

Winter Woods

3rd Grade Art Docent Lessons

This lesson is inspired by Robert Frost's poem "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening." The black and white collage with just a hint of shimmer invokes the stillness of a quiet winter night in the forest. Silhouettes are a perfect match for young artists because the images don't have to be perfect; a little blob with long ears looks like a bunny in silhouette. Even the sizes of images are somewhat forgiving in silhouette, because larger images just appear closer and smaller images further away.



Supplies:

- Construction paper, white and black
- Deer templates
- Glue
- Iridescent glue
- White paint and an old toothbrush
- Provided by teacher: pencil, scissors

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening By Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

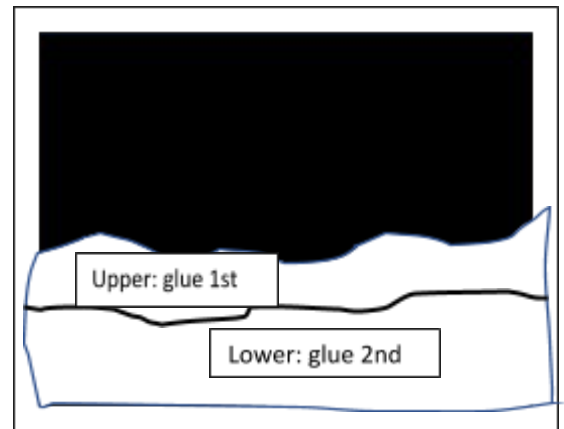
The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Directions:

1. Begin the lesson by having the children close their eyes as you read “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” by Robert Frost. Encourage them to picture the winter scene as they listen to the poem.

2. Pass out the black and white sheets of construction paper. Have the kids write their names on the back of the black paper and stuck the BVEF sticker on as well (before the project gets wet!). Tear two narrow strips from the two long edges of the white construction paper. Tear one of the strips a bit wider than the other. The tears should take up less than half the width of the paper and should have a gently undulating edge – these will be the snow drifts.

3. Arrange these two strips on the black background paper like two puzzle pieces, with the straight edge of the white paper lined up with the straight edge of the black paper. Glue the upper strip down just below the line where it meets with the other strip of white paper, then glue the lower strip (with the straight edge) on top of it. It should look like two snow banks, one slightly farther back than the other.



4. On the remainder of the white paper have the students draw a bunny (two ovals with almond ears), trace the deer template, draw 2-3 “stick figure” bare trees, and 2-3 evergreen trees (stacks of triangles layers on top of one another), and a circular full moon. Don’t worry about the pencil marks because after you cut out the images you’ll use the reverse side of your image for your art.

5. Cut out the moon, trees, and animals. Instead of cutting, fill in the area between the deer’s bent leg and straight leg with a black marker.

6. Place the cut out items on the black paper, arranging to get the look that you like.

7. When you are satisfied with the arrangement of your pieces, glue them down. The pieces don’t have to be glued down completely, the loose look makes the scene more believable.

8. Put a thin, narrow line of iridescent glitter glue across the tops of the snow drifts, the branches of the trees, and around the outside of the moon.

9. Put a very small amount of tempera paint into the small cup. Dip the toothbrush so that it has a very tiny amount of paint on it. Drag your finger along the bristles to flick the paint onto the art so that it looks like tiny snow crystals in the air.

10. To clean up, carefully wash all paint off the toothbrushes. Make sure all white glue and iridescent glue bottles are completely closed.