

## FIGURES IN A SETTING

### DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:

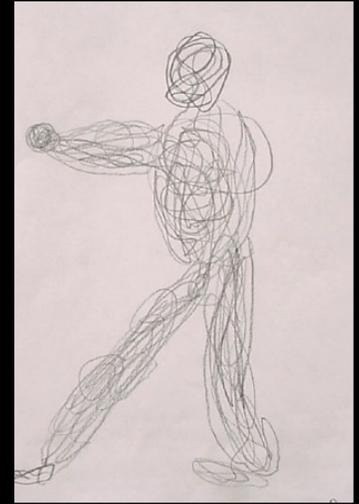
Students create gesture drawings as resources for creating figures in a specific setting or place.

### PROBLEM TO SOLVE:

What resources can help us create the human figure in art?

### STUDENT UNDERSTANDING:

Observation of pose and gesture of the human figure can inform drawing/painting people in a scene or setting.



Shows different positions of the figure.

## LEARNING TARGETS AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The student:

**LT:** Makes **gesture drawings**.

**AC:** Uses **loose continuing line** to show **different positions of the human figure**.

**LT:** Shows **human activity** in **space**.

**AC:** Selects and **draws poses for foreground and background in a specific story setting**.

## EVIDENCE OF LEARNING

### Art: Gesture Drawings

- uses loose continuing line to create a human figure
- shows different positions of the human figure
- selects and draws poses for foreground and background in a specific story setting

## VOCABULARY

**Art:** *Concepts shared by Art and literacy are in italics*

- background
- figure
- foreground
- gesture drawing
- *scale*
- *space*
- *setting*

## MATERIALS

### Resources:

Vanessa Helder, *Jackhammer Crew*, MAC;  
Douglas Cooper, *From These Hills*, 4Culture;  
Aert van der Neer, *Skating on the Dike*

Story referenced in prior lesson #5 (teachers choice)

### Art Materials:

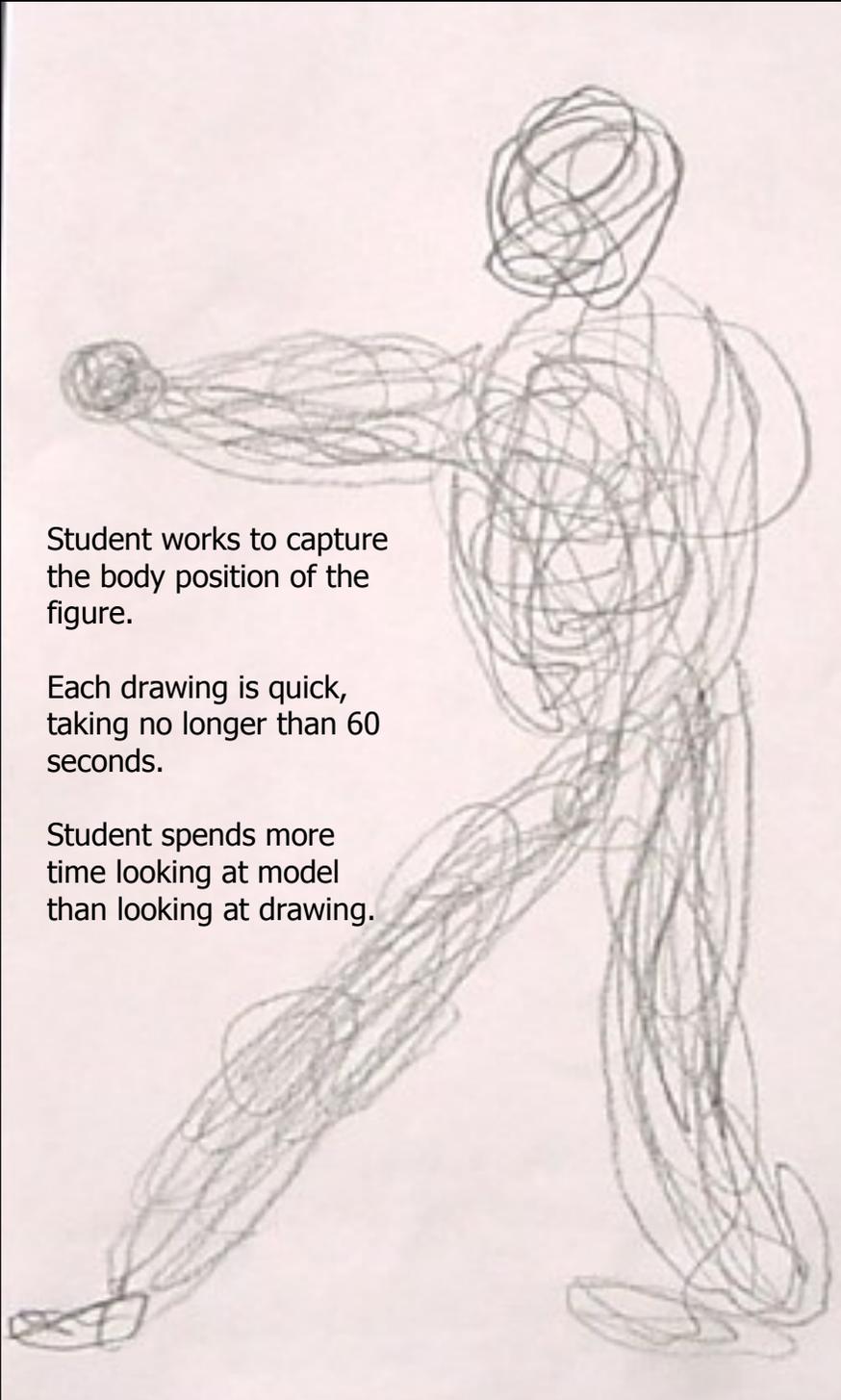
4B graphite drawing pencil,  
3x5" and 5x7" preliminary drawing papers, fine medium line black markers

# INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

TEACHER	STUDENT
<p><b>Introduces <i>Jackhammer Crew</i> by Vanessa Helder and <i>From These Hills</i> by Douglas Cooper and/or <i>Skating on the Dike</i> by Aert van der Neer.</b> Asks students to identify the different poses and gestures they see in the figures. Asks one or more students to model the pose and gesture of one of the figures in the paintings. Prompts: Place yourself in the same position as a figure in this painting. Let's add students to represent the poses of other figures engaged in that activity.</p>	<p>Identifies different poses and gestures and models that pose independently and in groups.</p>
<p><b>Asks students to reflect on the settings they created with their watercolor washes (see prior lesson #5). Asks them what activity or event would be taking place in their setting based on the story:</b> swimming, running, hiking, working, etc. Prompts: How would you describe your setting? What would people be doing in that setting at that point in the story? What would the people who are closest to you (foreground) be doing? What are the people in the background doing?</p>	<p>Brainstorms for the figural arrangement in their art and selects one or two activities that will take place in their setting based on the story. Considers one activity for the foreground and one activity for the background.</p>
<p><b>Demonstrates gesture drawing. Directs students to pair up to create 4-6 gesture drawings and model poses associated with story setting.</b> Prompts: "Wrap the figure with string"... no details, just capturing poses... Each of your drawings should take no longer than 60 seconds, and your eyes should spend more time on the figure than looking at your paper. You are capturing the body position of the figure while doing a specific activity chosen for the story and setting. Ask your model (classmate) to pose in a very specific way based on what you know is happening in the story. Give them a prompt. It is up to you to guide your model to give you the information you will need. Sometimes you may need two or more models engaged in an activity to show what is happening in a story. Switch roles of artist/model so that each of you gathers the information you need.</p>	<p>Draws 4-6 quick studies of a classmate in different body positions on two different sizes of preliminary drawing paper. Draws small figures for the activity that happens in the background and larger figures for the activity that happens in the foreground.</p>
<p><b>Demonstrates selecting different gesture drawings as resources to help draw</b> figures participating in a specific activity within the story setting (watercolor created in prior lesson #5). Prompts: Select the gesture drawings you will use to help guide your placement and drawing of figures in the story setting. I need a person running in the foreground so I want to choose this one as my resource for drawing a final figure. I may be able to draw it again the same size, but I might need to make it larger or smaller. This is called changing the scale. Sketch your foreground and background figures lightly on prior watercolor setting painting in pencil, then fill in figure shapes with black marker. Also, this is an opportunity to add defining lines in marker that can add detail to your watercolor setting.</p>	<p>Selects figures to show activity in story setting and draws in different scale for foreground and background.</p>

## FIGURES IN A SETTING

### SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES



Student works to capture the body position of the figure.

Each drawing is quick, taking no longer than 60 seconds.

Student spends more time looking at model than looking at drawing.

### ART STUDIO TIP

#### **Gesture Drawing as a Resource**

When adding figures to a work of art, studies of the various poses and gestures reflecting an activity inform the artist as they work.

Asking someone to strike a pose that intentionally recreates a body position provides the information necessary to create an accurate human figure in art.

### LEARNING STANDARDS

#### **Visual Art**

- 1.1.1 Elements: Line
- 1.1.5 Elements: Space

#### **Common Core ELA**

- 4.RL.3. Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or a drama, drawing on specific details in the text, of the sequence of events.
- 4.W.3.d. Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely.

### LESSON EXPANSION

Students work collaboratively on a mural and use their collective gesture drawings as resources for the people in the mural.

### EVERYDAY CONNECTIONS

#### **Home/Community**

**References:** pose and gesture of the body while participating in different activities



# Tell Me About Your Art!

## Dear Fourth Grade Families:

Today we studied the human figure and placed

### FIGURES IN A SETTING.

We associated poses with different activities, and then used our drawings to place the human figure in a Composition.

<b>Looking:</b>	We looked at <i>Jackhammer Crew</i> by Vanessa Helder and <i>From These Hills</i> by Douglas Cooper and/or <i>Skating on the Dike</i> by Aert van der Neer. We identified different poses seen in the figures in the paintings and modeled them.
<b>Talking:</b>	We worked with a partner and asked them to pose in the body positions that best showed specific activities (that we identified within a story setting).
<b>Making:</b>	We observed our model and used a loose continuous line to show specific <b>poses</b> and <b>gestures</b> . We drew figures in two different sizes to represent activity in the <b>background</b> and activity in the <b>foreground</b> of our story. We used our gesture drawings as resources to help us draw story figures within our watercolor story settings (created in prior lesson on <i>Range of Values for Setting</i> ).

## Art at Home

### Together:

You could pose for each other and make gesture drawings.

You could consider some of the activities you do at home.

You could notice how many different sizes of figures are shown through space in a work of art.

### Questions to ask:

What are different ways you pose your body in different activities?

**Observation of pose and gesture of the human can inform drawing/painting people in a scene or setting.**