Decorate a chair!

How does it work?

Students use a chair to represent a character from a play, novel or poem, and decorate in with words, images and symbols before showing it to the rest of the class.

Who’s it for?

Groups (though does require lateral thinking, so some students will require support).

What you need …

Sticky tape, blu-tak, scissors, coloured pens and paper, newspapers and magazines, plus any other craft material available … plus one chair per group.

Step by step

- Students work in groups of 3-5. Each group is allocated a character to work on.
- Allow around 20 minutes for teams to decorate their chairs – encourage them to think symbolically (e.g. they might turn a chair upside down to represent a character with an unusual view of the world). They should aim to use quotations as well as statements and symbols.
- When the initial time limit is up, give students a further five minutes to prepare a short presentation explaining how their chair represents their character.
- Each group presents their chair. Encourage students in other groups to ask questions.

Further teaching ideas …

Allow students time to circulate and write down any points that they consider particularly creative or inventive.