

# Masterpiece: *Turn Him Loose Bill*, by Frederic Remington

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**Keywords:** line, shape, color

**Grade:** 4

**Month:** April

**Activity:** Horse Sketch using Grid Lines



## Meet The Artist:

- Frederic Remington was born in New York (1861 - 1909). His father was a Calvary soldier. He loved athletics and was good at swimming, fishing and riding horses.
- He liked to draw and his favorite subjects were horses, soldiers and Indians. He also liked to draw caricatures of teachers and cadet officers.
- As a young man he attended college but was not good in his studies. At 19 he left college and headed West. He worked 4 years as a cowboy and a wagon train hand. He sketched everything he saw wherever he traveled - Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona and Texas. Much of his art was a recording of the West's history - he showed the viewer a realistic picture of what the frontier was like at that time.
- His art made him famous by the time he was thirty. He did not like to learn by following other people's rules - he preferred to work directly from nature in his own way
- Along with his paintings and drawings, he was also a well-known sculptor.

## Discussion:

What is happening in the painting? (Cowboys are breaking a wild horse). Have you ever seen a scene like this?

What **colors** do you see? How would you describe them? (neutral colors). Why do you think the artist used these colors? (They are earthy, land colors)

Where do you see **lines**? (fence, truck, boat, mans' jacket, dog's fur). Explain that all art begins with lines - to outline, to make shapes.

What kinds of **shapes** do you see? (circles, rectangles, squares, ovals, etc.) Do some of the shapes repeat? Where? Repeated shapes make patterns. What kinds of patterns do you see? What details are repeated? (the paw prints on the man's pants, the checkered pattern in his shirt & hat, the trim on his coat, the grill on the truck, the fence, the dog food, the plants.

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Can you see the **texture** in this painting? If you could touch the dogs how would they feel? Talk about the difference in the fur of some of the dogs. Discuss the texture of the man's clothes, the dog food, the truck, the water, etc.

What's the most important part of this painting? (the man) Why? (He is feeding his dogs) Notice how the tails of the dogs form a circle around the man - that makes him the focal point of the painting.

### Activity: Grid Drawing

8.5 X 11 Horse pictures with grid lines

8.5 X 11 Blank paper with grid lines

Pencils

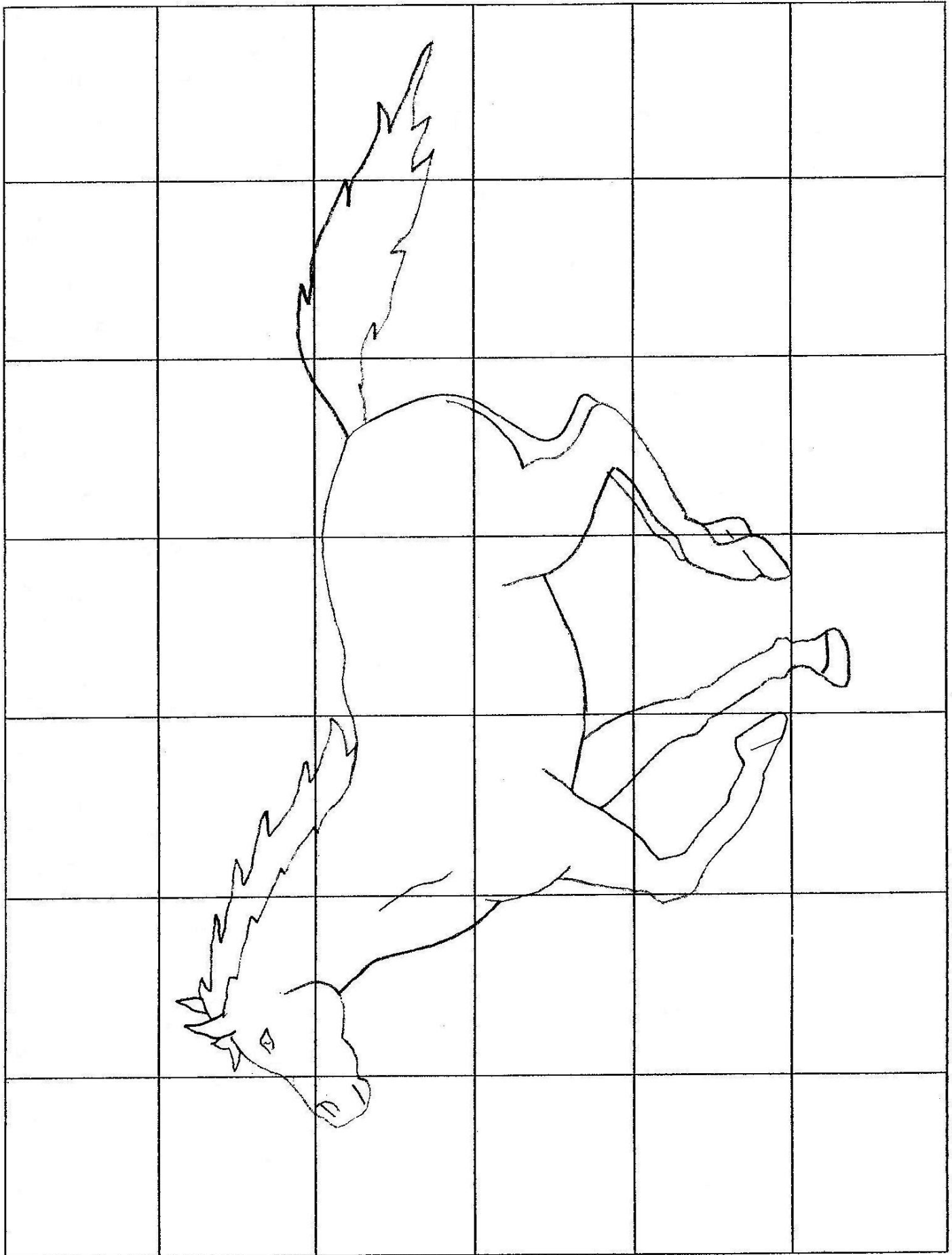
Eraser

Pastels or Crayons-optional

### Process:

1. Hand out one of each sheets of paper to the students. Have students write their name and room number on the back of the blank grid sheet.
2. Explain how an artist will use grid lines to reproduce a picture. They will break down each box as an individual rather than looking at the photograph as a whole. By taking it bit by bit, the drawing is not as difficult to do.
3. Have the students look at each individual square on the horse picture. Have them draw the duplicate of each square on the blank grid line paper.
4. As the students work, be sure to reinforce some of the concepts listed in the Key Words section of the lesson. Remind them about the lines and how they convey movement like in Remington's *Turn Him Loose, Bill*.

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