

**WATERCOLOR TECHNIQUES  
AND INSPIRED WRITING  
PRESENTER: KATHY OLSON**

**Grade Level:** Elementary MS

**Background Information:**

Students are inspired to write in various genres by first creating a watercolor painting based on a selected theme or topic of study. Students explore a variety of watercolor techniques that they will use in their paintings. Their paintings will inspire word banks from which they create descriptive sentences, paragraphs, or poems.

**Content Standards**

2.2.2 Demonstrate beginning skill in the use of art media such as....watercolors

3.5.2 Write a poem or story inspired by their own work of art

**Learning Objectives**

Students will demonstrate understanding of basic watercolor techniques and use those techniques to paint a landscape.

Students will develop a work bank from their observation of their painting.

Students use work bank to write a poem or paragraph describing their painting.

**Vocabulary/Watercolor Techniques**

Wet on Dry	Brush paint onto dry paper. Control and detail
Wet on Wet	Wet paper first with water, paint into the water.
Crayon Resist	Heavy crayon on dry paper. Paint over it.
Salt Texture	Sprinkle salt onto a Wet on Wet while still wet.
Alcohol Texture	Drop rubbing alcohol onto a Wet on Wet
Plastic Wrap	Scrunch up plastic wrap and press onto a Wet on Wet
Tissue Lifting	Scrunch up toilet paper and lift clouds from a Wet on Wet
Toothbrush Splatter	Dip toothbrush into wet paint and splatter onto dry paper
Sponge Texture	Dip sponge into paint and gently press onto dry paper
Dry Brush	Brush is dry, gently spread bristles, dip into paint and stroke
You Pick Two	Try any two techniques in the same area

**Materials**

Heavy white paper with 12 squares pre-drawn, crayons, salt, alcohol, small sponges, plastic wrap, toilet paper or tissues, toothbrushes, water containers, watercolors (16 pan if possible), brushes

**Procedures**

Lesson One: Pass out materials as needed and demonstrate each of the watercolor techniques. Have students watch all techniques first or demo and they follow along at the same time. Put technique page aside to dry.

Lesson Two: Review the watercolor techniques. Use 7"x7" cardstock paper for final paintings. Demonstrate crayon drawing of watercolor landscape (or other selected theme) and model possible painting techniques.

Students draw with heavy crayon and paint using appropriate techniques. Name on the back with pencil and set aside to dry.

Lesson Three: If possible students set up finished paintings on small table easels and study their work. Look at color, textures, etc. Teacher models completing the Word Bank graphic organizer. Encourage "juicy" descriptive language, "silver dollar" verbs, etc. Using best words from graphic organizer, students write their sentence, paragraph, or poem. Once written and edited, students transfer final writing to final page with painting glued.