

## **Creating Pictures in Your Mind**

### **Lesson Plan by Teaching Artist Nancy S. Campbell**

*Grade Level: upper elementary and middle grades*

*Length of Lesson: two 45 minute to 1 hour sessions*

**Students will learn that creating pictures in the mind through guided visualization makes drawing and writing communicate ideas with more success. A simple subject matter idea written in one sentence will be expanded after visualization with descriptive details and illustrated in an oil pastel drawing. Oil pastel techniques and basic compositional information will be learned.**

**Materials/Media:** drawing pencil paper drawing paper oil pastels

**Instructional Objectives:** *In this lesson, 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will write a simple sentence describing a narrative drawing subject. Students will enrich the sentence with descriptive details created through guided visualization. Students will draw the enhanced image they have pictured in their minds with oil pastels*

**Set:** *The lesson will be introduced with an exploration of oil pastels as a medium. Demonstration of various oil pastel techniques is followed by a period of experimentation. A discussion of drawings as narratives will precede each student writing down a one sentence description of a narrative subject. With eyes closed, students are guided through a series of questions (What time of day? What colors do you see? What sounds? ...) to explore their ideas and add more details. The modified sentence is used as basis for an oil pastel drawing.*

#### **Key Questions:**

- *Does it help you draw what you picture in your mind if you quietly explore your idea?*
- *Does the addition of details make your drawing better?*
- *Can you mix new colors with oil pastels?*

**Classroom Strategies:** *Students may sit at regular desks or tables to work independently.*

#### **Instructional Procedures:**

1. *Students actively listen to introduction and participate in discussion.*
2. *Teaching artist demonstrates oil pastel techniques and color mixing.*
3. *Students explore techniques on scrap paper – warm-up for drawing.*
4. *Teaching artist demonstrates creating a sentence describing idea for drawing. (example: My garden looks pretty.)*
5. *Students write own sentence.*
6. *Teaching artist guides visualization to explore subject.*

7. *Teaching artist demonstrates enhancing sentence with detail. (example: My colorful garden sparkles in the sunshine as the red dog jumps at the pretty yellow butterfly.)*
8. *Students add detail to enhance their sentence.*
9. *Students create an oil pastel drawing of their enhanced idea.*

### **Evaluation Strategies**

**Informal:** *Students will examine their own and other students' oil pastel drawing. The enhanced sentence may be read by other students if an artist chooses, or it may remain private. The classroom teacher will observe participation by students and willingness to explore a new idea and a new medium.*

**Formal:** *Classroom teacher will establish a rubric for determining success, including use of new art vocabulary. (vocabulary: detail, narrative, hatching, layering, picture plane)*

### ***Tennessee Visual Art Standards***

Media, Techniques, & Processes *Students will understand/ apply media, techniques & processes* **1.2** *apply a variety of media, 1.3* *apply a variety of techniques, 1.4* *investigate and apply a variety of processes*

- **Students will learn techniques for using oil pastels in their work**

Structures & Functions *Students will use knowledge of structures and functions* **2.2** *apply elements of art, 2.4* *apply principles of art, 2.6* *apply purpose in art, 2.8* *apply context in art*

- **Students will use elements and principles of design to illustrate idea**

Evaluation *Students will choose & evaluate a range of subject matter, symbols, & ideas* **3.1** *select and demonstrate subject matter, symbols, & ideas in one's art, 3.2* *analyze and evaluate subject matter, symbols, & ideas in one's art, 3.3* *explain subject matter, symbols, & ideas in art*

- **Students will select original subject idea and explain and evaluate idea**

Reflecting and Assessing *Students will reflect upon and assess the characteristics of their work and the work of others* **5.1** *analyze and discuss the characteristics of one's own work*

- **Students will analyze completed work**

Interdisciplinary Connections *Students will make connections between visual art & other disciplines* **6.2** *Students will make connections between visual arts & disciplines outside art*

- **Students will see the connection between developing ideas in art and writing**

**Tennessee Language Arts Writing Standard** *Students will write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, & clear event sequences.*