

Title: Meet Auntie Donna From Surf Soup Books to Surf Soup TV

Subtitle: How Imagination, Courage, and Tiny Cartoons Can Grow Into Big Adventures

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Auntie Donna the Story Creator

Extended Reader & STEAM Guide

Big Ideas

Storytelling • Media creation • Creativity • Persistence

Before Reading

Ask students:

- Where do stories come from?
- Can kids create cartoons and stories too?
- What kinds of stories do you enjoy?

Explain that stories often begin with a simple idea or imagination.

After Reading Discussion

- How did Auntie Donna start creating stories?
- Which characters helped inspire creativity?
- Why is it important to keep trying when learning something new?
- What kinds of stories could students create?

STEAM Activities

Science – Sound and Voice

Discuss how cartoons use voices and sound.

Students experiment with different voices for characters.

Technology – Make a Mini Cartoon

Students create a simple flipbook animation.

Steps:

Draw a character

Draw small changes on each page

Flip pages quickly to create movement

Engineering – Build a Story Machine

Students design a simple “story generator wheel.”

Materials:

- paper circles
- fastener

Sections could include:

- character
- setting
- problem
- solution

Spin to generate story ideas.

Art – Create a Character

Students design their own cartoon character.

Include:

- name
- personality
- special ability

Math – Story Structure

Break stories into parts:

Beginning

Problem

Adventure

Solution

Students count how many events happen in each part.

Writing Activity

Students write the first page of their own story.

Encourage imagination and creativity.

Reflection

Ask students:

- What story would you like to create?
- What character might live in your story world?

Learning Goals / SEL:

Explore creativity, imagination, and storytelling  
Build confidence in shy or hesitant children  
Encourage goal setting (“dream seeds”)  
Teach persistence and courage through Auntie Donna’s story  
Inspire kids to make their own cartoons and stories  
Classroom / Home Activities:  
Storytime Read-Aloud: Discuss courage and imagination  
Draw Your Own Tiny Cartoon: Kids create mini characters inspired by Eggoh, Bombai, Prana, Dim Sum, etc.  
Create a Short Story or Song: Role-play your cartoon like Surf Soup TV  
Dream Seeds: Students write or draw a goal inspired by the story  
Introduce Yourself & Share: Practice conversation skills and sharing ideas  
Materials Needed:  
Copy of Meet Auntie Donna  
Paper, crayons, markers, or digital drawing tools  
Optional: printed activity sheet with Koa, TV Dog, and tiny cartoons  
Facilitator Tips:  
Encourage shy students to share in small groups  
Reinforce that every idea is valued  
Tie story to real-world creativity: books → cartoons → Surf Soup TV  
Celebrate every student’s “tiny cartoon” creation