

Graphic Novel Illustration With “Lowriders”



Growing up, Raúl the Third enjoyed collecting pens to use for his art. He would find them on the ground and people would give them to him as gifts. He even used pens to create all the exciting illustrations in the Lowriders graphic novels. For this lesson, students will discuss Raúl the Third’s art style and inspiration, then draw their own comic strip using only ink pens.

1. Watch this interview with Raúl the Third to get an introduction to his art style and then use the discussion questions below to get the conversation started.
 - a. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iK46J_mcOpc
 - b. If you could only use one art supply to make your illustration, what would you choose?
 - c. Raúl puts many things from his hometown in his illustrations. What parts of your hometown would you want to include in your illustrations?
2. Look through the example pages from Lowriders with the students.
 - a. What did they notice first in the double page spread from Lowriders in Space. Do they see the “happy feet, sad feet” sign that Raúl mentioned in the video?
 - b. On pages 16 and 17 of Lowriders to the Center of the Earth, what kind of pen-stroke patterns do they see? How does Raúl color in his illustrations with just ink pens?
 - c. Look over pages 38 and 39, define graffiti and mural. Ask students how they are different. Have they seen any graffiti or murals in or around their neighborhoods?
3. Give students a few minutes to think about what they want to draw on their panels. This can be done as a class, in small groups, or independently. Since they will be using pens and won’t be able to erase anything, **remind them that making mistakes is ok, that’s where the art happens.**

Handouts: Copied page examples from Lowriders (with digital versions), blank panels