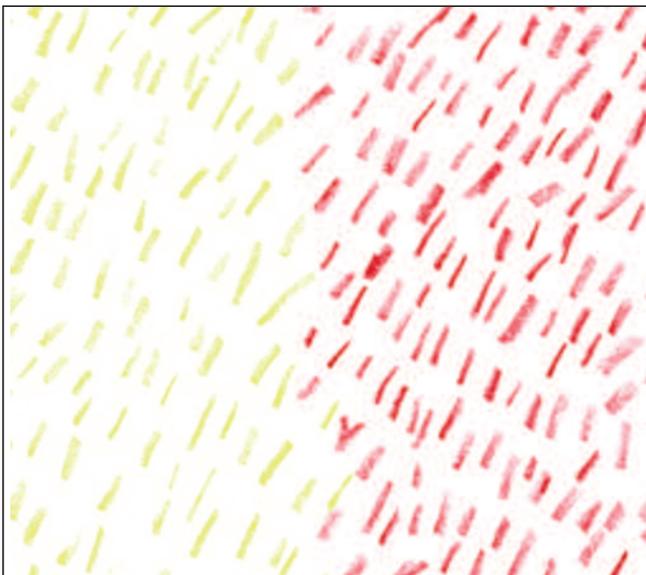


Exercises to support reading and writing: Part 2

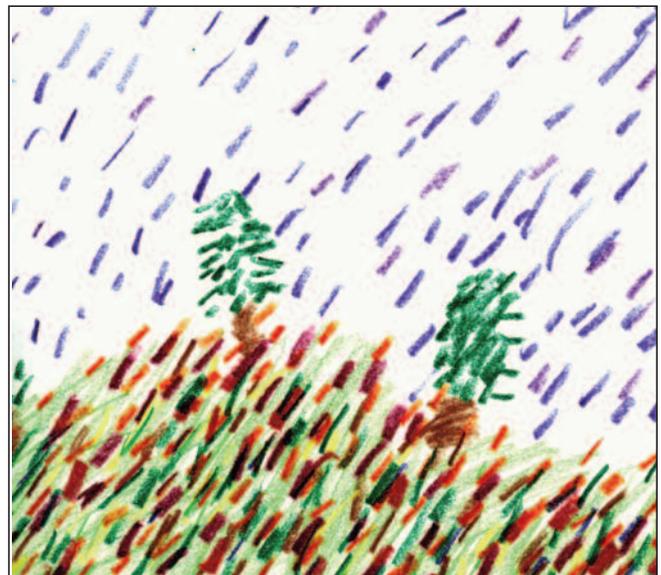
Additional ideas for shaded drawing

In her description of the “Shaded Drawing Exercise”, Audrey McAllen points to the connection between the diagonal line and the will, and notes that shaded drawing calls on attention and patience. Following are three suggestions for building up this form of drawing into a series of progressive exercises over time. It is very important to note that for all of these, as described in “The Extra Lesson”, entire drawing is to consist of diagonals drawn in one direction only: from top right toward bottom left. This is the same regardless of hand used for drawing.



Exercise 1 - filling a page with 'raindrop' strokes

Have each student fill a Main Lesson Book page or a form drawing sheet with diagonal dashes. Lesson one could be done with just one color, and lesson two (as shown above) as a color study with two colors, each on e side of the sheet. If you use blue for the first lesson, you can give the mental image of filling the page with raindrops. It is important with this exercise that dashes be placed randomly around the page, not just drawn in rows. In this way, an image is built up over time.



Exercise 2 - a simple landscape with 'raindrop' strokes

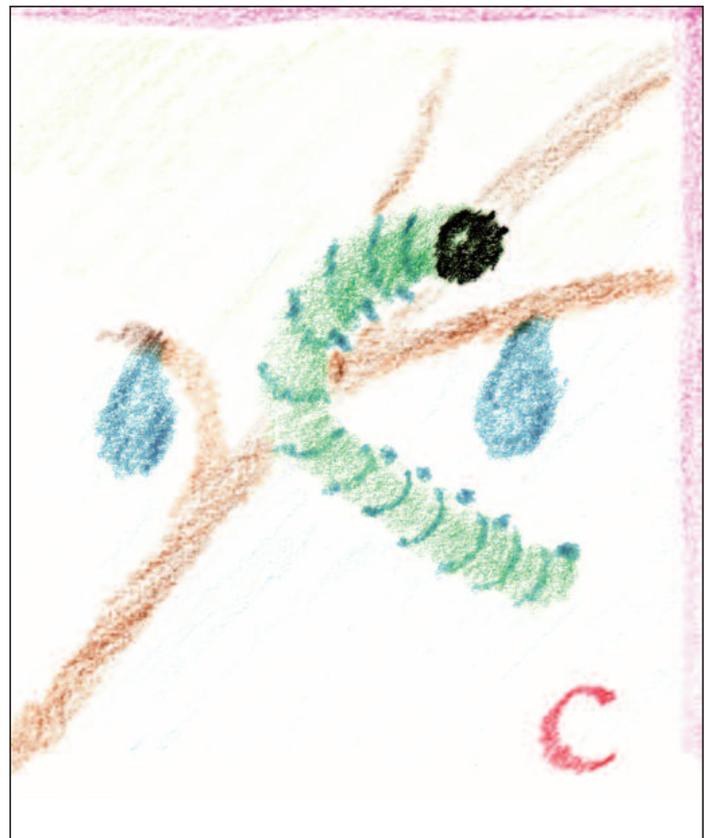
Again using stick crayons, have each student create a landscape scene, such as a mountain with trees. This will strengthen the students' ability to again build up an image over time. As mentioned, no outlines of shapes are to be drawn.

Exercise 3 - recapitulating the introduction to the alphabet

In a chapter titled “Reintroduction to Formal Work in Reading and Arithmetic”, Audrey McAllen describes what I find to be a very common need to repeat activities that bring a living and pictorial relationship to reading and writing. For ages up to 9 years old, I have found that the exercise shown here, is another way to repeat the introduction to the letters given in First Grade.

Have the student create a book presenting each letter as a picture, as shown. I have found that four letters to a page works well for size. This can be worked on steadily over a period of time as desired; it is an excellent “one-a-day” homework assignment. Materials: A main lesson book; Lyra colored pencils, Filia oil crayons, or the like.

Once again, it is important with this exercise that everything be built up out of diagonal lines drawn from top right toward bottom left (regardless of which hand the artist uses), and that the drawings be built up with shaded strokes, not outlines.



Additional examples

