher EAYA

Grade Level: Middle School (6-8)
Duration:
10 sessions -- each lasting about 60 minutes

Media Type:
- Digital: Stop Motion Studio app (Free or preferably Pro version @ $4.99 from Apple or Google Play)

Cross-Curriculum Subject:
Social Emotional Learning/Healthy Living

Objectives:

- Explore and develop the concept of kindness using new media techniques and processes.

- Students will develop a short stop motion animation highlighting one or more

  concepts from the Kindness Poem or from their own experiences.

- With a partner, students will develop a storyboard and sequentially illustrate or write the flow

  of the animation; beginning, middle, and end.

- Create and present a stop motion animation to be included in the 2022 Hexagon Project.

Procedure

Day 1:
- Watch ▶ *"Kindness Lives Here" by Trapeta B. Mayson. #PAKindnessPoem.*
- As a class, READ Kindness Lives Here.
- Students share examples of kindness they have seen or experienced.
- Go to YouTube to watch **Michael Hickox's "How to Make a Lego Animation"**
- Teacher demonstrates the stop motion animation process.
- Options for objects to be used in the animation include: Lego bricks and/or other small toys.

Day 2:
- Watch **Michael Hickox's video** "**Viewer Questions Special**."
- Work with a partner to develop a storyboard/script focusing on the theme of kindness.
- Watch New Friends – a stop motion animation **here**. Discuss where kindness lives in this animation.
- What are other ways kindness lives? Make a list. Partners collaboratively choose the best idea. Students with their partner begin to storyboard/outline their idea.

Day 3:
- Collect supplies in the art room - white diorama for the background.
- If using Lego bricks, a baseplate must be used for the "floor."

- Use Lego Minifigures to represent actors in the animation.
- Share set-up and story ideas with teacher and class.

Day 4: Technical Aspects
- Review the process for taking pictures and setting up the shot
  - not too far away
  - not too close
  - in focus
  - no blurry pictures accepted.
- Have a minimum of 50 pictures but more is always okay.
- Use a tablet or phone with Stop Motion Animation app and tripod (bought or self-made).
- Camera and tripod DO NOT MOVE. Only the mini-figurines and objects move.
- Discuss Frame Rate, which can be changed at any time. Typically for middle school students it is 10 frames per second.
- Studio Time.

Day 5:
- Studio Time: Continue shooting animation. As the animation is being shot with a tablet or phone app, students can automatically look at what they have done and decide to either delete or continue with their animation. Be sure that the theme of kindness is being conveyed.

Day 6 & 7:
- Studio Time: continue working on animation.

Day 8 & 9:
- In "camera" editing - Add titles and credits, music, sound effects and narration. This is where students can really get creative.

Day 10:
- Premiere all the animations as a group. Upload the animation to YouTube and make it Unlisted. Generate a QR code for the animation.
- Capture a digital still image from each animation. Place/paste "into" the hexagon shape.
- Paste QR code onto the hexagon. Add text.
- Viewers of the hexagon will scan the QR code that will link to the animation (like the example Hexagon included at the end of this lesson plan).

Discussion Question:
- How do you make a solid object appear to be moving? Persistence of vision.

Resources:
- New Friends - stop motion animation https://youtu.be/IGk6NOje2Uc
- Stop Motion Studio Pro https://www.cateater.com/
- Stop Motion Studio Handbook pdf https://www.cateater.com/support.html#Manual
- Hexagon Website https://hexagonproject.org
- Hexagon Project Overview: SM_Overview-of-2022-Theme-PPTwithPoem.pdf (hexagonproject.org)
- PA Kindness Poem Project: https://pahumanities.org/project/pa-kindness-poem-project/
- The Kindness Cloud: https://kindnesscloud.org/
- Greater Good Science Center: https://ggsc.berkeley.edu

- Hexagon Template
  https://hexagonproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/TEMPLATE_generic.pdf
- Michael Hickox's **"How to Make a Lego Animation"**
- Michael Hickox's video "**Viewer Questions Special**."

Materials:
- Lego bricks
- Mini figures OR other small objects
- Cardboard, Model Magic, tape, markers, paint.
- Smart Phone or tablet.
- Stop Motion Studio Pro app.
- Tripod.
- Storyboard Template

National Media Core Arts Standards:
- MA:Cr1.1.6 - Formulate variations of goals and solutions for media artworks by practicing chosen creative processes, such as sketching, improvising and **brainstorming**.
- MA:Cr3.1.6 - Experiment with multiple approaches to produce content and components for determined purpose and meaning in media arts productions, utilizing a range of associated principles, such as **point of view** and perspective.
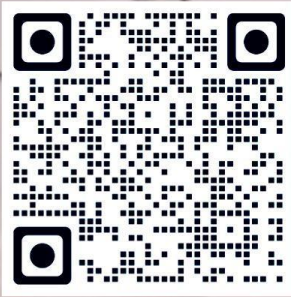
Click on the QR Code
to watch the
stop motion animation
"New Friends"