

LESSON PLAN

Female Stereotypes & Male Stereotypes



After playing Teen TV Producer, students identify examples of stock characters from TV and movies and discuss how stereotypes affect the process of storytelling. This activity promotes critical thinking about gender stereotyping in the mass media and provides an opportunity to explore the creative use of stock characters.

After creating lists of 10 female and male stock characters, you can encourage students to reflect on the process of creating the lists.

Discuss: Which stock characters were easy to find examples for? Which were hardest? Why?

Try this. Have students try to find examples of female TV and movie characters who fit the stock characters depicted on the male stereotypes list. For example, can they remember seeing a female “whiz kid” on TV? Then try to generate examples of male TV and movie characters from the stock characters depicted on the female stereotypes list. Have they encountered the character of the “dumb blonde” in a male character?

Discuss: What other stock characters are common for teen TV shows?

Try this. Have students make up a story involving these stock characters. You can invite them to use improvisational techniques to create a scene. Or you can have them write out the major plot conflicts in a graphic organizer.

Discuss: What kinds of stories can be told with these stock characters? What kinds of stories are hard to tell?



NAME: _____

FEMALE STEREOTYPES IN MOVIES AND TV SHOWS

TV comedies, dramas and reality shows all make use of stereotypes. **Stock characters** have existed since ancient storytellers first started using them in their stories. These stereotypical people are often used in the mass media because of they simplify the process of storytelling—everyone in the audience recognizes them instantly!

Work by yourself or with a small group to think up examples from TV and movies for the following stock character types.

STOCK CHARACTER

EXAMPLE

The **tomboy**: strong, smart, capable

The **dumb blonde**: beautiful but not bright

The **girl threesome**: they are always together

The **fool**: someone you laugh at

The **nurse**: takes care of others

For fun: make up a story that involves these stock characters. Be creative!

Then discuss: What kinds of adventures are possible with these characters? What kinds of stories are hard to tell using these stereotypes?



NAME: _____

MALE STEREOTYPES IN MOVIES AND TV SHOWS

TV comedies, dramas and reality shows all make use of stereotypes. **Stock characters** have existed since ancient storytellers first started using them in their stories. These stereotypical people are often used in the mass media because of they simplify the process of storytelling—everyone in the audience recognizes them instantly!

Work by yourself or with a small group to think up examples from TV and movies for the following stock character types.

STOCK CHARACTER	EXAMPLE
The school bully : mean, insecure and cruel	_____ _____ _____
The whiz kid : brainy sidekick to the hero	_____ _____ _____
The honest thief : only steals to live or to help	_____ _____ _____
The fool : someone you laugh at	_____ _____ _____
The womanizer : loves the ladies	_____ _____ _____

For fun: make up a story that involves these stock characters. Be creative!

Then discuss: What kinds of adventures are possible with these characters? What kinds of stories are hard to tell using these stereotypes?