



## LESSON 5 LEVEL C

### FACES AND FIGURES

## TORN-PAPER FIGURES and MORE! Drawings of Figures in Action

#### WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

paper-tearing; crayon rubbing;  
drawing

#### WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

two sheets of drawing paper;  
one sheet of manila or  
construction paper; peeled,  
broken crayons or oil pastels;  
optional: paste or glue.

#### “TIPS”:

You will tear paper into shapes representing 16 body parts. If you start with an oval for the head, it will be easier to tear the other shapes, larger, smaller, longer, thinner, etc. in proportion.

Read through all the directions before you start your picture.

#### WORDS TO LEARN:

composition: the way the artist has arranged all the parts of the picture



Winslow Homer Snap the Whip 1872  
Butler Institute of American Art Ohio

**GETTING STARTED:** Identify your body's joints. . . where it moves: wrist, elbow, shoulder, waist, and so on. These places join the body's main parts. Count them: feet (2), lower legs (2), upper legs (2), pelvis, upper abdomen, hands (2), lower arms (2), upper arms (2), neck and head. These 16 main parts can be represented by torn paper shapes. Then you can arrange them to suggest a figure in action.

1. Begin by tearing an oval for the head from a piece of construction paper. The size will help you decide the sizes of the 15 other parts. Place it on a sheet of drawing paper. Then tear the other Which will be the longest? (The upper legs). Don't forget the neck!

2. Arrange. . .and rearrange. . .



the shapes to look like a runner, a ballet dancer, a skateboarder, or some other figure in action. Overlap some pieces, if necessary. When you decide on your favorite pose, you may want to control the arrangement by pasting the shape down. If you do, you will have just one picture from this set of shapes. To stick them down, carefully lift one shape at a time. Smooth paste onto the back of it and fasten it down on the drawing



Mei Ling Age 12

paper. But if you want to use the shapes again for another figure, simply be very careful not to disturb them when you do the next step.

3. You now have the basis for making other kinds of pictures. First, place the second sheet of drawing paper over your action figure and make a rubbing. Hold the paper in place with one hand while you rub the side of a peeled crayon over the torn shapes. Rub in one direction only, to avoid wrinkling your paper and messing up the pieces beneath. If you wish, move the top paper just a little bit and rub again with another color.

4. You may want to make another rubbing with a light color to show the general shape of the action figure. Then complete the picture by drawing boldly with crayons or oil pastels to add details and some background scenery. Or, if you did not use paste, you can rearrange the paper shapes to make another action figure to share the picture space. You can make your composition tell a more interesting story.

**CLEAN-UP:** Put your materials away and discard all scraps.

**TALK ABOUT IT:** Were you able to construct a figure with the parts in proportion? What could you change in order to show a better side view of the figure in action?

**MORE IDEAS:** If you are careful, you can make a whole crowd of figures in your picture by rearranging your same little shapes. Then draw over only some of the figures. This will make a more complex composition.

**CONNECTIONS:** Cut out a “balloon” and write in it what your figure(s) might be saying. Be sure to use capitals and punctuation marks where they belong. Think about making a sequence, like a comic strip, of three or four action figures that tell a story.

