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# Lesson: The Character in the Mirror - Storytelling Through Makeup Artistry

## Materials Needed:

- The student's personal makeup collection (foundations, concealers, powders, eyeshadows, liners, brow products, lipsticks, etc.)
- Makeup brushes and application tools (sponges, puffs, etc.)
- Skincare for skin preparation (moisturizer, primer) and makeup remover
- A mirror, preferably with good lighting
- A notebook and pen/pencil, or a digital note-taking app
- A smartphone or camera for taking photos/videos of the final look
- Access to the internet for research and inspiration
- Optional: Face paint, cosmetic-grade glitter, false eyelashes, or other special effect (SFX) materials.
- Optional: Face chart templates (can be easily found and printed online for free)

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## Learning Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- Analyze a fictional character's personality, motivations, and story arc to gather artistic inspiration.
- Design a cohesive and original makeup look that uses color, shape, and texture to visually represent a character's essence.
- Execute the designed makeup look, demonstrating skill in creative application and blending techniques.
- Articulate your artistic choices, explaining how they connect back to your character analysis.

## Introduction: The Hook (15 minutes)

Makeup isn't just about looking pretty—it's a powerful form of storytelling. Professional makeup artists in film and theater don't just apply makeup; they build characters. A smudge of dark eyeshadow can show exhaustion, a sharp, precise wing can convey a disciplined personality, and a pop of unexpected color can hint at a hidden, rebellious nature.

Your challenge today is to become a character designer. You will choose a character from a book, movie, TV show, or video game that you find interesting. You will then act as the lead makeup artist, creating a look that tells their story on a human canvas: your own face.

## Activity Part 1: Deconstruction & Analysis (30-45 minutes)

This is your research phase. Instead of just copying a look, you're going to dig deeper.

1. **Choose Your Character:** Select a character you know well. It could be anyone from Katniss

Everdeen (*The Hunger Games*) to an intricate character from a video game. Choose someone whose journey or personality inspires you.

2. **Brainstorm Core Traits:** In your notebook, create a mind map or list about your character.

Answer the following questions:

- What are their 3-5 most dominant personality traits? (e.g., brave, cunning, naive, broken, regal)
- What is their primary motivation or goal?
- What is their biggest internal or external conflict?
- Do they go through a major transformation? If so, what is it?
- What is their environment like? (e.g., a gritty futuristic city, a magical forest, a royal court)
- What colors, symbols, or objects do you associate with them?

## Activity Part 2: Design & Planning (30 minutes)

Now, translate your ideas into a concrete plan. This is where you connect words to visuals.

1. **Create a Mood Board:** Use Pinterest or just save images from a search engine to a folder. Find images that capture the "vibe" of your character. This can include colors, textures, fashion, art, and environments related to them. This is your visual library.
2. **Translate Traits into Makeup:** Look back at your character notes. How can you represent those ideas with makeup?
  - **Example:** A "cunning" character might have a sharp, graphic eyeliner. A "broken" character might have a smudged, imperfect "shattered glass" liner or a "tear track" made of glitter. A "nature-loving" character could have earthy tones and freckles.
  - Think about:
    - **Colors:** Will you use their signature colors? Or colors that represent their personality (e.g., fiery reds for anger, cool blues for sadness)?
    - **Shapes:** Will the lines be sharp and angular, or soft and blended? Think about eyebrow shape, eyeliner style, and contour.
    - **Texture:** Will the look be matte, shimmery, glossy, or gritty?
3. **Sketch on a Face Chart (Optional but Recommended):** Use a printed face chart or simply draw an outline of a face. Sketch out your ideas. This helps you map out where colors and shapes will go before you start on your own face. It doesn't need to be perfect!

## Activity Part 3: Application & Creation (60-90 minutes)

Time to bring your vision to life! Put on some music that fits your character's mood and get started.

1. **Prep Your Canvas:** Start with a clean, moisturized, and primed face. This is your foundation for a great application.
2. **Execute Your Vision:** Using your notes and face chart as a guide, begin applying the makeup. Don't be afraid to make mistakes—that's what makeup remover is for! Focus on your techniques, but also let your creativity flow. If a new idea strikes you, go with it.
3. **Document Your Work:** As you work, and especially when you are finished, take clear, well-lit photos or a short video of your creation. Capture it from different angles. This is your final product!

## Assessment & Reflection (15-20 minutes)

A true artist reflects on their work. In your notebook or as a voice memo, answer these questions. This is how you will be evaluated—on the thought process behind your art.

1. **Present Your Character:** Briefly describe the character you chose and why.
2. **Explain Your Choices:** Choose three elements of your makeup look and explain the reasoning behind them. For example: "I used a cool-toned, grey contour to give my face a hollow, tired look, reflecting the character's exhaustion after their long journey. The pop of gold on my inner corner symbolizes the small bit of hope they still carry."
3. **Evaluate Your Process:** What was the most challenging part of this project? What part are you most proud of? If you were to do this again, what would you do differently?

### **For Differentiation:**

- **For Support:** If you are new to complex looks, focus on a more subtle interpretation. Instead of a full face of dramatic makeup, perhaps you focus on a highly symbolic eye look or a creative lip design that tells the character's story.
- **For Extension:** Incorporate an SFX element (like a fake scar or fantasy texture), add elements to your hair, or include a simple costume piece to fully realize the character. You could also create two looks for the same character: one from the beginning of their story and one from the end to show their transformation.

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