

Fairy Tale #1



The Frog Princess

(The Tsarevna Frog)

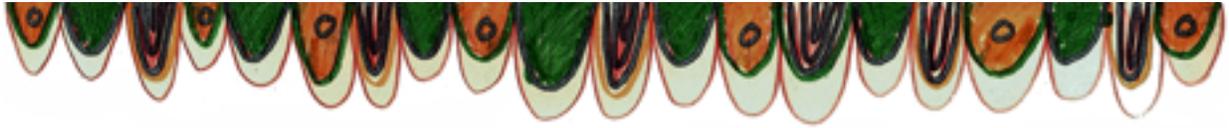
Hi and welcome to the your first fairy tale assignment... "The Frog Princess!"

This class is designed to be flexible; you can put as much or as little time into it as you need and still benefit from the content.

Remember, this was originally a YEAR-LONG class that is being presented in just 8 weeks. :D I have tried to modify and/or simplify the assignments to make them more doable; however, If you happen to find yourself falling behind, please don't be discouraged! We are all incredibly busy people with complicated lives and this fairy tale class is meant to be both fun as well as a place to learn new things and meet new people.

Have fun, and email me anytime! carla@carlasonheim.com.

Let's Begin!



Research & Discovery

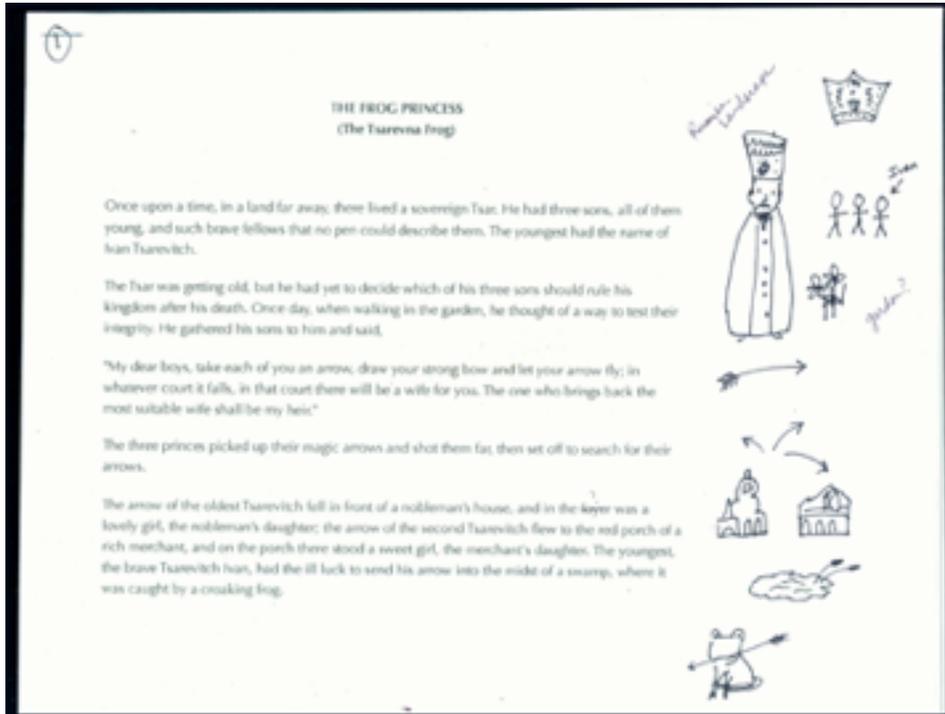
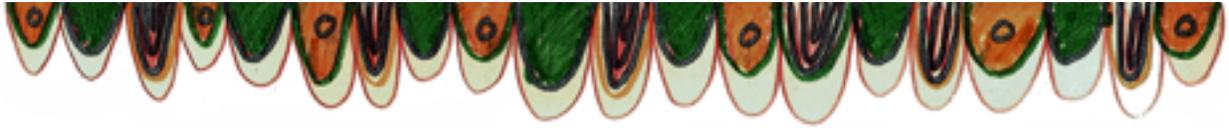
One key part of any creative endeavor is the “research” or discovery process, and that’s what these next few days will be about. It’s important to let a lot of information soak in to your conscious and subconscious at these early stages of the illustrative process. Think of it as letting the tea steep in the pot before pouring and drinking!

I have three assignments for you:

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- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Read the Text | Page 3 |
| 2. Develop a Princess Character | Page 9 |
| 3. Develop a Frog Character | Page 16 |
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I estimate the above assignments will take about 2-3 hours.

Have fun, and see you at Facebook!



Assignment #1

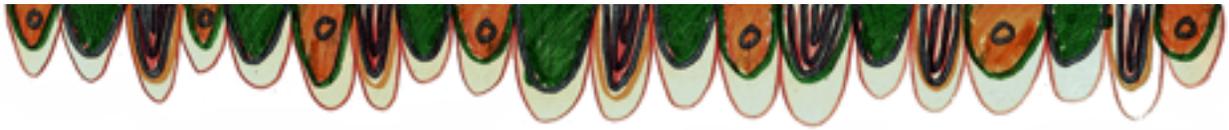
Read the Text

The first assignment is to print out your text and read it! The link for the PDF is

<http://www.carlasonheim.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/TheFrogPrincessText.pdf>

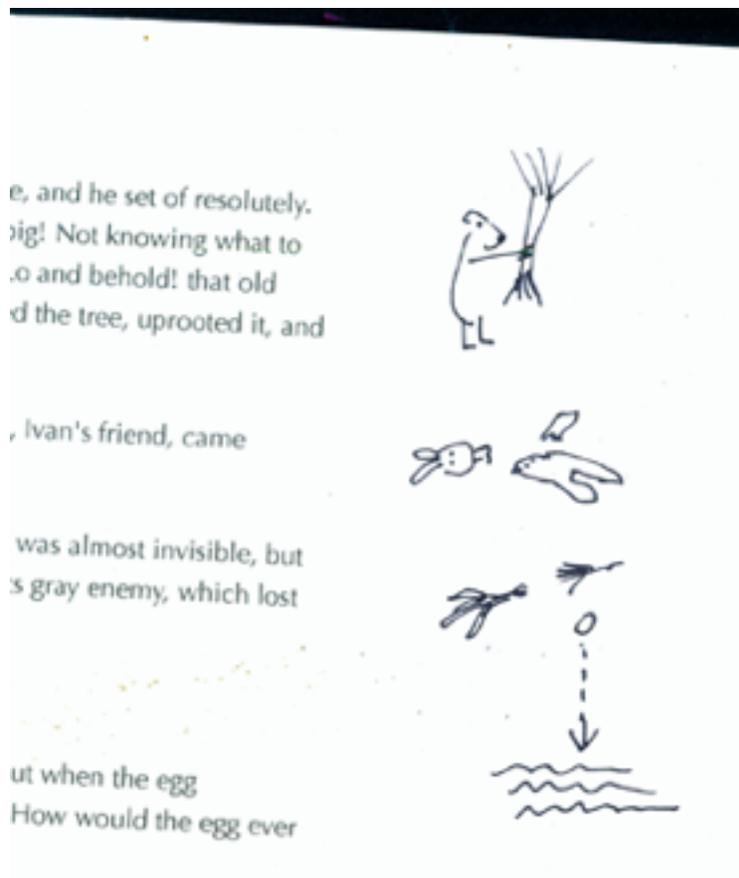
This is a slightly modified version of the version found here: <http://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/ft/chap01.htm>

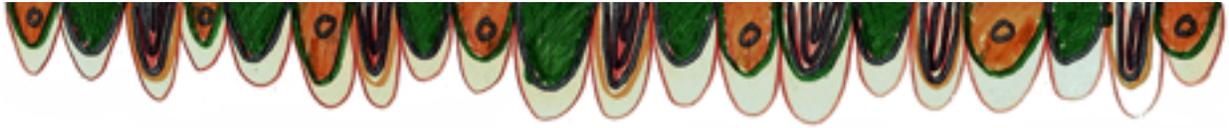
Note: If you don't have a printer, don't worry! Just read it from the computer, but keep a sketchbook handy for the note-taking part. Also, you do not have to use this version if you don't want to... there are others linked at the end of this section, and of course you can find one in your native language if you prefer!



Assignment:

When you read "The Frog Princess," take notes and make little drawings on the side of your paper... just any images that come to mind, and of course they can be stick figures if you like! You are just "visual note-taking."





OTHER VERSIONS OF "THE FROG PRINCESS"

* * *

There are over 300 versions of The Frog Princess! Here are just a few more....

If you like one of these versions better, please feel free to use it instead. And, of course, if you would like to re-write one of them slightly to make it your own, you can do that as well.

Another version of Tsarevna Frog

<http://www.artrusse.ca/FairyTales/frog-princess.htm#1>

The Prince who married a Frog - Italian

http://www.ruanyifeng.com/calvino/2006/10/the_prince_who_married_a_frog_en.html

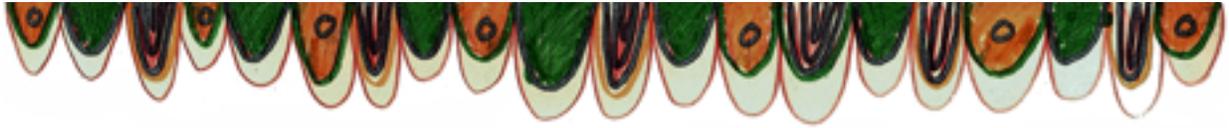
The Little Singing Frog - Yugoslavia

<http://www.readbookonline.net/readOnLine/52848/>

(Different start - she grew up as a frog but the ending is similar.)

The Frog - The Violet Fairy Book - collected by Andrew Lang

http://www.gutenberg.org/catalog/world/readfile?fk_files=3231290&pageno=169



Assignments #2 & #3

Drawing!

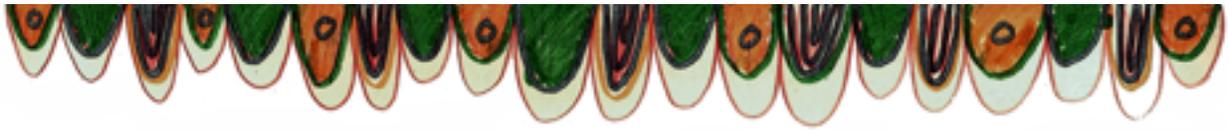
For assignments #2 and #3, I have you drawing in your sketchbooks or on inexpensive paper. This week we are focusing on creating characters. I am imagining that most of you want to create stylized characters, and not realistic ones, but the two assignments I'm giving you now both have you drawing from life or photos. Why?

In order to find your unique style, it's best to begin at the "purest" point, nature.

This isn't a perfect metaphor, but imagine you want to learn Spanish. You go class and your teacher is British! She speaks Spanish well, but her British accent is part of her Spanish accent and, while kind of cool, is one step away from the "real thing."

It's best to learn Spanish from a native speaker...

The same with drawing. When you draw from the real thing — "nature" — it's just you and the source mixing it up, without the "middleman" so to speak, and you let your natural "accent" shine through, allowing your individual style to flourish...



Also, drawing from life or photo references can make our stylized work more “authentic. When you draw from life, or photo references, you begin to notice things about a human face, for example, that would be difficult to pull out of your memory if you hadn’t spent the time drawing from life.

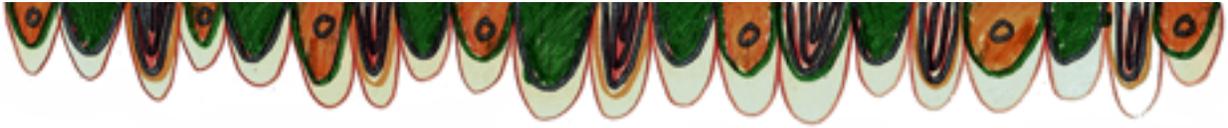


For example, when I drew my son, Wes (left), I was keenly aware at the time that it didn’t look that much like him... which is kind of painful for me to admit (I’m a drawing teacher for crying out loud!). But the modifying of my son’s sweet face served its purpose a few days later, when I did the prince illustration (right) a few days later.

In the drawing of Wes, I struggled with his strong jaw line... and so remembered that when drawing my stylized prince....

During the drawing of Wes I spent a lot of time looking at his hair and longish sideburns and how it curled behind his ears for example... and so when drawing from my “imagination” a few days later I remembered those little details.

Takeaway: When you draw from life or photos, EVEN IF THESE DRAWINGS AREN’T “GOOD,” you still learn things that will make your stylized faces all the more “real.”



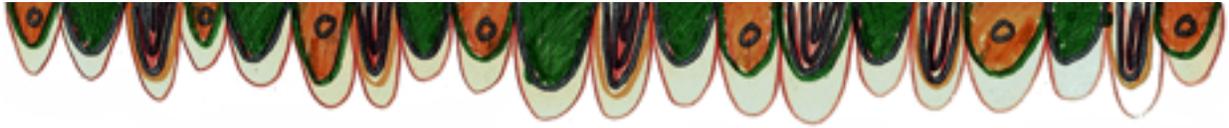
Outcome Isn't Important

So yes, I have you drawing a lot from photo references. But I want to make this point really clear: the end product on these is not important AT ALL. I'm really serious about this!

In fact, the first five drawings I'm going to have you do are with your non-dominant hand. Believe me, when you draw fairly small with your non-dominant hand, it's hard to make a "pretty" drawing. And that's not the point.

The point is to slow down and really concentrate on looking at the women's faces.

So your first lesson is to do some drawings for your princess character.

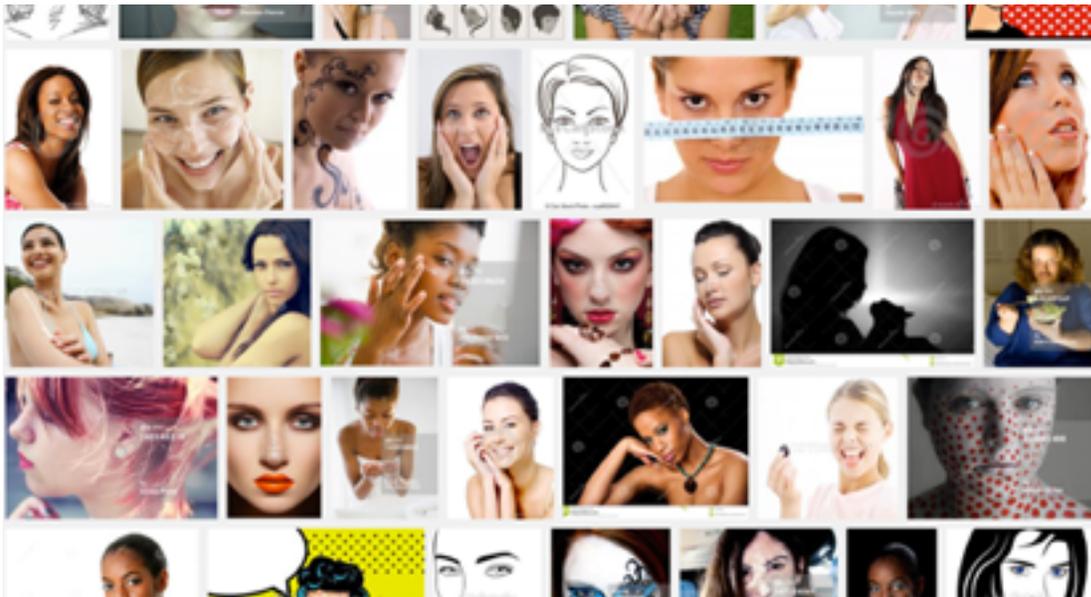


Assignment #2

Develop a Princess Character

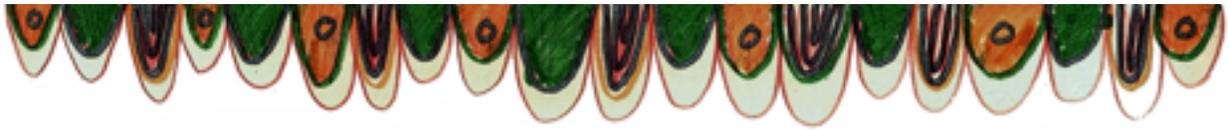
STEP 1

Find Photo References



*To find photo references that you are free to draw,
Google: "royalty free woman face", then click "Images"*

Find 15 photo references of a woman's face (or girl). I like to use images from the computer for my references. I go to google.com, type in "royalty free woman face" and see what comes up.



STEP 2

Do 5 “Wrong-Handed” Drawings

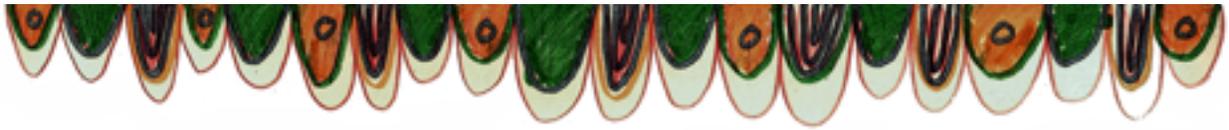


Wrong-handed drawings of five different photos/women

You will start by drawing five different faces with your non-dominant, or “wrong” hand.

How to do it: Put your pen in your non-dominant hand and slowly begin drawing the first face. If you don’t know where to begin, just draw a single line (the outline shape of the hair, for example) and go from there.

Keep your drawings small — each face should be about the size of a kiwi fruit — and spend more time looking at the photographic reference than at your drawing.



Because I'm having you draw so small, your lines will be extra shaky and it will be hard to control your pen. Don't worry! Just continue drawing the face as best you can, doing your best to place the facial features and hair lines on the paper as accurately as possible. Don't forget to breathe!

And remember, IT DOESN'T MATTER how "good" these drawings are... the only reason we are doing it is for the LOOKING practice. Spend about 1 minutes or less on each of the five faces, then move on to Step 3.

STEP 3

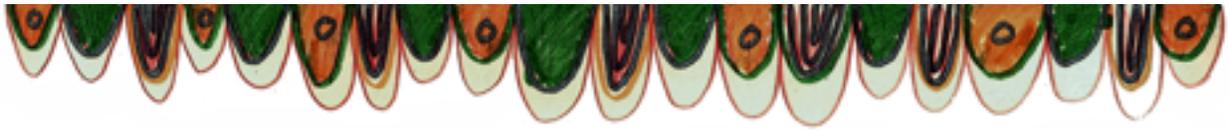
Do 8 Quick Drawings



Dominant-hand drawings of eight different photos/women

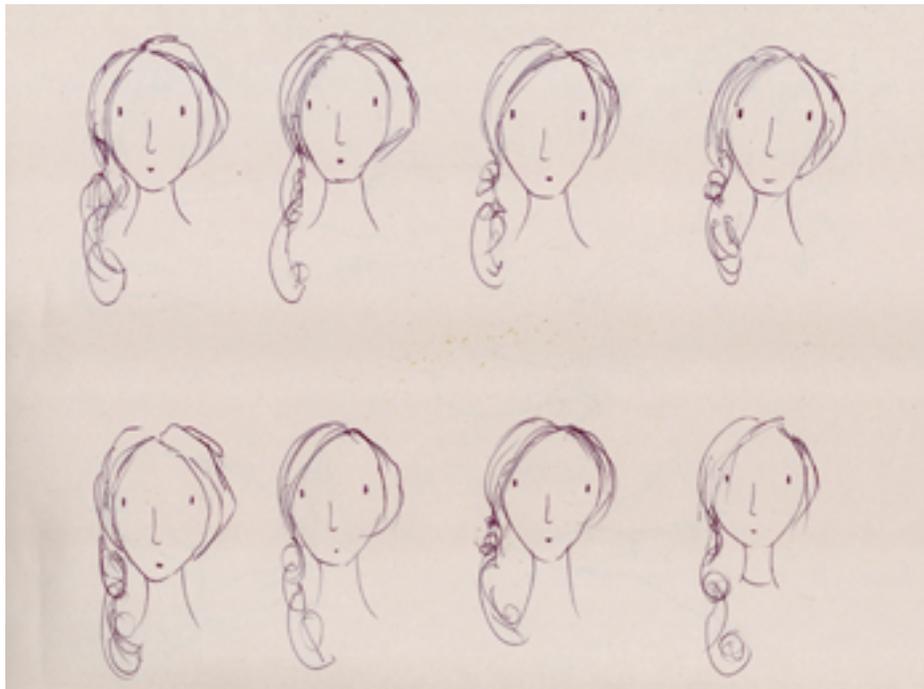
Next, switch to your DOMINANT hand and do 8 drawings of 8 different women, all small, and fairly quickly. They should take under one minute each. I usually start with the shape of the hair or face, and then every other mark goes from there.

Again, don't worry about the outcome so much, but just keep it quick and loose...



STEP 4

Do 8 More Quick Drawings



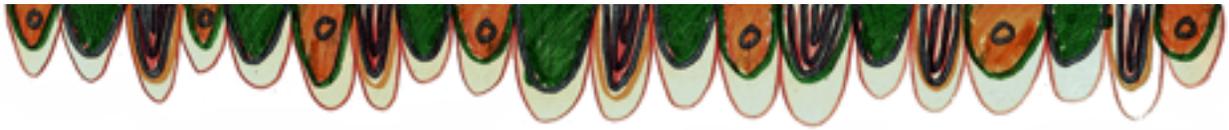
Eight dominant-hand sketches of your favorite drawing from Step 3.

After you've completed 8 of these, pick one — the one you think would make the nicest Frog Princess — and do 8 more drawings of this same drawing. You can look at your drawing now as a reference.

You now have a princess!

She is simple, yes, and you are likely to want to embellish her face much more than my samples here, but this is your basic girl!

In the following pages are a few extra credit assignments that you can do with these that can help you develop your princess further and find your uniquely-you look.

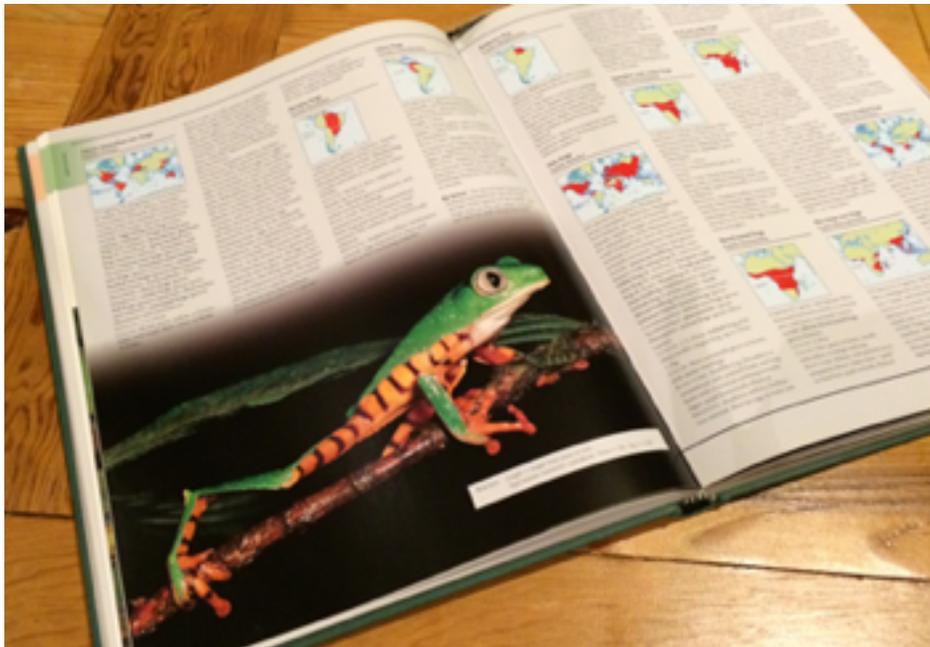


Assignment #3

Develop a Frog Character

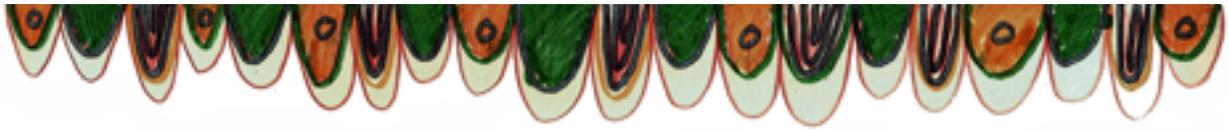
STEP 1

Find Photo References



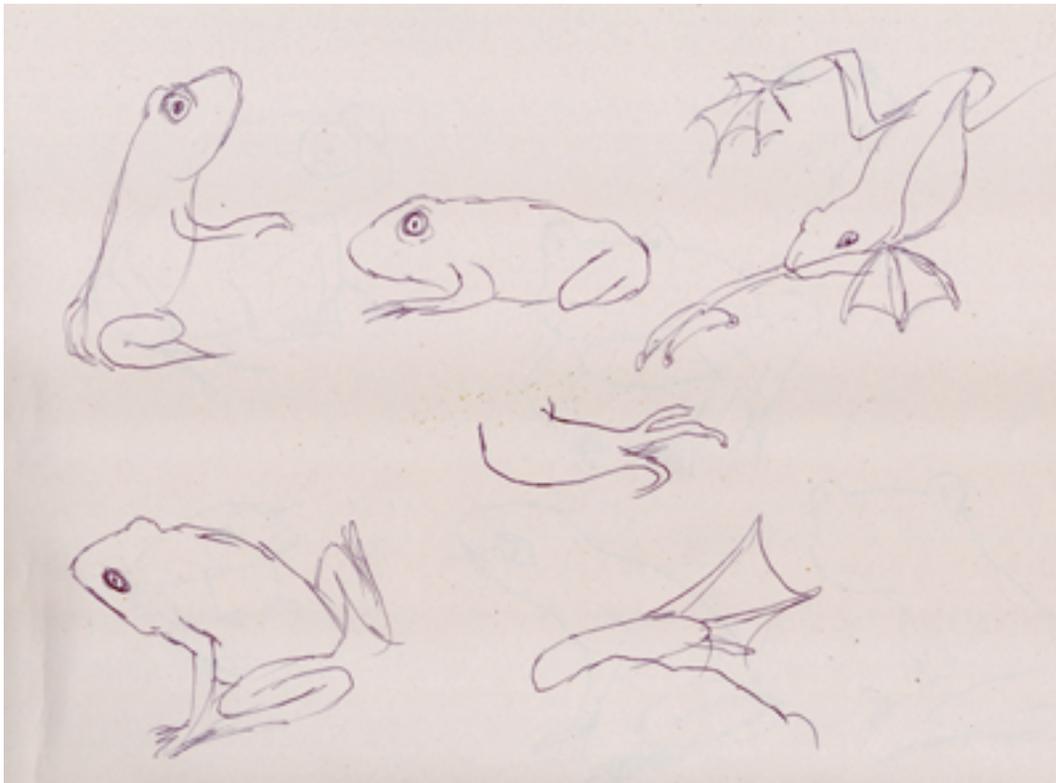
Find frog photo references from books or the internet.

The second drawing assignment involves drawing frogs. Again, you can look to the internet for photo references, or get some frog books out of the library.



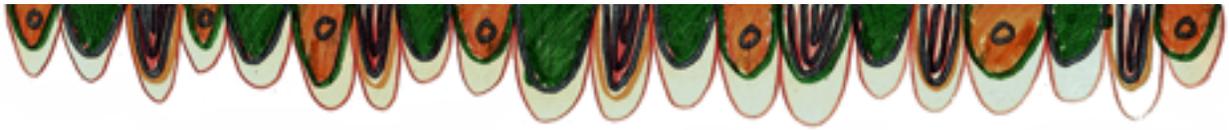
STEP 2

Draw for 10 Minutes



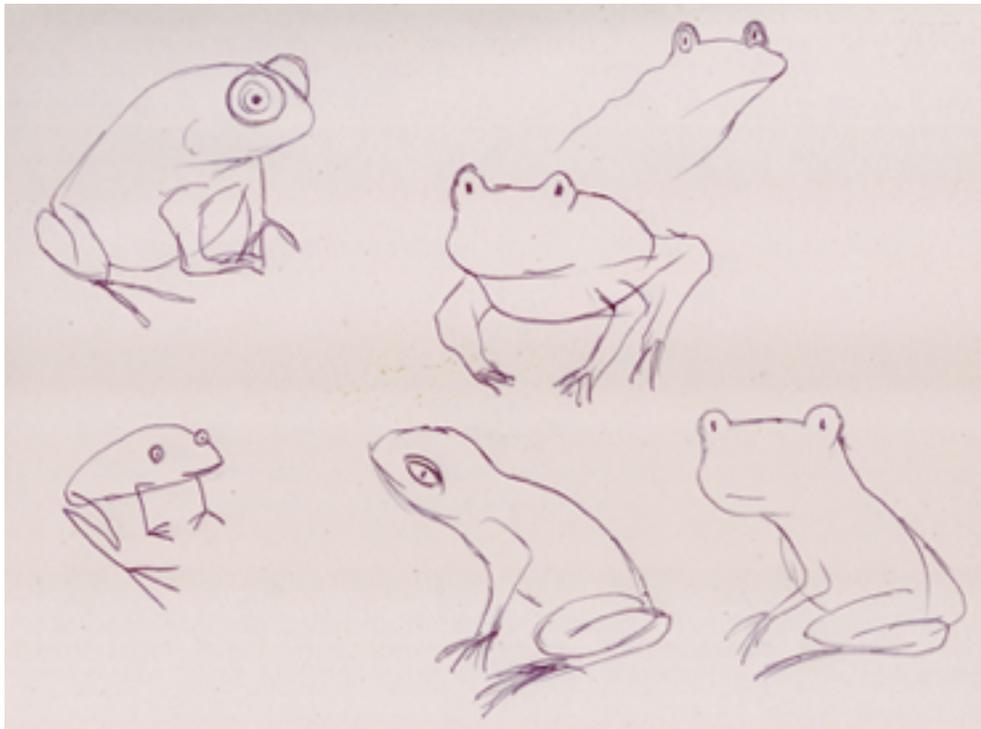
Rather than doing a specific number of drawings, take 10 minutes or so and just flip through the pages and draw frogs... parts of frogs, whole frogs, just the hind legs... you are just doing these contour line drawings for 10 continuous minutes on one or two sheets of paper.

You can work slowly, doing a contour drawing, or you can keep your hand loose and do a sketchier drawing. (If you don't know how to do this, just copy what you see my hands do on the video... fake it! :D)



STEP 3

Play with Stylizing while Drawing



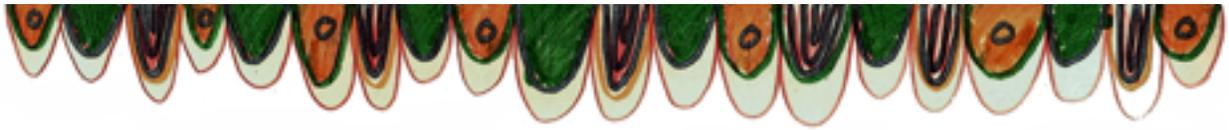
Now, take another 10 minutes and do one more page exactly the same, but this time play around with stylizing the frog... but still when looking at references.

For example, you can play around with making the eyes really huge... or develop a kind of “stick figure” frog. You have free license to exaggerate, delete, add anything you want to, but using the photo references as your starting point.

STEP 4

Draw Your New Frog

Through the week draw “your” frog as often as you think of it!



Summary

So that's your tasks for the next two days; read your text, and draw from photo references to find your frog and princess characters.

Next time we'll take these drawings and turn them into several "spot" illustrations using a combination of watercolor, pastels, and collage.

Have fun!

Carla

carla@carlasonheim.com

