



Lesson By:

Sarah Gerrard

Grade: 11

Subject: Visual Art

Date: 2023

Topic: Spirit Animal Inspired Drawing

Notes: An extra option is doing this using scratchboard instead

Brief Lesson Overview:

In this assignment students learn about Indigenous spirit animals and choose to draw animals that symbolically represent them using white pencil crayon on black paper.

Materials Needed:

Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox book, White prismacolor pencil crayons, black cardstock paper, reference photos

Learning Outcomes:

CH20.1 - Investigate art works that address Indigenous cultures.
CP 20.3 - Create art works that respond to diverse worldviews.
CP20.2 - Create art to explore ideas from First Nations artists.
CP20.1 - Engage in artistic risk-taking with ideas, media and image development strategies to achieve meaning. (form/value)

Structure / Activity:

- Read [Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox](#) to students. In Indigenous culture animals: can represent kinship & clans (animals/meaning vary between Nations), have spirits, and some Indigenous people are gifted animal spirit guides.
- Teach about Northwest Coast art that features various animals. Haida artist [Mike Bellis](#) has good explanations of symbolic meanings of animals. [The Seattle Art Museum](#) profiles a few artworks. Afterwards, have students write an exit slip for, "What you have noticed about how Indigenous art helps sustain Indigenous culture?"
- Practice drawing using white prismacolor pencil crayon on black paper. I use [this tutorial](#).
- So as not to appropriate Indigenous meaning of animals, students are to choose animals that represents them symbolically and draw these animals in lifelike ways (multiple reference photos help avoid plagiarism). Students have to explain how the animals drawn represents them.

Photo of Art Project:

"I have chosen the owl because I feel a connection with its silent presence and watchful eye of every detail. The owl is a mysterious creature who rarely speaks or show any form of socializing, I am exactly like that. The owl does not like to be bothered nor does it like to bother others, it's presence is hard to notice unless it wants to be noticed, & that's how I am."



Artist's Name: Logan Doerksen

School Name: Warman High School

Assessment:

Rephrase the outcomes as "I can" statements and mark each out of 10. CH 20.1 is a written exit slip. Have a class critique to discuss their artworks.

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