

# *Drawing Lessons* Audience Guide

# DRAWING LESSONS

드로잉 레슨

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## 2024-2025 Season

children's  
theatre  
company

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At CTC, our mission is to create extraordinary theatre experiences that educate, challenge, and inspire young people and their communities. This Audience Guide is just one of the ways in which we aim to enhance your experience and further your engagement with the shows on stage.

It includes a summary, context, fun facts, and activities plus details that can help you decide what’s right for your kids.

If you have any further questions, please contact our friendly Ticket Office Associates at 612.874.0400 during their regular business hours or email them at [tickets@childrenstheatre.org](mailto:tickets@childrenstheatre.org).

## Synopsis

Experience the energy of a graphic novelist's imagination at work! Dynamic, jump-off-the-page animation shows Kate's *manhwa* storyboards coming together, even as she deals with school, friends, and how her Korean heritage fits into her American lifestyle. Will her contentious friendship with Paul help or hinder her progress? Will either of them ever find their true artistic voice? Get drawn into this innovative story that magically takes place both on stage and on screen!

## Content Advisories

**Language: 1 out of 5 stars** ★☆☆☆☆

Kate says, "It totally one hundred and ten percent sucks!!" One of the students calls Kate a bozo clown. Kate's family uses some Korean words.

**Themes and Situations: 2 out of 5 stars** ★★☆☆☆

Kate's mom died when she was 7, and her dad finds it difficult to talk about her. Kate and her dad get in an argument about Kate not speaking at school. Miss Evans says that Kate needs to learn to be an American even though she was born here and is American (her family is from Korea).

**Violence and Scariness: 0 out of 5 stars** ☆☆☆☆☆

**Sensory Advisories: 1 out of 5 stars** ★☆☆☆☆

Sound and lights are used to convey Kate's emotions and anxiety. The sound effects may be loud or jarring. Lights may flicker. Miss Evans transforms into Kate's monster drawing and wields giant printed cardboard garden shears. The lights may flash, and her voice will be heightened.

**Potentially Anxious Moments: 2 out of 5 stars** ★★☆☆☆

Kate experiences anxiety about speaking in class and in front of crowds. Her teacher draws attention to her reluctance to speak and assumes that she is not paying attention in class. One of her classmates calls her a clown when she is experiencing anxiety over public speaking.

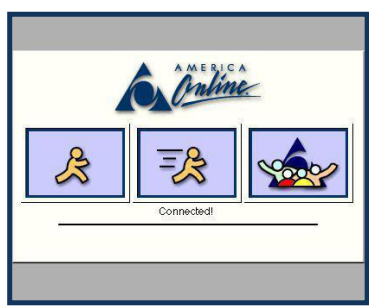
## THE 90s

*Drawing Lessons* is set in Minneapolis in the mid-1990s, when life looked pretty different for 6th graders—no cell phones, Wi-Fi, or social media. Here's a sample of the technology used at the time.



**A walkman:** A small, portable device that people used to carry around with light headphones to jam out to their favorite songs on cassette tapes. No streaming—just pop in a tape, press play, and rock out wherever you go!

**A landline phone:** Imagine a phone that's always plugged into the wall with a cable, so it can't go anywhere like your mobile does! It stays in one spot, and you pick up the whole thing (called a handset) to talk. You hear people through the top part and speak into the bottom—no swiping or texting, just good old-fashioned talking!

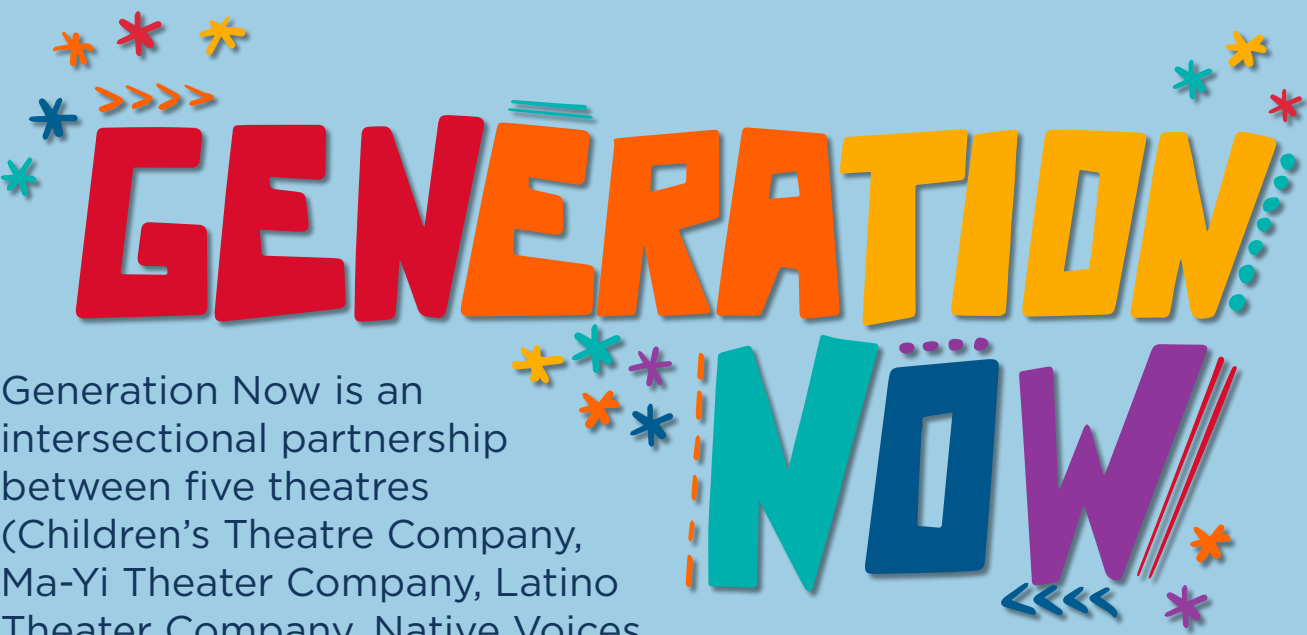


**Dial-up internet:** Imagine getting online by plugging your computer into a telephone line and having it call the internet! You'd have to wait for it to dial up, and it made some pretty weird sounds while connecting. It was super slow compared to today, so forget about gaming or video chats. But back then, it was the coolest way to surf the web! Just don't pick up the phone while someone's online, or you'll break the connection!

**A projector with a transparency sheet:** Imagine a big flashlight that beams what's on a clear plastic sheet onto the wall! Teachers used these see-through sheets to share maps, drawings, or notes with the whole class. They could even draw or write right on the projection—like magic! Then, with a quick wipe, it could be erased and used again for the next lesson.



# Generation Now Theatre Partnership



Generation Now is an intersectional partnership between five theatres (Children’s Theatre Company, Ma-Yi Theater Company, Latino Theater Company, Native Voices, and Penumbra). The goal of the Generation Now partnership is to develop new work for multigenerational audiences by BIPOC artists. The Generation Now theatres believe that if we are to have an extraordinary theatre culture in this country, we must start young, and it must be intergenerational, inclusive, inspiring, transformative, and lifelong. *Drawing Lessons* is the first new work to come out of this partnership and was co-commissioned by Children’s Theatre Company and Ma-Yi Theater Company.



## Ma-Yi Theater Company

Ma-Yi Theater Company is an award-winning professional theatre based in New York City. Their mission is to produce and develop new works that shape local and national conversations about what it means to be Asian American today.

## Questions to Think about BEFORE you see the Performance

- What do you know about drawing, comic books, or graphic novels?
- What do you know about the 90s? How would your life be different if you were a kid in the 90s?
- The protagonist Kate recently moved to a new city and is starting at a new school. What advice would you give to someone going to a new school for the first time?



## 3 Things to Look and Listen for DURING the Performance

### Look for...

1. A map that gets filled in throughout the show.
2. A traditional Hmong dress.
3. Lighting and stage effects that transform characters into Kate's drawings of them.

### Listen for...

1. Characters speaking Korean.
2. Comic book references that are familiar to you.
3. Twin Cities places you recognize.

# How to Make Comics

A Step-by-Step Guide from the  
Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)

# MoMA



## How to Make Comics: Ideas, Activities, and Resources for Learning and Making

[Click here to view the guide!](#)

# Neighborhood Map

Throughout *Drawing Lessons*, we see a hand-drawn map of the protagonist's neighborhood get fleshed out and added to. On the map, Kate has drawn places that are important to her such as her house, school, her dad's music studio, and an art shop.

Draw a map of your neighborhood, highlighting the places that are important to you and your family (e.g., home, parks, schools, stores, or favorite spots).

Ask another family member to draw their own version of the neighborhood, showing the places they consider important.

Compare your maps. Do you both include the same places, or are there differences? Discuss why each of you chose the places you did and how they reflect your personal experiences or memories.



Example Map



# Paul's Drawing Lesson

Try out the inanimate object drawing lesson that Paul gives Kate in the play. Use the template below.

## Instructions:

1. Look around the room and pick an inanimate object.  
As Paul says in the play,  
"Forget the fullness of the thing that you are looking at. Don't think of what you are seeing as a chair or a cup or a pencil. Just really see each individual line. One at a time. And then after you've drawn your line, check to be sure. Are you just seeing the line?"
2. Set a timer for 10 minutes and focus on drawing the object. After that, try again with a 5-minute timer, then a 2-minute timer, and finally, with just 20 seconds!

**10 minutes**

**5 minutes**

**2 minutes**

**20 seconds**

## Reflection Questions:

- What did you find challenging about this activity?
- Were you able to just see the individual lines of the object?
- How did your drawings change as you moved from one to the next?

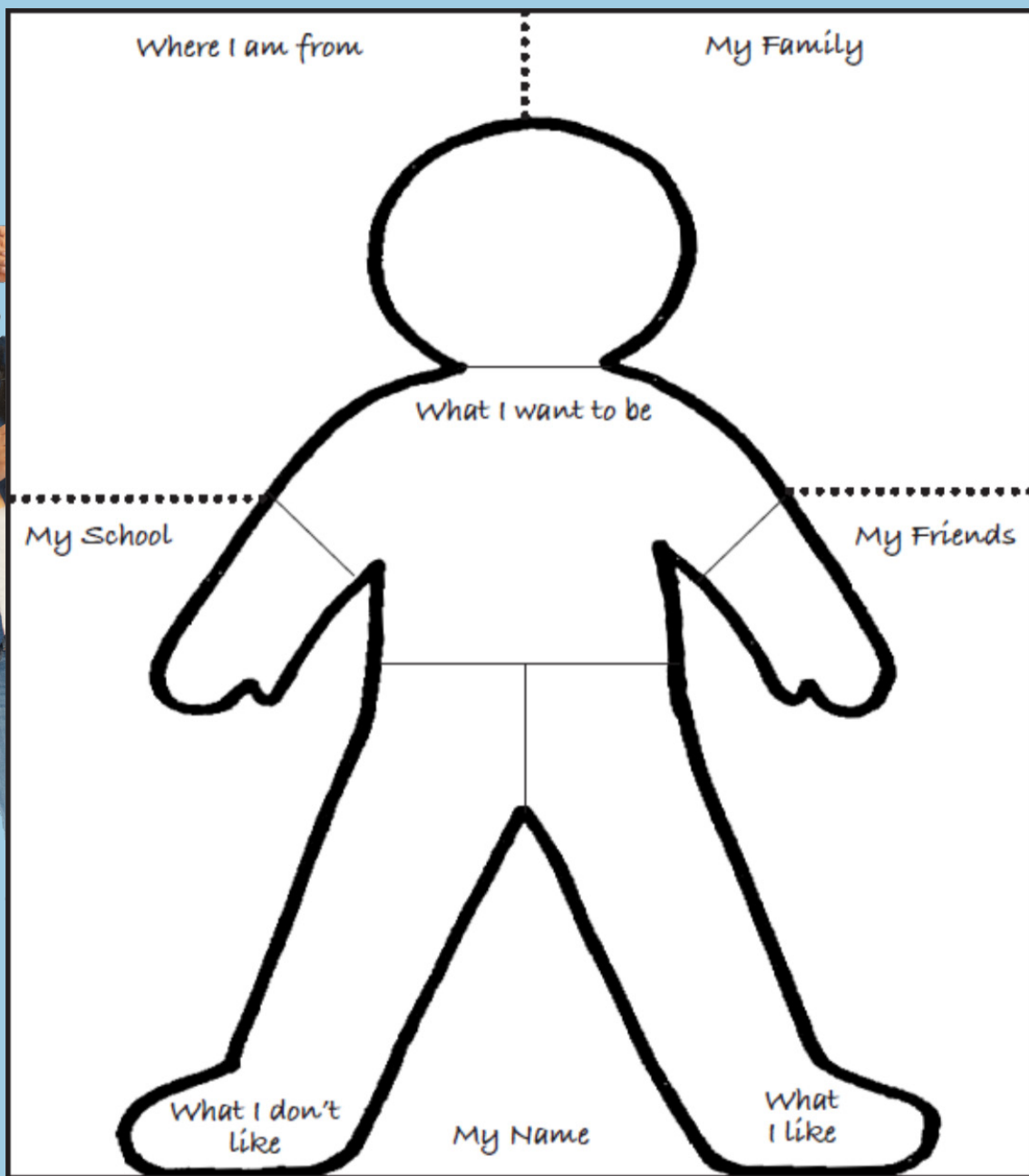
In *Drawing Lessons*, Kate draws a self-portrait as part of her acceptance speech at the comic convention. She talks about both internal and external traits that make her who she is. In this activity you'll explore your own internal and external traits.

**External Traits**  
Where you're from, family makeup, your school, etc.

**Internal Traits**  
Your likes, dislikes, personality traits, etc.

What are some of the internal and external factors that make up who you are?

Do you go to a big school or a small school? Are you afraid of spiders or heights? Do you prefer cookies or popcorn? All of these things contribute to who you are as a person. Draw on and around the person below to create a self-portrait that shows your internal and external traits.



## CTC Theatre Etiquette

At CTC, we encourage audiences to engage with the live theatre experience and react freely. It's ok to laugh if something is funny, exclaim if something is surprising, gasp if something is scary, and maybe even dance along in your seats if the music inspires you. We value the real-time, honest reactions of our audiences.

We do, however, thank you for your partnership in making sure that any reactions are kind and respectful towards the actors onstage and towards all of the people who worked so hard to make the show possible.

## Accessibility

### Mobility Accessibility

The MacMillan Family Lobby and Cargill Stage are fully accessible on the ground level. CTC's accessible seating area is located in the front row of the theatre. Please email [tickets@childrenstheatre.org](mailto:tickets@childrenstheatre.org) in advance to request accessible seating, if needed. The rest of the seating can be accessed by going up a set of stairs.

The restrooms in the MacMillan Family Lobby are fully accessible.

### Sensory Sensitivities

The performance is live streamed in the lobby for anyone needing to take a break during the performance. Please feel free to come and go from the lobby as you need to throughout the show.

Please let an usher know if someone in your group would benefit from a fidget, ear plugs, noise canceling headphones, or coloring/activity sheets during your visit.

### Assistive Listening Devices

Please let an usher know if you would like to use an assistive listening device. These devices come equipped with an over-the-ear earpiece. This earpiece can be unplugged, and other devices, such as cochlear implants, can be plugged into the receiver using the 1/8" jack. If you will be plugging in your own device, please bring the appropriate cord as CTC does not have these on hand.

### Sign Interpretation and Audio Description

Each CTC production has a sign interpreted and/or audio described performance for each production. These performances are noted in the [list of performance dates](#).

### Prayer/Private Nursing Space

During your visit, please ask a member of our staff to use our private space for nursing, pumping, prayer, or other needs.