

## Sketchbook Topics: Idea List

Compiled by Maggie Ball, 2008

**Sketchbook requirements for Mrs. Meng – You should spend at least 30 minutes on your sketchbook entry and I will be able to tell if you don't in almost every case. You should use the entire page and it should have value or colored added to all of it unless it is a contour drawing. Write the assignment, not just the number but what the assignment was, on the back of the page with the date you are turning it in along with your name.**

1. Expressive Lines – Fill the page with as many different kinds of lines as possible.
2. Directional Lines – Fill the page with groups of lines which move together, change direction with angles.
3. Echoes – Begin with one freeform line and echo it with many variations.
4. 2D and 3D arrows – Create a composition from 2D and 3D arrows
5. Typography Testers – Fill the page with as many different types of lettering as possible.
6. Pen and Ink shading – Shade and achieve values and gradations with line patterns.
7. Pencil shading – Practice gradations on a composition of inventive shapes.
8. Bottle Landscapes – Create distance relationships in a contour drawing using many different bottles.
9. Full of Contours – Fill a page with blind and modified contour drawings from a observing something in the room.
10. Junk Drawer – Draw the inside of a real or imagined junk drawer.
11. Draw who you are.
12. Stained Glass Stroll – Build a path of overlaps; experiment with blended/overlapping colors.
13. Fallen Leaves – Draw a collage of leaves and then experiment with color groups, tints, and shades to color them in.
14. Draw what scares you – Visual descriptions of scary things (real and humorous)
15. Superhero- Design your own
16. Letter people – Combine and distort figures into letterforms to create visual words.
17. Oh, No! Earth Invaded – Draw what the invaders look like.
18. The OTHER meaning – A visual pun, draw what a saying says, not what it means.
19. Related phrase – Two-word phrase illustrated with objects related to its meaning.
20. Spiraling shapes – Create shapes whose trails seem to spiral and tumble through space.
21. Funny Funny – illustrate a joke.
22. Confetti Names – Explore warm and cool colors on overlapping letter shapes.
23. Create and exaggerated face out of a series of continuous lines.
24. Draw your own cartoon strip of the day in your life in four frames or more.
25. Seize distortions – Change the size relationships of two already related objects.
26. Special Edition – Present yourself (real or fantasy) as the front page story.
27. Fill in missing parts of a magazine photograph.
28. Page O'People – Layer colors for a more realistic range of skin tones.
29. Invent a machine to do something you don't want to do.
30. Create a poster advertising the theme park you've always wanted to visit.
31. Select a specific room and draw as though you are looking down from the ceiling.
32. Choose a picture from a magazine or newspaper, glue it in your sketchbook and create a visual story from it.
33. What human qualities the contents of your refrigerator assume when the door is closed and no one can see them?
34. Using multiple frames, show the transformation of one object into another. Ex: Scissors into a shark
35. Choose your favorite artist, make them a birthday card.
36. Choose and arrange three related objects, draw them using a distinct light source.
37. Create an image using found objects.

38. Draw someone sitting in the room with you.
39. Look at yourself in a spoon, draw the distorted image.
40. What happens when a six foot squirrel shows up in your yard?
41. Create an image from the following questions:  
At age one I was \_\_\_\_\_
42. At age six I was \_\_\_\_\_
43. At Age twelve I was \_\_\_\_\_
44. Now I am \_\_\_\_\_
45. At age 25 I will be \_\_\_\_\_
46. At age 75 I will be \_\_\_\_\_
47. Draw a detailed image of your hand holding something related to school.
48. What does the holiday season mean to you?
49. Practice observational drawing skills by drawing something from the following list:  
Shoes, clothes, people, kitchen utensils, books, furniture, buildings, etc..
50. Draw the corner of a room in your house
51. Draw your pet
52. Creative views of you car, bicycle, or skateboard.
53. View from your bedroom window.
54. Practice your creative drawing skills by imagining the following:  
What would you see if you grew wings and flew over town?
55. What if you suddenly became very, very small?
56. What would your house look like if you lived beneath the ocean?
57. Make a detailed up close drawing of your eye.
58. Draw bottles and cans. Use broken and crumpled ones too.
59. Create a series of positive and negative space designs using every day objects alone or in groups.
60. Draw individual pieces of popcorn all over your page.
61. Design a vehicle.
62. Using color create an Impressionist Landscape drawing.
63. Draw a series of animals in motion.
64. Alter several pages in your sketchbook before using them. Ex: Wash one with color, cut holes in one, write words, create patterns.
65. Draw a pile of shoes.
66. Draw a figure from an unusual perspective.
67. Draw reflective objects.
68. Put on a silly face and draw a self portrait. Do the same with other emotions.
69. Design your own building.
70. Draw seashells.
71. Show a cluttered place close-up
72. Draw a sink full of dirty dishes.
73. Show your favorite food with the wrapper included and product showing.
74. Draw a close up of various pieces of a board game.
75. Draw what's in your pocket?
76. Draw your sunglasses and what they reflect.
77. Draw your mom or dad's digital camera with the last picture they took showing.
78. Imagine your computer at a funny angle, draw what you see. Cords? Dust?
79. If you had a magnifying glass what would you look at?
80. Create a collage of photographs by drawing them.
81. Show your school books stacked or positioned in a creative way.
82. Illustrate these phrases:  
Conflict of interest
83. More than meets the Eye
84. Me, myself, and I

85. Warped
86. Nightmares/Other worlds
87. Habits
88. Habitats
89. Food: You are what you eat
90. Lonely
91. The seasons
92. The End
93. Pairs
94. Balance
95. Home is where....
96. All that glitters....
97. Pretty as a picture
98. So transparent
99. Over the edge
100. The senses
101. Threads
102. It's my nature
103. Take cover
104. It's not easy being green
105. Color outside the lines
106. Hot and Cold
107. Lemon Yellow
108. Autumn
109. Forest Floor
110. Where's Waldo? – Fill a page with small drawings of things that relate to you. The whole page should be covered; all objects should be the same size, then draw in yourself!
111. Fill bottles with colored water and use for a still life.
112. Fill plastic bags with objects and draw them.
113. Use a slinky or tubes to demonstrate circles and ellipses in perspective draw them!
114. Draw something not “pretty”
115. Illustrate your favorite poem
116. Draw an object with surface texture.
117. Draw a large jar and fill it with something
118. Draw a bowl of fruit.
119. Keyhole – What would you see through a key hole?
120. Using good details, draw an imaginary place
121. What does the inside of a machine look like?
122. Draw family members using things they cherish.
123. Lay a piece of fabric over something and draw the folds in the cloth.
124. Reproduce the work of some artist, include a copy of the original in your sketchbook
125. Draw you biggest hope
126. Draw your dream for the future.
127. Draw the contents of your garage
128. If you and an octopus for a pet what would it look like?
129. Draw your brother or sister practicing an instrument
130. Draw an animal doing something strange
131. Draw a delicious piece of cake.
132. Show running water
133. Show still water
134. Make an object look wet
135. Draw something floating

136. Draw a dark object in a light environment
137. Draw a dark object in a dark environment
138. Lie on the floor , draw what's now at eye level
139. Find a quiet place in a crowd, draw the crowd
140. Find a quiet place, draw the quiet
141. Find a noisy place, draw the noise
142. On the school bus, draw your friends on the way to school.
143. On the bus, draw your friends on the way home.
144. Shine a light through an open weave structure, draw the shadow
145. Draw an object that is lit by the light coming through Venetian blinds.
146. Draw a portrait that is lit by the light coming through Venetian blinds.
147. Draw something lit by a candle, i.e. a person in the candlelight
148. Draw an apple, a vacation photo, a hammer and a goldfish
149. What would it look like if you tightened a C clamp on a banana
150. Draw an apple, pear, and a banana that is tightly wrapped in aluminum foil or plastic wrap.
151. Draw an apple, pear, and a banana that is tightly wrapped in string.
152. Copy the Mona Lisa
153. Rearrange the Mona Lisa to suit yourself
154. Put Mona Lisa in a contemporary setting
155. Copy any work of art older than you
156. Make a drawing that is pure propaganda about any issue you feel strongly about
157. Make a drawing that is totally truthful
158. Make a drawing that says something about a world situation
159. Make a drawing that lies all over the place
160. Make a drawing that is completely possible
161. Draw a portrait inside out
162. Draw an apple, pear, banana inside out
163. Draw two squares of sidewalk and make it look interesting
164. Make a detailed drawing of five square inches of grass
165. Make a detailed drawing of five square inches of hair
166. Make a detailed drawing of five square inches of feathers
167. Make a detailed drawing of five square inches of a dollar bill
168. Make a drawing of grass, hair, feathers, and a dollar bill
169. Draw an insect under a magnifying glass
170. Rearrange, redesign the insect
171. Draw a portrait of your best friend as an insect
172. Draw a self portrait of you as a beautiful insect
173. Draw a family insect portrait
174. Cut out a photo into small pieces, rearrange the photo in some order, draw it
175. Make a drawing that oozes
176. Draw the Brooklyn Bridge over a small body of water, EX: a bath tub
177. Draw a chair
178. Draw the concept of the uses of a chair (sitting) with out the chair
179. Draw a bed
180. Draw the imaginary skeleton of an apple, pear, and banana
181. Draw a transparent object
182. Draw a translucent object
183. Draw a translucent object that is inside a transparent object
184. Draw a mysterious doorway or staircase
185. Draw a moving object
186. Draw an empty room, make it interesting
187. Draw a masked man

188. Draw a flower, make it appear dangerous
189. Draw a person looking out a window
190. Draw a person reading a letter
191. Make a detailed drawing of a nut and bolt
192. Draw a vase and a beautiful arrangement of flowers
193. Draw your idea of Paradise
194. If animals could draw, what would their artwork look like?
195. Draw a city on another planet
196. You are a toy designer, draw your new toy.
197. Draw a parade
198. Draw a picture of where you would like to fly too
199. Draw a construction site
200. Draw a scene on another planet and include another kind of being
201. Draw a picture of a wedding
202. Draw a picture of someone you would like to visit
203. Draw what you think a garden would like from the view of an insect
204. Draw a sandcastle
205. Draw a house built underground
206. Draw what a space ship commander would see on his video screen
207. Draw yourself as a space ship commander
208. Draw the boat you would like to travel in around the world
209. Draw a scientist's top secret project
210. Draw new piece of sculpture for the museum's sculpture garden
211. Draw a picture of you if you grew flower's instead of hair.
212. What if you were a reptile?
213. Draw a modern house which would still look good in a neighborhood with older houses.
214. Draw an idea that came into your head by thinking of food
215. Draw an idea that came into your head through your ears
216. Draw an idea that came into your head through your fingers
217. Draw an idea that came into your head through your feet
218. Combine a plant and an animal
219. Combine a plant and a person
220. Illustrate a famous saying or quote
221. Draw things with a flavor
222. Draw things that close
223. Illustrate "the way things were"
224. Draw the world from the point of view of a frog
225. Draw your own game board
226. Draw a "how to" poster
227. Draw yourself with wings
228. Draw things that come from eggs, i.e. chicken, duck, snake, etc...
229. Draw things that come from the sky
230. Design an advertisement for yourself
231. Design a new license plate for Kansas.
232. Illustrate words such as; up, upside down, apart, crazy, sane.....
233. Design new methods of transportation
234. design a new map
235. Create an imaginary alphabet
236. Design a costume for 2090
237. Draw old-fashioned puppets
238. Illustrate "if you were the tallest person in the world"
239. Draw a lost dog

240. Draw the trail of an imaginary insect
241. Draw how you would be if you were the last person on earth
242. Draw yourself dressed as a “hippie”
243. Draw your best friend
244. Draw an illuminated letter for your best friend
245. Draw your pet as a robot
246. Edvard Munch “The Scream” what happens next?
247. Using stippling draw an apple
248. Create an object with the wrong texture, such as a furry ice cream cone.
249. Door knobs, hinges, and handles found on doors. What if we used something else? Ex: Banana for a handle
250. Imagine an object and draw it as though it were collapsed, melted, exploding, or in some other state.