



ART BRIDGES: Lesson Plans for Enrichment, Growth and Healing

Alphabet Art

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Cheryl Trowbridge
www.teachkidsart.net**

Objectives:

The participants will

- Work on proportion when designing their page layout
- Explore pattern and color in creating their abstract letter composition
- Use negative and positive space in creating their designs

Audience:

This lesson was originally designed for school children but could be adapted for any age level, including adults.



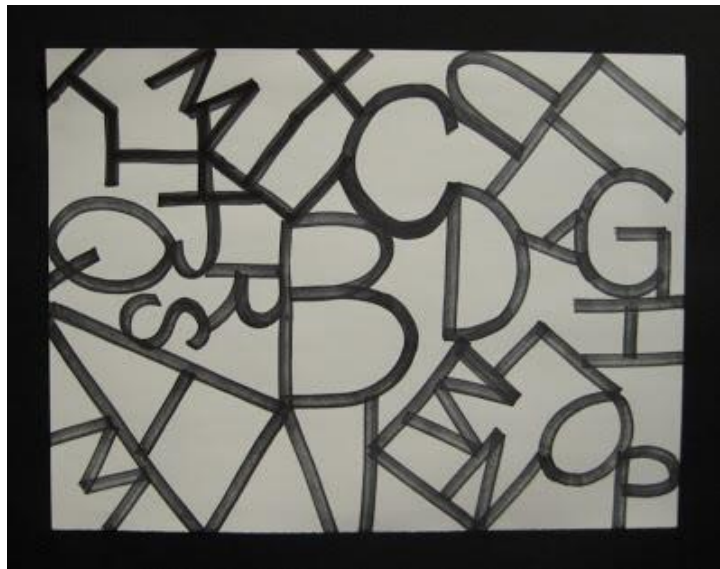
In today's culture, some symbols have become so familiar that we've stopped noticing them. This idea is what prompted contemporary American artist, Jasper Johns, to create abstract paintings from symbols such as letters, numbers and maps to get his viewers to experience these symbols in new ways. Your students can follow these steps to share this experience and learn about abstract art with this fun project!

Supplies/Materials:

- Drawing paper
- Pencils, erasers, colored markers, colored pencils, crayons
- Black chisel-tip marker

Class Instructions:

1. Choose a theme for your design. Possible choices could be upper case letters, lower case letters, numbers or a mix of all three.
2. Using a pencil, lightly sketch your letters or numbers, working large but varying the sizes and angles, to fill your entire paper. Each letter or number should randomly connect to another letter or number so that you create new shapes ("negative spaces") in the areas around them.
3. Trace over your pencil lines with a permanent, black chisel-tip marker, to create thick, solid lines.



4. Now use brightly colored markers to fill in the new shapes created around your letters or numbers. You may choose to fill in some of the shapes or all



of them. (Remind students to color all one direction within each shape to avoid a “scribbled” look.)



Have fun experimenting with variations on this project, using names, phrases, dates, etc

Please visit <http://www.teachkidsart.net/alphabet-art/> and <http://www.teachkidsart.net/alphabet-art-verdict-is-in/> for these complete lessons.

*Special thanks to **Cheryl Trowbridge** for sharing a wealth of information and resources and ideas on her excellent website www.teachkidsart.net ! Cheryl has her art education credentials and has been teaching art to kids for over 20 years. She is inspired by watching children of all ages discover their ability to be creative. Her passion is to make successful art lessons accessible to help share the joy of art with all the kids in our lives. Visit Sheryl's on-line store <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Teach-Kids-Art> to purchase a variety of resources for helping kids create art.*

If you have used this activity, we'd love to hear from you! Please send questions or comments through our website www.hildegardcenter.org .

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