LESSON IN MOTION

By Anita Winfrey

Gesture drawing is the kind of drawing that shows some kind of motion. I usually incorporate a design lesson with gesture drawing by having several students pose in some kind of action. Students observe and discuss portions of the body and how each relates to another.

As students pose, other students try to capture their action on paper. With several poses, this is a fun lesson for students as they get involved in taking turns at posing.

The next step is having each student select his or her best drawing to enlarge. After it is enlarged, the shape is cut out. This becomes a pattern for the next step of the lesson—the design part.

Students trace their pattern on two colors of construction paper. After fitting the pattern on 9" x 12" construction paper, they trace it several times and cut out each form. If they are secure in cutting ability, they may cut both pieces of construction paper at the same time. Then they are given a background on which to arrange and paste their cut-out shapes.

As students arrange their figures on the background sheet, they begin to see something—a repeated pattern, rhythm and movement. A host of ideas jump in their heads and onto the paper.

Sixth graders enjoy this as an introduction to drawing people in motion. It could work well with just about any age group!

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