

Year 3/4 Formal Elements A

Key vocabulary

Body position	How a body is held to give an impression of mood or character.
Character	A person in a play, story or movie.
Continuous line	One drawn line which ends back at the start point and the continuous route can be clearly followed throughout.
Expressions	A look on someone's face that conveys a particular emotion.
Figure	A person's bodily shape.
Illustrator	A person who draws or creates pictures for magazines, books, advertising, etc.
Props	Items held by characters to make them more realistic.
Wash	Diluted paint with water applied to a painting or drawing.
Water colour	A semi-transparent type of paint.

Explore



We start by studying a range of characters created by Quentin Blake. We looked closely about what the colours, body

position and props told us about the character in the story. Next, we will write a short description based on one of these characters.

Artist



Quentin Blake

Image source: [Biography | Quentin Blake](#)

Sir Quentin Blake was born in Sidcup in December 1932. He is a well-known artist, illustrator and writer. Blake began drawing from an early age, the painter Alfred Jackson inspired him and he had his first illustration published in Punch magazine when he was just 16 years old!

Skills

Expressions

Quentin Blake starts with the facial expression of his character as he believes this is the most difficult part to get right.

Experiment by sketching characters with different expressions, for example: happy, angry, sad, worried, confused

Continuous line drawing

Next, we will use continuous drawings to create a simple observational sketch of our teacher in different poses e.g. sitting crossed legged.

Separate straight lines

After that, we will complete another drawing using a series of separate, straight lines.

Create

In the final stage of our sessions, we will work on adding water colour to our drawings. Quentin Blake has illustrated hundreds of characters over the years from *The BFG* to *The Twits*, including his own characters like *Mr Magnolia*. Each one has been carefully thought out and planned to suit the characters personality. We will choose our favourite character and experiment by sketching them in different scenes.

Lines then wash

Putting down pen marks first and then making a watercolour wash in a single colour after.

Wash then lines

Putting down a watercolour wash in a single colour first, and then making pen marks over the wash.