

DRAWING (CARTOONS) ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE BRAIN

Over the course of their years at school, students are usually encouraged more often to work on their written expression than their visual expression. As a result, many of them get into a rut, not only about *drawing*, but also *seeing*. Think about how you yourself drew faces when you were the age of your students. Chances are you drew footballs with circles inside for eyes, had some trick for noses, like a letter "J" or a line with two o's for nostrils below it, and, maybe, a mouth like that on a jack-o-lantern.

Try this method (originated by Betty Edwards in her landmark book, *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain*) yourself and then share it with your students. Have them try different characters over the course of a week or two. Then, after they develop a little confidence in their new ability to see and draw, you might have them try the same method with a photograph.

Directions for students:

1. Choose a character from one of the pages in *Taxes/Tea Party*.
2. Find a page on which that character is portrayed from head to foot, and where no part of the character is blocked by an object or another character.
3. Turn the book upside down.
4. Cover the character up entirely with a piece of cardboard or an envelope.
5. Slide that cover down so that you can see only about 1/8 of the character.
6. Forget about what the picture is showing you (e.g., shoes) and just copy the lines you see onto the top of a sheet of blank paper, in pencil. Remember, copy lines, not pictures.
7. When you have finished that, slide the paper down to expose the next sliver of the character. Draw that.
8. Continue in this way, one sliver at a time, upside down, until you have drawn the whole picture.
9. Turn the drawing right side up and admire your work.

