

# Lesson Plan: Inking to Enhance and Define a Manga Character

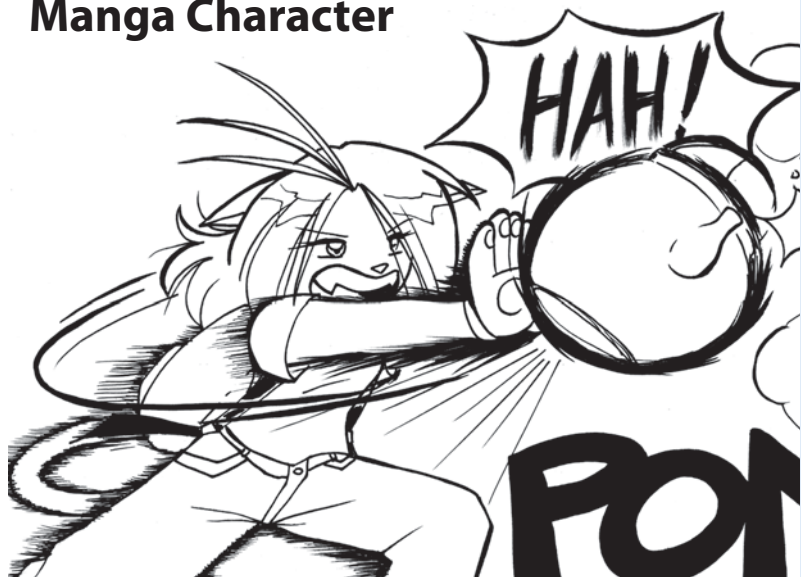
**GRADE LEVEL: 5-8, 9-12**

## OBJECTIVES

- Learn about inking as a technique in manga and commercial art
- Learn how different line widths and tools can change the mood and/or emphasis

## MATERIALS

- Ink-ready Manga Art handout (included with this lesson plan)
- Pencil (recommend 0.7mm fixed sleeve mechanical pencil)
- Brush Pen, Black (ex. Sakura Pigma Brush Pen)
- Illustration Pens in multiple nib (or point) sizes, Black (such as Sakura Pigma Micron Set)



## Background

Inking is done over graphite drawings to render the artwork without the rough sketch work. It is done for reproduction purposes, clarifying the drawing and filling in details. With inking, there is no erasing or going back over lines for corrections.

The choice of inking tool influences the final look and expression of a drawing. Traditional tools used for inking are: brush with ink well, dip pen with various nibs and pens with different line thicknesses. Archival illustration pen sets feature a range of line widths and a brush or chisel tip pens. Pens are convenient and require little maintenance or clean up as compared to a standard brush or dip pen.

## Different Tools, Different Effects

Mixing different tools can achieve different effects. Varying line widths in a drawing conveys expression, depth and character.

For example, a brush is used on a figure's outline to emphasize the shape and then the details are drawn with a fixed width pen line. The same drawing inked with different tools will not look similar to each other.

Thinner lines can show distance, as details further away are smaller and indistinct. Thin to thick lines

can indicate weight, texture or light source. Bold, thick lines give the impression of closeness.

*Figure 1: An inked and gray-toned manga panel. Note how the usage of line widths enhances the depth and dimension within the scene.*



*Tea Club © 2008 P.M.B.Q. Studios. Used with permission, all rights reserved.*

*Figure 2: Pigma Micron illustration pen set. Note the consistent line width for each size pen.*

005

01

02

03

05

08

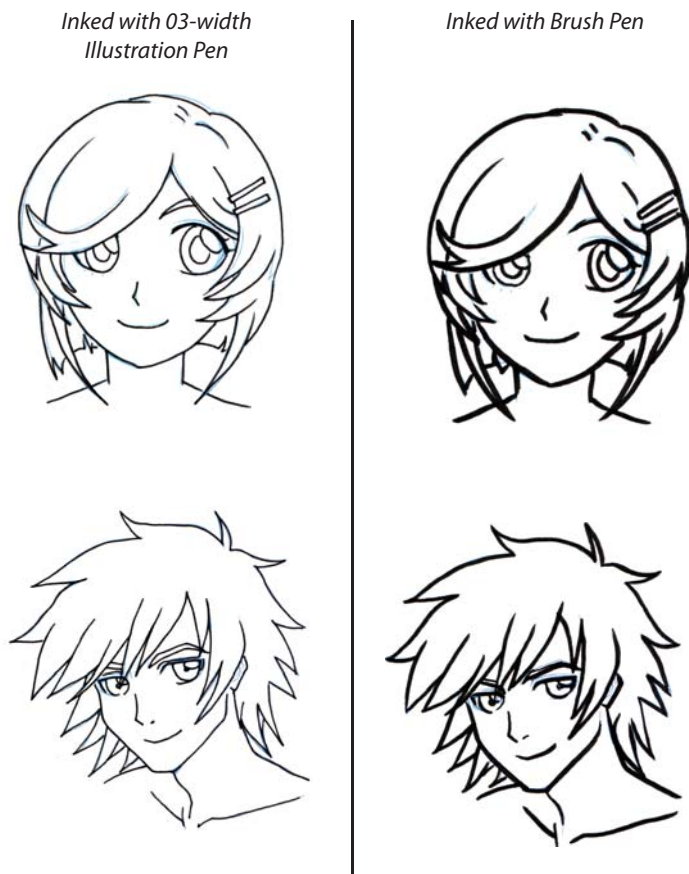


## Lesson Plan: Inking to Enhance and Define a Manga Character

### Inking Exercise

- Distribute the required materials to the students.
- The Ink-ready Manga Handout has artwork ready for students to ink. The handout has multiple reproductions of the same manga picture.
- Have students ink over the artwork with the following tools:
  - Pencil
  - Brush Pen
  - Thin Illustration Pen (sizes 005-02)
  - Thick Illustration Pen (sizes 05-08)
- The manga picture lines on the handout are provided as a guide. Students are not required to ink over every single line, and should be encouraged to interpret the artwork as they wish.

*Figure 3: Examples of the same manga artwork, inked with different tools. This artwork can be found on the included lesson handout.*



### Variation to Inking Exercise

Instead of using the provided handout, allow students sketch their own manga-style artwork for inking. Make sure they draw the same character/scene. Instruct students to ink over their drawings with the tools.

### Conclusion

By inking over the same drawing with several different tools, students will compare the different effects the line widths have over the mood and emotions of the drawing.

### Vocabulary Words

**Manga (“mon-gah”)** - A cartooning style originating from Japan that typically uses simplified facial features.

**Inking** - An art illustration technique that uses archival black ink to go over the pencil lines of an illustration. Inking is typically a finishing technique to an illustration

**Sketch** - A pencil drawing done as a preliminary framework for an illustration.

**Nib** - The tip of a pen. It can be in various sizes.

**Dip Pen** - An illustration pen with a detachable nib that is used by dipping into a container of ink.

**G-Pen** - A dip pen used in Japan by professional manga artists. The name comes from the small “G”-shaped indentation at the base of the nib.

#### NATIONAL STANDARDS

<http://www.education-world.com/standards>

**Grade level 5 - 8: NA – VA. 5-8.2**  
Using Knowledge of Structures and Functions

**Grade levels 9 – 12: NA-VA. 9-12.2**  
Using Knowledge of Structures and Functions

*Lesson Plan and artwork developed by Manga Start*  
<http://www.mangastart.com>

*Sponsored by Sakura of America*  
<http://www.sakuraofamerica.com>