

Instructions for: **Create Your Character Lesson**



Concept: The idea here is that the students create their own characters for the story they are reading by plugging in the characteristics of each character into an AI image generator. The hope is that the students will personalize the characters by making them reflect more how each student views each character in their own head. This personalizes the story and encourages students to have investment and therefore be more involved.

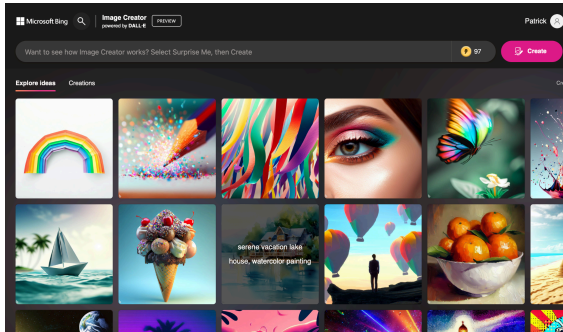
Step1

Identify the main players in your story and write out their characteristics. I have my students do this by searching for the main characteristics, but you could also just give them the characteristics if you want more control.

Ideally, I might have them do a character interview on ChatGPT and ask the characters questions to find out their characteristics. You could put students into a group and each student could take a character, or two, and then they could compile their information. This way you would also be building collaboration and communication skills at the same time.

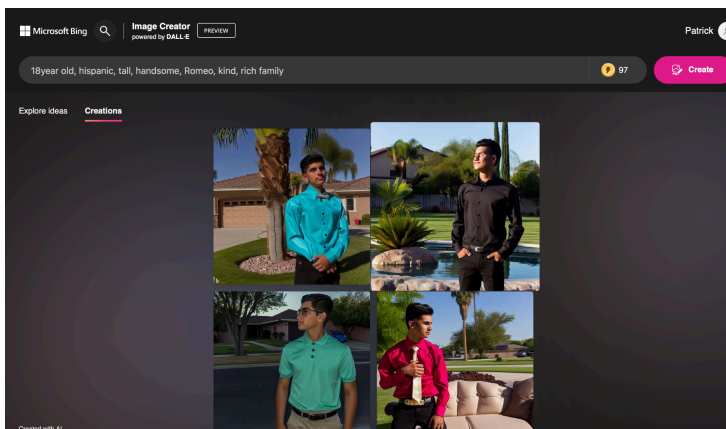
Step 2

Have the students log into an AI image generator of your choice. Midjourney is the best one I've found for quality, but it's also pretty difficult to use for someone who isn't familiar with it, so I have my students use Bing AI image generator <https://www.bing.com/create>. Bing isn't as good as Midjourney, but it's very user friendly and doesn't limit the number of images that a student can create.



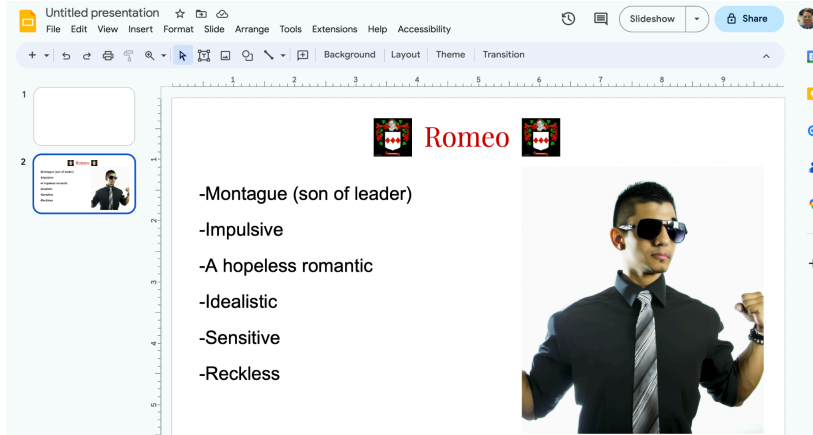
Step 3

Have students load the characteristics that they found for each character, plus characteristics that might personalize that character into the AI image generator of your choice. Below I made Romeo, from Romeo & Juliet, but you can do this with any character from any story. I also encourage students to add characteristics of how they see the character in their head; this is where you would add physical characteristics like race, size, hair color, ect. If you don't like the initial results then you can just hit "CREATE" again and it will give you 4 more. Students will probably find they have to add more description to get exactly what they want, and that's a good thing because they are thinking critically about what makes the person they see in their head.



Step 4

Have students place their chosen character image into a slideshow presentation that has a different slide for each character and their characteristics.



Step 5

Students create a slide for each character.

Step 6

Share slideshow presentation with the teacher

Closing thoughts

Students really like to see how each person has individualized each character, so asking if anyone wants to share their presentation is normally a really popular option. I love this assignment because it allows the students to see their culture and identity in the story. Again, the hope here is that you get more student ownership and investment in the story of your choice.