

Art Lesson: "In the Spotlight"

Grade Level: Elementary (Grades K-5)

Duration: 1 hour

Project Description:

A spotlight is a narrow, intense beam of light. The idiom "in the spotlight" means to be the center of attention. Students will explore both meanings in the process of creating this paper art project, inspired by the picture book *Lulu In The Spotlight: A South Asian Wedding Story* by Natasha Khan Kazi.



Objectives:

- Students will learn how our eyes and brains see color
- Students will practice drawing and coloring techniques
- Students will exercise visual storytelling by creating a composition of a main character in action

Materials:

- Blue construction paper (8.5x11 inches)
- White printer paper (8.5x11 inches)
- Colored pencils (including white and a variety of colors)
- 2B pencil and eraser
- Scissors
- Ruler (or something with a straight edge)
- Glue stick
- Free step-by-step drawing guide showing how to draw a running character available on www.natashakhankazi.com/LuluInTheSpotlight

Introduction (10 minutes):

1. **Color Perception:** Briefly discuss how human brains see color. Explain that we see color when light bounces off an object and enters our eyes, sending a message to our brains. In low light, we can't see colors as well.
2. **Spotlight in Art:** Show examples of artwork or photographs with objects highlighted by a spotlight. Discuss how the background and light source affect the object's appearance.
3. **Idiomatic Expression:** Explain the idiom "in the spotlight," originating from the theater where a spotlight makes a performer the primary focus.
4. **Project Theme:** Students will create a composition of a main character in a visual spotlight and add details to the character to highlight their unique characteristics.

(Optional) Book Discussion:

- Discuss why Lulu was in the spotlight and if it was important to her. How did her feelings change throughout the story?

Step-by-Step Instructions:

Step 1: Creating the Spotlight & Background (10-15 minutes)

1. Distribute blue construction paper and white printer paper.
2. Using a pencil and ruler, students trace a cone-shaped triangle (spotlight) on white paper.
3. Students cut out the spotlight shape and glue it onto the blue construction paper.
4. Students mark the excess blue paper and trim it, so the spotlight touches the top and bottom of the composition.

Step 2: Drawing the Main Character (15 minutes)

1. In the middle of the white spotlight, students will draw their main character. Use the provided handout or encourage freehand drawing.
2. Encourage students to add details that make their character unique and personal.

Step 3: Coloring the Central Object (15 minutes)

1. Students color their character and surroundings within the white spotlight using colored pencils.
2. Students use the white colored pencil to outline objects in the dark parts of the composition.

Conclusion (10 minutes):

1. Allow students to share their artwork with the class.
2. Discuss the main character in each composition and the details supporting their storytelling.

Assessment:

- Participation in discussions and activities.
- Creativity and effort in drawing and coloring.
- Effective use of colors and white outlines.

Writing Extension:

Students can write a short story or description about their main character and how it ended up "in the spotlight."

Resources:

- **In the Spotlight, Oil on Canvas, 24" x 24"**
- [Cutter and Cutter](#)

Optional Extensions:

- **Night Walk Lesson by Lee-Jean Lin:**
 - [South Bay Hands-On Art](#)
- **Under the Sea Magic Flashlight:**
 - [YouTube Video](#)

This project was created by author-illustrator Natasha Khan Kazi. Learn more about her at www.natashakhankazi.com and follow her on social media @NatashaKhanKazi.

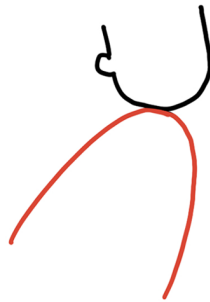
Draw With Miss Natasha:
A character from LULU IN THE SPOTLIGHT

1.



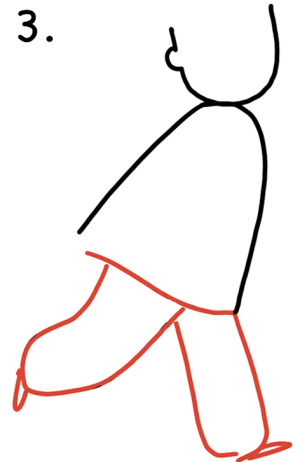
Start with a big U for head, and a small u for the ear

2.



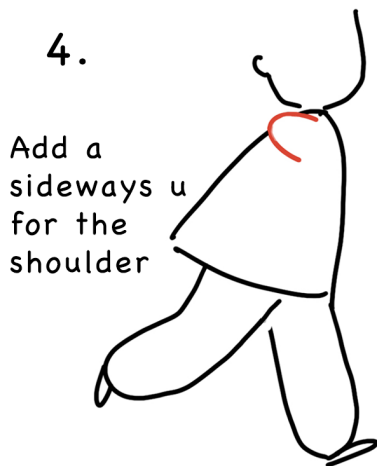
Add a big upside down U for the body and notice the tilt

3.



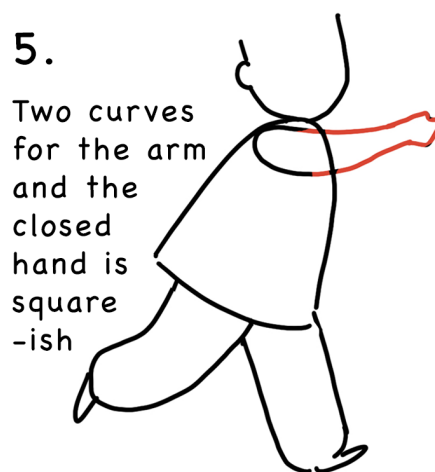
The running legs and feet look like long U's

4.



Add a sideways u for the shoulder

5.



Two curves for the arm and the closed hand is square-ish

6.



Add eyes, a nose, mouth, and maybe hair

7.



Add an object you love

(Lulu loves kulfi)

8.



Make this character **UNIQUE**, like you!

