

ART MASTERPIECE: Turn Him Loose Bill, 1893 by Frederic Remington



Keywords: line, color, movement, detail

Line - an element of art; a continuous path of a point as it moves across a surface. A line can vary in length, width, direction, curvature or color.

Color - an element of art. The hue, value and intensity of an object. The primary colors are red, blue and yellow: every color except white can be created from various blending of these three colors.

Movement - the arrangement of the parts of a design to create a sense of motion by using lines that cause the eye to move over the work.

Detail - a distinctive feature of an object or scene which can be seen most clearly close up. Also, a small part of a work of art, enlarged to show a close-up of its features.

Grade: 4th - 6th

Project: Horse Sketch using grid lines

Powerpoint: KGA website

Website: www.fredericremington.org

Meet The Artist: (5 min)

- 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 wasn't very good in his studies. At 19 he left college and headed West. He worked for 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.
- Painting scenes of daily life in the west, established him as an artist. 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.

Possible Questions: (10 min)

- 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 movement in the painting? (Horse is leaping, man is swinging in the saddle).
- Can you find 3 details that add to the feeling of movement? (horse's mane and tail, the dust).
- Where do you see horizontal lines? (the fence, the horizon)
- Where do you see vertical lines? (fenceposts, figures of men).
- Where do you see diagonal lines? (in the horse and the rider). The diagonal lines and curved lines indicate movement.
- What do you think will happen next in the painting?

Background information:

- "Turn Him Loose Bill" is a real action painting. Everyone is wondering if the bucking bronco can be tamed. The largest figure is the hard-riding cowboy who is trying to stay on the horse. The other cowboys are painted smaller so they look farther away.
- Remington's choice of neutral colors make the scene look hot and earthy. He also used neutrals because he wanted the action of the picture to be noticed most. Do the colors look real?
- The figures are carefully painted to show movement. The man on the left leans back to swing his lariat. The curved lines shows movement in the horses' legs and riders' body.
- The paintings' many details also add to its feeling of action. Clouds of dust tell us that the horse and cowboys have been kicking the ground. Fringes on chaps are blowing in all directions. Belts, ropes, the horse's mane and tail all swing out and up into the air.
- Remington seems to want us to feel as if we are right there with the cowboys.

Project: Horse Sketch using grid lines

Project Materials:

8.5"x11" Horse picture with grid lines (they chose only one view)

8.5"x11" Blank paper with grid lines

8.5"x11" Vellum or tracing paper

9"x12" brown mounting paper

Extra blank white paper (for covering the horse drawing), then glue behind vellum

Masking or painter's tape
Pencils
Erasers
Colored pencils
Parent letter, 1 for each student
White glue (6-8 bottles)

Advance Prep:

Copy blank grid template, 1 per student
Copy horse master sheets, 3 views, but only 1 per student
Copy and cut Parent Letters
Sharpen regular and colored pencils

Mini Lesson: (5 min)

Have Art M volunteer draw on the board or on the doc camera, to illustrate how to sketch only one square at a time. Do this by teaching the students how to find the number and the letter of a square they will be working on (such as 1 across, and C down), then by isolating this square, draw only what you see in that square. Tell them it's like the game 'Battleship'.

Process: (30-40 min)

The purpose of this Horse-drawing project is to help the students realize that even drawing complicated objects can be seen as a series of lines connected to each other. Many artists use this technique to enlarge their drawings or sketches. They should try not to think about drawing a horse. They should focus on drawing what they see, one square at a time. **Emphasize that they are to LIGHTLY sketch all initial lines. When finished, they will make lines darker using the regular pencil, or the colored pencils.**

- First, have the students tape the vellum, over the blank grid sheet, to their desk.
- Next, place the extra piece of paper over the grid drawing with the horse on it, to only reveal the very top row.
- On the blank vellum paper, have them **LIGHTLY** sketch what each square shows, then move to the next square and do the same.
- When they complete the first row, they can lower the cover paper to reveal the next row of squares of the horse. If there's nothing in that square, then they don't sketch anything.
- Continue lowering the paper till they have sketched the entire horse.
- Lastly, let them darken the outlines of the horse and if they wish, draw a landscape behind.
- When they're done, they will sign the Parent Letter, glue to mounting paper, then glue white sheet underneath the vellum using only dots of glue in the corners or glue sticks. The white sheet underneath helps to make the colors of the horse stand out.



A

B

C

D

E

F

1

2

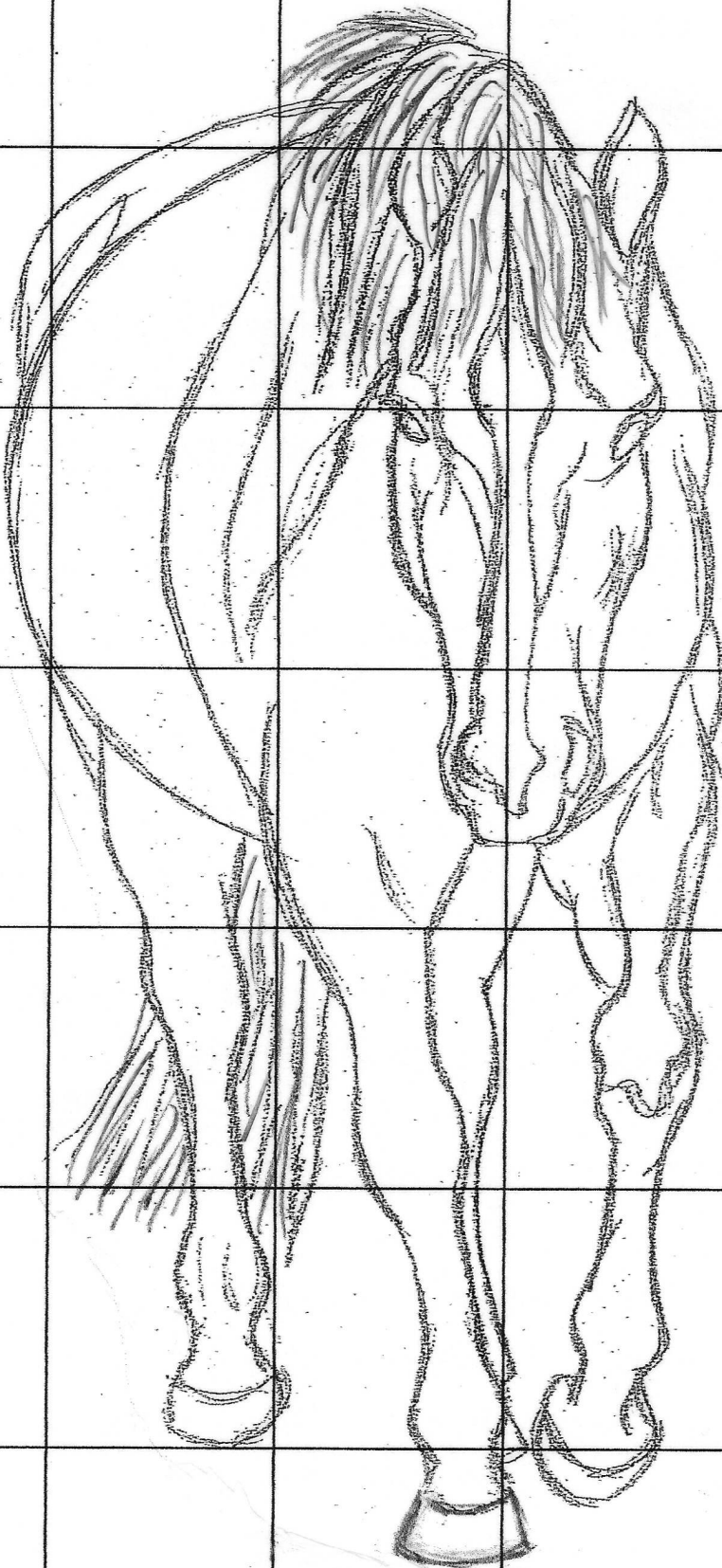
3

4

5

6

7



A

B

C

D

E

F

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

