

## Visual Arts Lending Library Annotated Bibliography Secondary Texts

Bouleau, C., Villon, J., & Griffin, J. (1980). *The Painter's Secret Geometry: A Study of*

*Composition in Art*. Hacker Art Books. Book for 12th-grade students. It helps those interested in mastering composition, geometry, and the underlying structures that inform great works of art. It analyzes the mathematical principles behind artistic composition, offering valuable insights into balance, proportion, and harmony in visual design. It shows how geometry shapes can influence artistic decisions, and also helping students approach their own compositions with a deeper understanding of form and structure. A limitation, however, is that the book can be quite technical and may be challenging for students who are less familiar with mathematical concepts.

Butler, A., Van Cleave, C., & Stirling, S. (1994). *The Art Book*. Phaidon. This is a book for

10th-grade students. It offers a comprehensive overview of significant artists, movements, and masterpieces throughout art history. It provides students with a broad understanding of art, from classical to contemporary, introducing them to a wide range of styles, techniques, and cultural contexts. This can inspire students to explore different genres of art and spark creativity in their own work. More detailed artist techniques and philosophies would have to be provided by the teacher. In class, the book supports lessons on art history, critical analysis, and the evolution of different artistic movements. Art is always contextual, and this book helps broaden their view on important artworks.

Cosentino, P. (2022). *The Encyclopedia of Pottery Techniques: A Unique Visual Directory of*

*Pottery Techniques, with Guidance on How to Use Them*. Search Press, Limited. This guide offers 9th-grade students an in-depth look at various pottery techniques, with visual aids and step-by-step instructions. It provides clear guidance on both traditional and

contemporary pottery techniques, helping students understand the artistic processes involved in creating functional and decorative ceramics. It supports lessons and discussions on texture, form, and surface design in ceramics, as well as the history and significance of pottery in different cultures. Overall, it's concise and in-depth information encourages students to experiment with clay, glaze, and texture to develop their own creative works.

Dawber, M. (2009). *New Illustration With Type*. Batsford. For 11th-grade students interested in graphic design, typography, and illustration. It combines the art of illustration with typography, and shows many examples of how text can interact with visual elements to create designs. It helps students understand the importance of type as both a functional and artistic tool in design work. It supports lessons on graphic design principles, typography, posters, etc., encouraging students to explore the role of text in design.

Dunn, A. (2015). *Pen & Ink Drawing: A Simple Guide*. Three Minds Press. Book for 8th-grade students to explore the fundamentals of pen and ink drawing. It offers clear instructions on technique and expression. It breaks down complex concepts into simple, easy-to-follow steps, making it accessible for students with little to no prior experience in this medium. It covers key aspects like line variation, shading, and texture. It focuses only on pen and ink. However, its theory and observational points are applicable to all mediums. Artists often start from drawing to build foundational skills, and then transition to other mediums. There is detailed instruction about line quality, texture, and contrast. Being able to bring concepts from one medium to another can provide more information and skills than just sticking to one area.

Erté. (1978). *Erté Graphics*. Dover Publications. This collection by Erté, is a good resource for 11th-grade students exploring design, fashion illustration, and graphic arts. It has a broad range of vivid illustrations that highlight Erté's mastery of line, form, and elegant compositions, offering students a clear example of how to create stylized, visually striking artwork. This could be a starting book on Art Deco movement and other artists as references for students. In class, it supports lessons on the history of Art Deco, fashion illustration, and design, providing students with insight into how art influences popular culture.

Escher, M. C. (1999). *M.C. Escher: The Graphic Work Book*. Taschen. For 7th-grade students to explore the tessellations, symmetry, and optical illusions. There are clear examples of Escher's intricate works, which will help students understand complex geometric principles. It relates to patterns, puzzles, and geometry, and brings math with art. Students will be encouraged to create own designs with more step-by-step breakdown of tessellations and patterns. In class, this book can support lessons on geometry, symmetry, and visual perception.

Fox, T. (2022). *Anatomy for Artists - Drawing Form and Pose: The Ultimate Guide to Drawing Anatomy*. 3Dtotal Publishing. Resource for 10th-grade students. It will help improve their figure drawing skills. It provides detailed breakdown of human anatomy for the purpose of drawing. It focuses on understanding proportions, muscle structure, and posing, which helps students develop realistic figures in their artwork. Students can use this guide to practice sketching human figures from various angles and poses, helping them refine their technical skills and gain confidence in creating life-like representations of the human body.

Gilberti, F. (2024). *Marina Abramovic Turned Herself Into Art and Wasn't Sorry*. Phaidon Press.

This book great introduction to conceptual art and performance art, which is perfect for 6th graders. Even though the Lexile level is elementary, the book's exploration of creativity and artistic process is a good introduction for early middle school students. Modern performance art is often brushed aside simply because people don't understand it, and this book will start to give background information on her creative journey. It's a biography about her drawing flowers to creating edgy works. Art isn't just about the end result but about the ideas and emotions behind it.

Moorhouse, F. (2017). *How to Draw Animals for the Artistically Anxious*. Harper Design. This book is a simple approach to learning drawing skills, which is great for 6th graders, especially those who might feel anxious or unsure about their abilities. It provides multiple approaches to drawing each animal in watercolor, but it is applicable to any medium. It only focuses on drawing animals, however it could be a introduction on building confidence in drawing, and it's approach to drawing can be applied to any subject matter. It doesn't cover broader artistic techniques, but the benefit is that it breaks down the drawing process into easy steps. Each step allows them to experiment with their own interpretations of animals, which is a great introduction to character design and expression.

Nielsen, K. (2013). *Nielsen's fairy tale illustrations in Full color*. Dover Publications. For 12th-grade students, particularly those interested in illustration, storytelling. It shows the intersection of fine art and literature. There are full-color reproductions of Kay Nielsen's iconic illustrations, with fairy tales and shows his mastery of color, composition, and detail. It offers students a chance to study the intricacies of narrative art and how visual

elements can enhance storytelling. In class, this book supports lessons on visual storytelling, art history, and literary connections, allowing students to analyze how art and literature come together. It provides inspiration on creating illustrated stories or projects.

Rulon, B. (2003). *Artist's Photo Reference - Wildlife*. North Light Books. For 7th-grade students interested in creating wildlife animals in their artwork. The author is a wildlife photographer, and there are high-quality, dynamic photos of animals in their natural habitats, with multiple angles that will help students create realistic wildlife compositions. In addition, this guide has five complete, step-by-step painting demonstrations, plus tips artists can use to take their own reference photos. One limitation is that the focus is primarily on wildlife and may not address other aspects of art, like human figures, but it will provide understanding into animal anatomy and perspective, which can be carried on to humans later. It strengthens their observational skills and understanding of natural environment.

Suzuki, S. J. S., & Weinstein, E. (2017). *Yayoi Kusama: From Here to Infinity!* Museum of Modern Art. Resource for 8th-grade students. It's reading and subject level are for 13+. It is a biography, showing the life and work of a contemporary artist (also woman of color). The book's benefit lies in its exploration of Kusama's creative process, focusing on her use of polka dots and how they symbolize infinity. It introduces Kusama's background growing up in Japan and her journey to becoming a globally recognized artist, helping students connect with her story of perseverance and self-expression. In class, this book supports lessons on contemporary art, patterns, and the importance of cultural influences

in art. It offers some exposure and learning about the importance of representation and diversity in the art world.

Turner, W. G. (2005). *Aztec Designs*. Dover Publications. This book provides an abundant visual collection of traditional Aztec motifs and patterns. For 9th-grade students it offers a detailed look at the artistry and symbolism of ancient Aztec culture. The benefit of this book is that it introduces students to the intricacy of indigenous art and its cultural significance, which can enhance their appreciation for diverse artistic traditions. A key limitation, however, is that the book does not provide in-depth cultural context or history, which could lead to misunderstandings or cultural appropriation if not approached with respect- the teacher would have to provide more information to aid. The book helps provide examples on symbolism and design that is not just western art focused. It also allows students to reflect critically on the line between cultural appreciation and appropriation.