

Micador Art Activity - 'Flood'



Children's Art Activity after reading *Flood* by Jackie French and Bruce Whatley

A fun art activity, recreating the cover of *Flood* by Jackie French and Bruce Whatley in watercolours and pencil. This activity is suitable for the use in the classroom, and contains several easy but valuable lessons about medium and texture.

Students will be asked to look at the cover and think about how they might recreate this image using art materials and techniques. As a teacher, you can then lead them through the creation of an artwork based on this image, using the exercise as a talking point for technique.

Try capturing the kid's attention by talking about floods, drawing out their understanding of floods and the similarity to flooding in the techniques used on this paper. Further discussion topics might include:

- The type of paper being used in this activity is 300gsm cotton. What does this mean? How does cotton become paper?
- Where was the cotton that made this paper from? Where is cotton grown in Australia? What would happen to cotton in a flood?
- What kind of paint are the children using in this activity? Is it any different from the paint used by Bruce Whatley?
- What type of dog is featured in this book? What kind of work does this breed of dog usually do?

Many thanks to Jackie French and Bruce Whatley, whose award-nominated work this activity is based on.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

We used:

- A3 Roymac Rains paper – one per student
- Essential pencils (HB or 2B preferred) – one each
- Set of 12 ColouRush pencils (one packet between two or three)
- Micador erasers to share
- Micador Lotus Pallet – one between two
- Toothbrush – one between three
- Micador Vibrant watercolour one of each 200ml – blue, yellow, yellow ochre, white
- Achiever flat one inch brush – one each
- Achiever round no. 4 or 6 brush or mixture of each.
- Water pots – one each is a good idea
- Protections for tables
- Protection for clothing

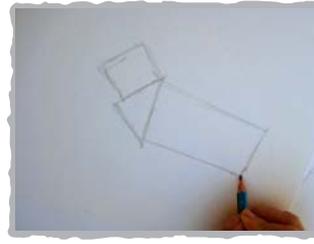
FOLLOW THE STEPS



1. Preparation

Mix the colour palette, using a dab of paint about the size of a five cent piece, cover generously with water and mix well. Make a well of blue, another well with blue and yellow to make a light green, as well as a yellow ochre. In a fourth well, mix some of the light green you've mixed with the ochre to achieve a darkish olive green.

Set up your work space with mess protection in the form of splash mats and smocks, as well as palletes, pencils, erasers, brushes, A3 Rains Watercolour Paper and coloured pencils.



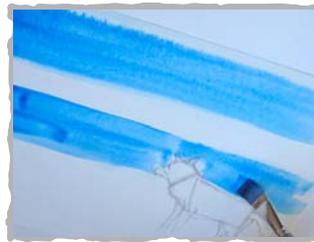
Step 1

We want to recreate the dog in the bottom right quadrant of the paper. Have your students consider the size and scale of the dog. Break the dog into three simple shapes, a square for the head, triangle for the neck and rectangle for the body and demonstrate how to sketch it in graphite pencil.



Step 2

Ask your students to evaluate how the three basic shapes combine to make a dog. Ask them to consider where the nose, ears, legs and tail will be on the dog, and have them draw them in.



Step 3

Wet a large flat brush with water and use it to flood the paper where the sky (the top of the page) and the river (a thin strip across the middle of the page) will lie. Now load the brush with blue watercolour and lay it across the wet areas. This technique is known as 'wet in wet' painting. Ask your students to consider the image, taking note of what is in front and what is behind.



Step 4

Using the same 'wet in wet' technique as step three, flood and colour the negative space between these blue areas with a light green colour.



Step 5

Add some yellow ochre across the body of the dog, leaving his head mostly white if possible as well as the very bottom of the page. Stand the image up vertically and let the colours drip down the page.





Step 6

Use a dark green watercolour to add some marks at the top to give the impression of foliage. Stand the paper up again vertically and let it drip.



Step 7

Use the round brush to add some more colour (choose between blue ochre or green), to fill in white space around the dog or the white space behind him.



Step 8

Ask your students to define the outline of the dog using ColouRush pencils. Use bold black lines to outline the animal and touches of colour for texture.



Step 9

Wash over the dogs body and floor in the dark sap green and add a vertical streak to represent the trunk of a tree parallel to the upright beam of the veranda. Have the children dip the toothbrush into the dark green and using their thumb flick the paint onto the image and a top layer. The dryer the paper the better this will work. Most of the background should be fairly dry by now.



Step 10

Add a small amount of white watercolour into a fresh well in your palette, with just a touch of water. This will give it the consistency of gouache paint. Use this slightly thicker paint to add some white detail with the smallest brush. Encourage your students to notice the way this make the dog seem to come forward from the background to the foreground.



Step 11

The picture is nearly done, but this is a great time to encourage your students to appraise the picture. What's going on in the picture? What, if anything can be done to improve it? Using ColouRush pencils, have your students redefine any areas that may have been lost on the dog.