Lesson Plan: Manga Chibis

GRADE LEVEL: 5-8

OBJECTIVES
- Learn about a specific manga character style: chibi
- Application of how body proportions are used for a different style

MATERIALS
For Classroom discussion: visual sample showing realistic, manga and chibi versions of a girl.
For Student Activity: Manga Chibi Worksheet, pencils, erasers.

Background
“Chibi” (chee-bee) means small in Japanese. A chibi version of a manga character or person is small, cute and childlike. It is also called “super-deformed” or abbreviated to “SD.” In manga, chibi characters are used for comical and emotional effect. They tell a silly anecdote or share more information about what is going on in the manga story. Some manga are done entirely in chibi and others will use chibi to diffuse a dramatic situation.

As covered in the Drawing a Manga-Style Head lesson, manga style drawings are based on traditional facial and body proportions. Chibi manga drawings are a variation of this. Body proportions are reduced greatly. Clothes shrink in detail. Fingers and toes are diminished to basic shapes. Faces are wider and rounder. Sometimes the eyebrows and nose are omitted. The eyes can take up a quarter of the face or can only be the colored pupils. An open mouth can occupy a third of the face, depending upon the emotion expressed. Because of the simplified body and face details, chibi characters are cute to look at and fun to draw.

Interactive Classroom Discussion
In Figure 2, drawings of the same girl are illustrated differently: a realistic one, a manga one and a chibi one. Ask students to share what specific details they think makes the drawings realistic, manga or chibi. Ask how they can tell it is the same girl in all three drawings. Discuss how the different proportions of the realistic and manga drawings relate to the chibi one, i.e. how the limbs relate to the body and eye placement. Inform the students that body proportions serve as guidelines to help in drawing people.
**Student Activity**
Chibis are between two to three “heads” (units of measurement in drawing) tall. Pass out the *Manga Chibi Worksheet* along with pencils to have the students draw themselves as chibis.

**Step 1:** Start with the face. Use the printed guidelines to help line up the eyes. Hair takes up a third of the head. Suggest that the students draw themselves how they are feeling at the moment.

**Step 2:** The body is chubby, emphasizing a softer form and less detail. Notice that the arms and legs are in similar locations as they are for realistic proportions. Hands and feet are reduced to basic shapes of circles and rounded trapezoids.

**Step 3:** Simple clothing detail corresponds to the chibi look. Encourage students to add accessories to personalize their chibi more. For example, a baseball player would have a glove and ball. Accessories are proportional to the chibi.

**Conclusion**
Students will learn how changing body proportions for a chibi affects how the characters look. They will connect how traditional face and body proportions relate to chibi style.

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**NATIONAL STANDARDS**
http://www.education-world.com/standards

**Grade Level 5-8**
- NA-VA.5-8.1 Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes
- NA-VA.5-8.2 Using knowledge of structures and functions

**Grade Level 9-12**
- NA-VA.9-12.1 Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes
- NA-VA.9-12.2 Using knowledge of structures and functions
- NL-ENG.K-12.4 Communications Skills

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Lesson Plan and artwork developed by Manga Start
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Compare the proportions of a realistic girl, a manga girl, and a manga chibi girl.
Manga Chibi Worksheet Use the lines below as guides for your own character.