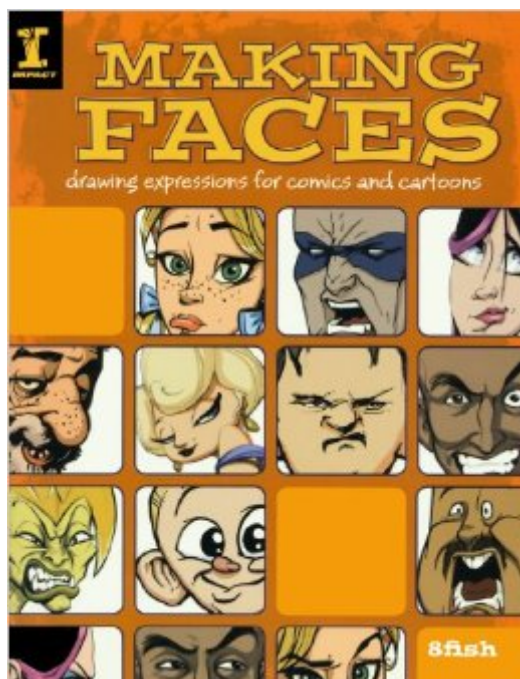


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# Making Faces: Drawing Expressions For Comics And Cartoons



## Synopsis

Chances are, you already know how to draw some expressions. But face it, your stories can only get so far with "happy," "sad" and "angry." In order to give your characters some character, you need to know what they look like when they're about to sneeze, when they smell something stinky or when they're flirting, horrified or completely blotto. Lucky for you, that's what this book is all about! **Making Faces** contains everything you need to give your characters a wide range of expressions!

**Part 1: The Basics.** How to draw heads, mouths, noses and eyes, and how they change shape when they move.

**Part 2: The Faces.** Over 50 step-by-step demonstrations for a variety of expressions divided into scenarios. Each scenario shows four or five expressions from a single character, from simple emotions to more subtle and complex variations, so you see how a face changes with each emotion. Sidebars illustrate the same expressions on a variety of other characters.

**Part 3: Storytelling.** How to move your story along using expression, point of view, body language and composition. See how it all comes together with damsels in distress, a noir-style interrogation, a Western standoff and other situations. Illustrated with a diverse cast of characters from hobos to superheroes to teenage girls, this guide will help you create the looks that say it all.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (44 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Let's face it - drawing faces is probably the most difficult task for an artist of any skill level and no single book is going to teach you what it is you need to know. As it is, "Making Faces" is a valiant effort but spends too much time on "fluff" that really isn't helpful. The goal of "Making Faces" is to

teach the eager student of drawing how to draw facial expressions - specifically, to get beyond the big expressions like, as the book says, "happy," "sad" and "angry" and be able to communicate more subtle emotions. Here, the author (8Fish, an animation/design/illustration group) attempt to do this via an exaggerated, cartoony style meant to help those interested in comic book and cartoon illustration. The book begins with some words of wisdom (principles behind expressions, the tools of the trade, basic facial features and construction) and then gets into little mini "tutorials" for drawing expressions based on different scenarios (a superhero slugfest, for example, or a first date). Here they focus on one or two characters in each scenario and discuss how to portray their expressions. The final chapter focuses on storytelling, encompassing body language, page layouts, etc.

The Good: There are some great tips in this book, everything from how to slowly build up a drawing with light sketches first and then darken what you want to emphasize, all the way to how to maintain an expression when a character you're drawing is far away (something I've always had a problem figuring out). Also, the methods presented for how to initially construct a face are well presented and easy to learn overall.

The Bad: For all of that, what this book offers is a little too shallow and fast.

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