

Illustration Tips for “The Hare and the Water”

Look at Examples

Refer to your library for examples of African art, water-carrying vessels, African landscapes, and African animals to guide you in your drawings. Find Tanzania on a map. Conduct a Web search to find out what an African king would wear as a crown.

Now look at examples of oil pastel pictures. Notice the rich, velvety colors. Notice how the backgrounds are solid with no plain paper showing through. Pastels look best when strokes move in the direction the objects move or grow.

Experiment

Let the viewer see the well water in each picture and use deep, cool color to contrast with the vibrant, warm oranges, golds, reds, and browns of Africa.

Use a swirl pattern with several complementary shades to create backgrounds and details. For example, water can be made with swirls of blue, green, and even purple. Swirls can be spots on a giraffe, clouds in the sky, a blazing sun, sections on a tortoise shell, and clusters of leaves. Using swirls as a theme will visually connect the folk tale illustrations like flowing water.

Observe how oil pastels, with their wide bands of color, work best to color in larger areas, not small details. Figure out how to zoom in on the scene you are illustrating and go for a medium to close-up view.

Experiment with blending by overlapping shades: greens and blues side-by-side, yellows and oranges swirling side-by-side as a sun.

Make a Sketch

On a separate piece of paper, sketch out a plan for your close-up picture. Decide where swirls will be included and which colors will be used. If using pencil to sketch first, do so lightly and avoid small details. Get teacher approval before moving on to your pastel. When you are ready to go on to your final drawing, apply the pastels directly to the art paper without sketching with pencil. Outline parts of your picture that need definition with grease pencil.