



Elements: Line & Value

Principles: Unity

Materials:

- ☐ 9" x 12" white construction paper
- ☐ Scratch paper
- ☐ Pencil
- ☐ Black tempera paint
- ☐ Red-orange tempera paint, small amount
- ☐ Brushes, flat and pointed
- ☐ Paper towels

Instructions:

1. Explain the art element of **value** to the students by sharing a short YouTube video about it: <https://youtu.be/qviOrvEHzgk>
2. Share the illustration by **Jon Klassen** (see below) and ask which direction the light source is coming from. Point out the different values in the artwork.
3. **Model how to paint black tree silhouettes** by turning paper sideways and pulling paint brush across the page to create the black trunks. Have some scratch paper on hand for students to practice this. Once done using black paint, have them put brushes in water. **OPTION:** Have students cut out black paper strips to create trees as an alternative to black paint.
4. While trunks are drying, have students **practice painting small foxes** on scratch paper. The bodies are a small oval shape, with a tiny triangle head/ear and tail, followed by four slim leg lines. Emphasize keeping it simple.
5. Once trees are dry (this should not take long if tree paint is spread thin, not gloppy) have students decide where their light source is coming from and **sketch tree shadows** with pencil accordingly, creating **unity** by having the shadows conform.
6. Lastly, have students **paint a small red fox**, adding footprints with pencil for a last touch.
7. Have students put their names on the art, bringing paintbrushes to the sink, while helping to clean up.

Notes:

Value refers to the degree of light and dark. Intensity describes the degree of brightness a color has.

Line is the path of a point moving through space.

Unity describes a sense of oneness within an image, where all qualities work together to form a cohesive relationship. The brushstroke lengths in the painting below create unity.



Canadian illustrator/writer – **Jon Klassen** – *Fox in Snow*