

# SYMMETRICAL DRAGON DRAWINGS & Storytelling

## Grade 1 Lesson

(suitable for Grades 1–3)

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Rep

## Big Idea:

People connect to others and  
share ideas through the arts.

## Materials and Technologies:

- 12x18 90lb sulphite paper  
or other thick drawing paper  
with a bit of texture
- Directed Drawing Video



- Pencils
- Black oil pastels
- Chalk pastels
- Colour wheel
- Posca markers
- Smocks
- Damp cloths & paper towels
- Laminator
- Devices to record voice on  
Seesaw and generate QR  
code
- Printer

Grade 1s were keen to learn to draw dragons as they'd been excited about the Dragon Masters series of books in their classroom. In collaboration with their homeroom/Language Arts teachers, we designed a lesson where students would learn how to draw their own dragons and then come up with an oral story to accompany it.

## PRE-CLASS PREPARATION:

- Prepare art materials and ensure smocks and clean-up supplies are ready.
- Preview the Art With Trista YouTube video and have it set up for students to view.
- Prepare Seesaw activity for story recordings.
- Plan for display space to hang laminated artwork with QR codes attached.

## INTRODUCTION & Drawing Process

(45–60 min)

- Explain to students that they will be learning how to draw a symmetrical dragon head and that these dragons will inspire an oral story.
- Have students fold their papers in half lengthwise and crease them down the middle. This sometimes takes some time, and not all students are able to do it the first time, but I tell them it's an important skill to know.
- Show students the fold of the paper and tell them that's where they will be drawing half of their dragon heads. Start the video and have students draw along with their pencils, pausing at the end of each step. Encourage students to add their own original details as they go along.
- When finished with the pencil drawing, have students trace their half-dragon head with oil pastel; then fold their papers over and



Rooney R, Grade 1

follow the directions in the video to make their impressions on the other side of their papers by running their folded papers along the edge of their table. Explain how this transfer creates a mirror/ or symmetrical image.

- When their image is transferred, students can retrace the printed lines with oil pastel.

## DISCUSSION AND PRACTICE

### with Analogous Colours & Chalk Pastel Techniques (2x45-60 min)

- *We talked a lot about the colour wheel and about how using analogous colours side-by-side makes it easy to blend them nicely together.* Encourage students to experiment by using these colour schemes.
- Show how to work with chalk pastels by using light pressure and then blending with a finger. Students are encouraged to also use their colours in a symmetrical manner on both sides. Students then followed with a darker, solid colour in the background to make their dragons stand out.
- **A note of caution:** *I had students wear smocks for this project and made sure to have damp cloths and paper towels at all the tables as this step was very messy!*
- *After completing the pastel portion of the project, students were shown how to use Posca paint markers to add some bold details and patterns on top of their drawings.* Some students may need an additional class to finish this step.



### First People's Principles of Learning:

- Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational.
- Learning is embedded in memory, history, and story.

### Curricular Competencies - What students will DO:

- Explore artistic expressions of imagination and identity through visual art and storytelling.
- Observe and describe how artists use processes, tools, materials, and techniques.
- Express feelings, stories, and ideas through artistic creation and oral storytelling.

### Concepts and Content - What students will KNOW:

- How to follow a guided drawing process to create symmetrical dragon illustrations.
- How to use folding and rubbing of oil pastel on paper to achieve symmetry in an artwork.
- How to use chalk pastels effectively to create smooth coverage on paper and how to blend analogous colours.
- How to communicate a story inspired by their visual art.

### Resources/References

- Art With Trista Dragon Drawing Video (QR code for the video is on page 1)
- Colour wheel visual
- Seesaw on iPad for student recordings and portfolio work (or other suitable app)





Tori H., Grade 1



Alex A., Grade 1



Hannah Z., Grade 1



Megan W., Grade 1

## ORAL STORYTELLING

(2 x 45-60 min)

- When their dragons are finished, begin preparing students for oral storytelling by discussing their dragons' names, personalities, powers, and where they live.
- *My students completed this portion with their Language Arts teachers. Stories were recorded directly into their Seesaw online portfolio platform and a QR code was generated.*



Winston H., Grade 1

## DOCUMENTATION - Presentation of Learning

- *The dragon pastels were then laminated to both preserve the delicate nature of the pastel and to make the colours pop. A QR code linking to the oral story was printed to display with their artwork so that viewers could listen to each child's story alongside their art.*

## ASSESSMENT

- Students will show that they can follow steps to create directed drawing.
- Students will show acquisition of effective pastel application and blending techniques.
- Students will communicate a detailed oral story about their dragon with a beginning, middle, and end inspired by their visual art.



Angus M., Grade 1