**Stick Figure 3-Ring Circus**

**Pre-reading activity to use with *Qui parle français?***

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**Goal:** To use/preview the high-frequency language used in the QPF series and in specific bios in an engaging, pre-reading activity. Students demonstrate comprehension by nodding, gesturing, and answering questions.

**Preparation:** choose 3 people from one of the *QPF?* books and have the facts you want to focus on in mind or on a note card\*.

**Materials:** Classroom whiteboard, markers, eraser, teacher's fact sheet.

**Activity:**

1. draw one simple stick figure, talking/circling as you draw; add **1-3 details** slowly
2. continue basic circling; also compare students to the famous people/PQA; mention yourself
3. check comprehension as needed
4. draw 2nd famous person, add **1-3** **similar** details slowly, circle/compare to 1st person
5. draw 3rd famous person, add **1-3 similar** details slowly, circle/compare to 1st and 2nd person
6. **add new, similar** details to all 3 people, circle/compare new details
7. with all three people now on board, pepper students with questions
8. restate student’s single word/short answers with fuller answers, including negation.
9. encourage longer answers if students are ready

\*NOTE: This is what I tend to draw/write:

-1st DETAILS: baby, name, birth year, place born

-2nd DETAILS: adult doing their preferred activity, with a heart showing that they love it

-EXTRA DETAIL: speech bubble or thought bubble, showing another detail from text

 <-- This is what my board might look like at the end.

**\*TRADITIONAL 3-RING CIRCUS (can move to this activity the next class)**

1. Place three volunteers next to stick figure drawings; supply props if available. These students will pretend to be the 3 famous people.
2. Review the previous day's details. Alternate between asking the ‘famous people’ questions about themselves (if ready for output) and asking the class about the famous people.
3. Add some more details from text if desired.

\*Note: there are a lot on demos of traditional 3-ring circus on-line.

