Discussion starter with drawings

You will need a large sheet of paper (eg flip chart paper) and a (thick, so easy to see) marker pen for each group.

Divide the students into small groups (maximum five or six), then give each group a small section of text, or a poem. Instruct them to draw a particular character or image from their text.

Allow enough time, but not too much (five to ten minutes will do – deadlines are good). Each group then has to show their drawing to the others, telling them what is intended (if time, the others could be invited to guess). These images can be recorded (scanned or photographed) for a virtual learning environment, if there is one.

The tutor makes notes of the points made, and (after a short break, if required) a deeper discussion of the characters/situations/texts may follow.

In a variation of this, a group may be asked to imagine what their ‘own’ character thinks another group’s character is like.