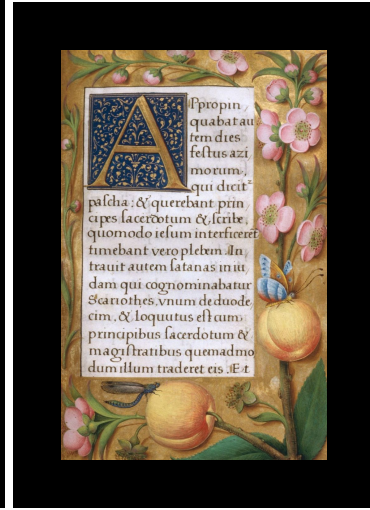


Celebrate Poetry Month



with Illuminated Manuscripts

Description:

To introduce students to the medieval style of lettering called illuminated manuscripts, while celebrating the month of poetry. Students will create their own illuminated manuscript to enhance a poem they write or a poem of a favorite poet.

Art history connection:

What is an illuminated manuscript?

<https://www.britannica.com/art/illuminated-manuscript>[https://www.bing.com/search?FORM=INCOH2&PC=IC03&PTAG=ICO-f20163569a6440c1&q=what are illuminated manuscripts](https://www.bing.com/search?FORM=INCOH2&PC=IC03&PTAG=ICO-f20163569a6440c1&q=what+are+illuminated+manuscripts)

Illuminated manuscript, handwritten book decorated with gold or silver, brilliant colors, or elaborate designs or miniature pictures. The term 'illumination' originally denoted the embellishment of the text with gold or silver, giving the impression that the page had been literally illuminated.

Materials:

Poems: Written by the student or by a favorite poet.
Pencil
Eraser
Tape
Markers
Ruler

Paper

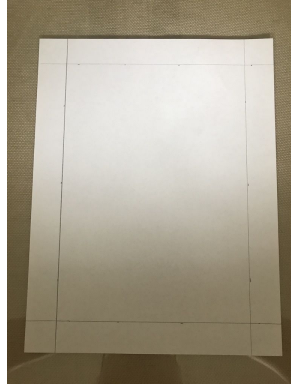
Procedures:

A. When setting up your paper, use a ruler, and light pencil lines.

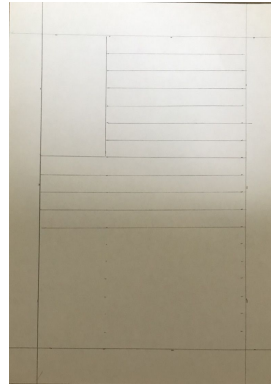
1. Measure out a one-inch border along all four sides of the paper.
2. Holding your paper vertically, measure a 2x3 rectangle in the upper left hand corner.
3. Measure out $\frac{1}{2}$ inch lines inside of the border, but do not draw lines inside the 2x3 rectangle, that is for your illuminated letter. See examples below:



1.



2.



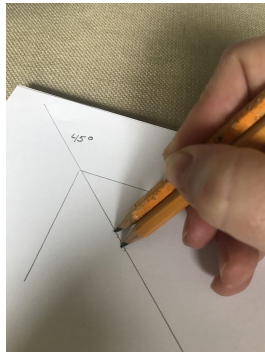
3.

B. Creating your drawing tool.

1. Tape two sharp pencils together. Be sure to have both points of each pencil even so that both points are touching the paper together.
2. Hold the taped pencils at a 45-degree angle, making sure both points are always in contact with the paper.
3. Practice drawing swirls, string lines, and shapes, while keeping the pencils at the same angle.
4. Connect the beginning marks of the two lines with a single line. It will look like the end of a ribbon.
5. Practice drawing capital letters with the pencils.



1.



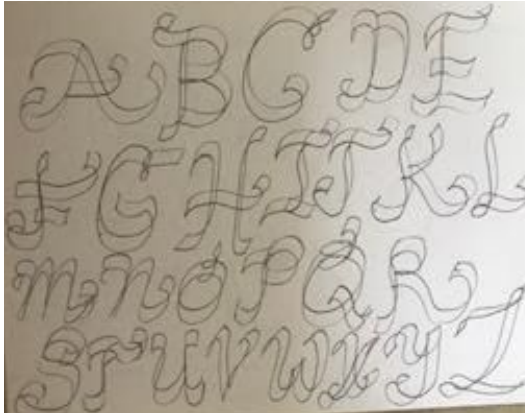
2.



3.



4.

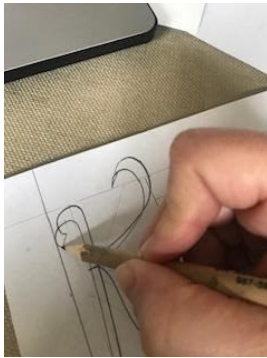


5.

6. When you feel you got this, write the first letter of the first word of your poem, in the 2x3 rectangle. **Keep it light until you get it right.**

7. Fill in the rectangle as best you can, by touching the top, sides and bottom of the rectangle. Be creative, using a cursive style of lettering, or embellish with your own style. You may even go out of the rectangle a bit.

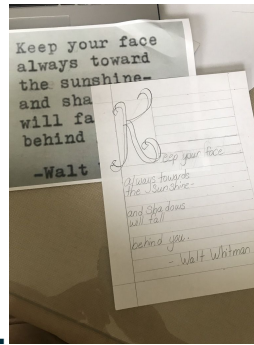
8. Write the rest of your poem on the lines.



6.



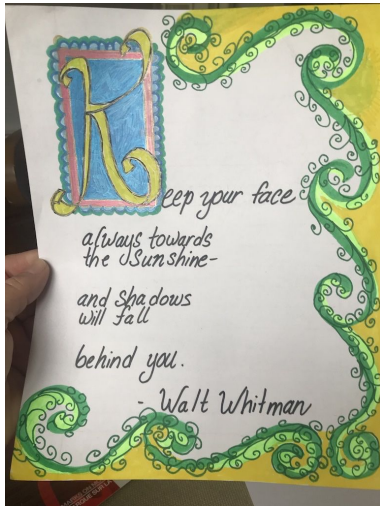
7.



8.

Time to add color.

1. Use colored markers and outline your illuminated letter. Be as colorful and decorative as possible.
2. Add drawings, vines, flowers, or drawings to the border that visually describe the poem.
3. Finish the poem with more color or black outline.
4. Erase all pencil marks.



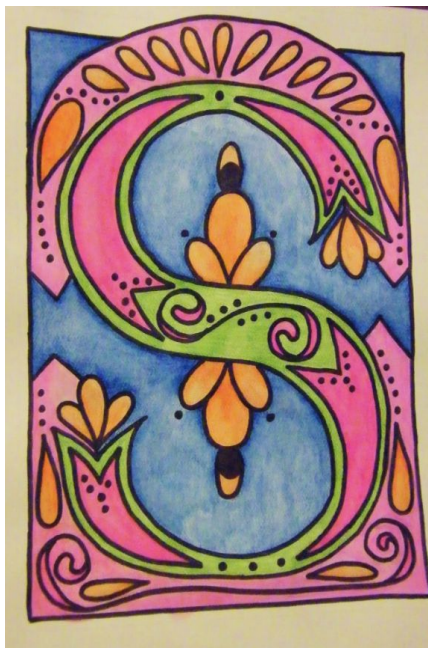
Younger student extensions:

1. Read the story **Marguerite Makes a Book by Bruce Robertson**

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/324528.Marguerite_Makes_a_Book<https://www.bing.com/search?FORM=INCOH2&PC=IC03&PTAG=ICO-f20163569a6440c1&q=margarete+makes+a+book>

Premise/plot: **Marguerite Makes a Book** is a picture book for older readers. It is set in the Middle Ages in France. The heroine is a young girl, **Marguerite**, the daughter of a **book** painter--or illustrator. First sentence: In a small house in Paris, nearly six hundred years ago, lived a man who made beautiful **books**.

- 4.3/5
- Ratings: 387
- Reviews: 67



2. Younger students may like to draw one large illuminated letter.

