

One of the characters in *House on Mango Street* says that you can be eleven, but, on some occasions, still feel like five inside.

Looking at the popular comic strip, *Calvin and Hobbes*, students got to know Calvin, who often skirted in and out of reality using his imagination to escape embarrassment and boredom.

By examining the influence of *Peanuts*, *Krazy Kat* and *Pogo*, comics that preceded *Calvin and Hobbes*, students also learned that there is ancestry and tradition in art. Our cartoonists explored how to tell a story, using the humor found in the character and perspective of children.

11, 10, 9, 8... “When I was 7” Comic Strip

Comic strips viewed and discussed by students

Krazy Kat, Pogo, Peanuts, Calvin & Hobbes



Calvin & Hobbes



krazy Kat



Peanuts

Julia Morgan at Rooftop Fall 2002

“House on Mango Street”

Line of Inquiry: How are cultural and family dynamics portrayed in the Word for Word production of Sandra Cisneros’s “House on Mango Street”?

Guiding Questions:

- What is family? (Naming and Nicknames)
- What is the importance of ‘home’ in these stories?
- What is culture?
- How do we bridge cultures?
- How do we bridge families?



Pogo

- **Looking at the four comic strips and their central characters, what do they have in common?**

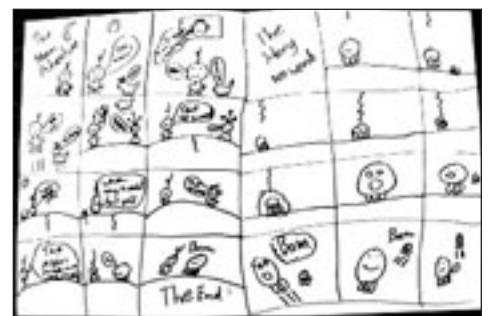
Describe the main characters and how they are drawn. What do you know about their personalities based on the pictures and text? Are the characters living in a real world, a fantasy world or in between? Looking at the progression of the story panels, do these comics tell their stories in a similar way?

- **Charlie Brown and Calvin, comic strip cousins?**

Describe Charlie Brown and Calvin. How they are drawn (head shape, eyes, mouth, nose - line qualities) What do you notice about their hair? What can you tell about their personalities from the way they are drawn? Discuss artistic influence and ancestry.

- **Create your own comic strip character**

Think about your own personality. Are you the same now as you were when you were seven years old, the age of Calvin in *Calvin & Hobbes*. If you were a comic strip character, what would you look like? Create a comic strip that tells a story about yourself when you were seven.



“When I was 7” Comic Strips by 4th graders