Lesson 2: Drawing with Shapes

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Amy.

My friend and I go for walks in my neighborhood. We bring our journals with us to record anything interesting we see, like animals, plants, houses, or people. He takes notes, and I draw pictures. Like—check this out—I've never seen a flower like this before.

When I want to draw something I've never drawn before, I start by looking at what shapes make up that thing.

This plant is new to me, but when I look at it closely, I notice that the center of the flower is just a tiny circle. So I start by drawing a tiny circle in the middle of my paper.

The petals around the center are little circles, too—just lots of them clustered together. So I draw a bunch of tiny circles.

The stem of the flower is just a wavy line, and the leaves are basically triangles. So I add some triangles to the stem.

Ta da! I made the whole flower just using shapes I already knew.

You can use this trick of looking for familiar shapes to draw anything, even things that seem super complicated.

Look at this photo of a grocery store. There's a whole lot going on here, but I bet we can find familiar shapes here. Like, how about a circle?

Let's see how many things you can find in this photo that are shaped like circles. I'll give you ten seconds. When you spot something in this photo that's a circle, silently draw a circle in the air with your finger, like this.

Ready? Go.

Time's up. Great work!

I see apples—those are circles. And the wheels of the shopping carts—those are circles, too. You might have noticed even more things.

Let's try that again with a different shape. This time, let's look for rectangles. When you spot something in this photo that's shaped like a rectangle, silently draw a rectangle in the air with your finger, like this.

We'll have another ten seconds. Ready? Go.

Time's up!

I see lots of boxes that are rectangles, and there are lots of signs that are rectangles. Maybe you noticed other things, too.

You can look for shapes anywhere you go. Let's try it out in the room you're in right now.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: What do you see in the room you're in that's a circle?

DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: What do you see in the room you're in that's a rectangle?

HOOK 2

In today's lesson, we're going to try drawing things I saw on my neighborhood walk by using familiar shapes.

This is a street I saw on my walk. Can we draw this whole street just by thinking about shapes? Let's find out.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies. You'll need more supplies later.

STEP 2

Place your pencil above the name line, right here. When you're ready, write your name on the worksheet.

When everyone is done, go to the next step.

STEP 3

To figure out how to draw these houses, I'm going to look for shapes I recognize. To me, the main part of the house looks like a square.

Find the square on your worksheet. Place your pencil on the star of the square, right here. When your pencil is ready, trace the square like this. It's okay if your tracing isn't perfect. Just try your best.

You might notice other shapes on your worksheet, too. Only trace the square for now.

STEP 4

Now that you've traced the square for house number one, you can draw the squares for the rest of the houses on the street, too.

Draw a square above the number two, like this. Then draw a square above the number three here, and one more here above the number four. These are the bases of all your houses. Don't worry about making each square perfect. Just do the best you can.

STEP 5

Great work! Next, the houses need roofs. Let's draw those next.

Draw the shape of the roof in the air with your finger. What shape is this? The roof is a triangle.

Find the triangle on your worksheet on house number one. When your pencil is ready, trace the lines of the triangle, like this. Then draw one triangle on the top of each square you drew before so each one has a roof, like this.

Don't worry about making each triangle perfect. Just do the best you can.

STEP 6

Now our houses need a front door. Take a look at the front door of this house.

Draw the shape of the front door in the air with your finger. What shape is this? It's a rectangle.

Trace the rectangle door on your worksheet, like this. Then draw rectangles on each of the other houses on the street so each one has a door.

STEP 7

Our houses are almost done. They just need one more thing: windows.

Take a look at the window on this house. Draw the shape of this window in the air with your finger. What shape is this? It's a circle.

Trace the circle window on your worksheet, like this.

Now, windows come in many different shapes. There are circular windows, square windows, rectangular windows, and even windows that are triangles. Pick whatever shape window you want and draw them in for the rest of the houses on the street.

STEP 8

Ta da! Look at that—you made a whole street of houses just by drawing familiar shapes. But can we use shapes to make more than just houses? Let's give it a try.

Next up, we're going to try drawing a whole scene.

When you're ready, go to the next step.

STEP 9

Check this out! Here's what's going on in front of one of those houses on the street.

I see at least three totally different things here: a kid playing in the yard, a tree, and a house. Each of these things is made of different lines and shapes.

Let's try making those shapes with our bodies. Stand up where you are so you have a little space to move.

STEP 10

Let's start with the kid. Make the same pose with your body that this kid is making.

Great! Now try being this tree. Stretch your body up tall and make a round circle of leaves with your arms.

Okay now one more. Let's try something trickier—the house. Can you make the shapes of a house with your body? Try using your arms to make its triangle roof.

Great! Okay, go ahead and sit back down.

STEP 11

Okay. Now that we've tried those shapes out with our body, let's see if we can figure out how to draw them.

Your teacher will pass out one more thing.

STEP 12

Write your name at the top of your worksheet here.

STEP 13

The house is drawn in already. Let's see if we can use shapes to draw in the kid, too. I'll start with the middle of her body.

This kid is wearing a dress. Draw the shape in the air with your finger.

Think: What shape does this look like?

To me, this dress looks kind of like a triangle. You might have thought of a different shape, and that's great, too.

Draw the shape of the dress. I'm going to draw a triangle.

STEP 14

Next, let's draw the kid's head. Draw the shape in the air with your finger.

Think: What shape does this look like?

Her head looks like a circle to me, so I'm drawing a circle.

Draw a circle on the top of the triangle. Now you have her head and her dress.

STEP 15

Now draw in her hair on her head. You can draw her hair how it looks in the photo or however you want—your choice. I'm going to draw it like this.

If you have extra time, you can also add eyes and a smile, like this.

STEP 16

Great! Now we just have to draw her arms and legs. Draw the shapes in the air with your finger.

Think: What shapes do her arms and legs look like to you?

This one is kind of tricky, right? You can draw arms and legs a bunch of different ways. These arms and legs do kind of look like rectangles, but to keep it simple, I'm going to draw straight lines.

Draw on the kid's arms and legs now.

STEP 17

Congratulations! Now our picture has two things in it, a house and a person. There's one more object we need to add: this tree. Try this one on your own.

Think: What shapes make up that tree? When you're ready, draw those shapes to make your tree.

WRAP UP

Congratulations! You made a whole scene and a whole neighborhood using only rectangles, circles, squares, triangles, and a few lines.

Everywhere you go, everything you see, it's all made up of shapes.

Depending on how we arrange these familiar shapes, we can make a billion different pictures and share a billion different kinds of messages. And you can help people understand the meaning of your pictures even better by labeling them with words.

By putting shapes together to make pictures and letters together to make words, there's no end to the messages you can share.

Thanks for all your help. See you next time, writers.