

# Greeting Card Making for Kids

by Marian McGlothlin

OR

introducing inspiring,  
imaginative ideas,  
playing with phrases  
and puns on paper with  
pencils and pens,  
sketching and scribbling  
shapes and salutations!

I couldn't have completed this book without help from my family and friends:

Chrystal Newby, Fern Kruger, Jeanne Ramey, Sharen Petrig, Jenna Bacchetti-Lucas, Carol Dowling and Shannon Dowling. And last, but not least, Patty Howard.

My gratitude is immense, ginormous, huge, vast, cosmic, mammoth, gigantic, massive, great and very, very big!!!

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# Chapter 1: Introduction

I have been making greeting cards ever since I can remember. They were not the best looking cards but it's the thought that counts, right?

I want you to know I am an artist but not an illustrator who can draw a person's portrait. I can do calligraphy and doodling and simple drawing. So don't think you won't be able to do this. It can be easy, peasy and fun!!

The other part of some greeting cards is the writing. You can write a poem or use idioms and puns. Idioms and puns are phrases that don't really make sense. Sometimes they are just plain silly.

I want you to be inspired by this book. Don't just copy it.

There are so many occasions that cards are appropriate for: birthday, thank you, get well, thinking of you...

When people receive cards, it usually brightens their day. It's an act of kindness. This world can always use more kindness!

This is a birthday card for my Dad that I did when I was in elementary school. (I told you I was not good at drawing. LOL!)



But I liked to write rhymes.  
And did some simple calligraphy.  
Nothing fancy.

You take Your shoes off  
You stand by the river  
You wait there until night  
And then You start to shiver!

You stay there in the dark  
Until You get Your wish  
You are certain You want  
A Big Cat-Fish!

You catch a Cat-Fish  
Bigger than You thought  
It's been swimming all night  
And it is very hot!

You go home  
You take Your prize  
Your Family can't believe it  
Even though They see it with Their  
own eyes!

Your daughter says You need to comb Your hair!  
Your wife says You need to change Your clothes!  
Your son says You need a new hat!  
And the cat says the fish is all full of holes!

You don't believe what Your son says  
You don't believe Your wife's statement is true  
You don't think what Your daughter said was correct  
Now You're turning Blue!

Now it's all over!  
Now it's all done!  
Now You're sitting down!  
Having fun!

Have fun on Your Birthday  
We hope You do!  
From the time it starts  
Until it's through!

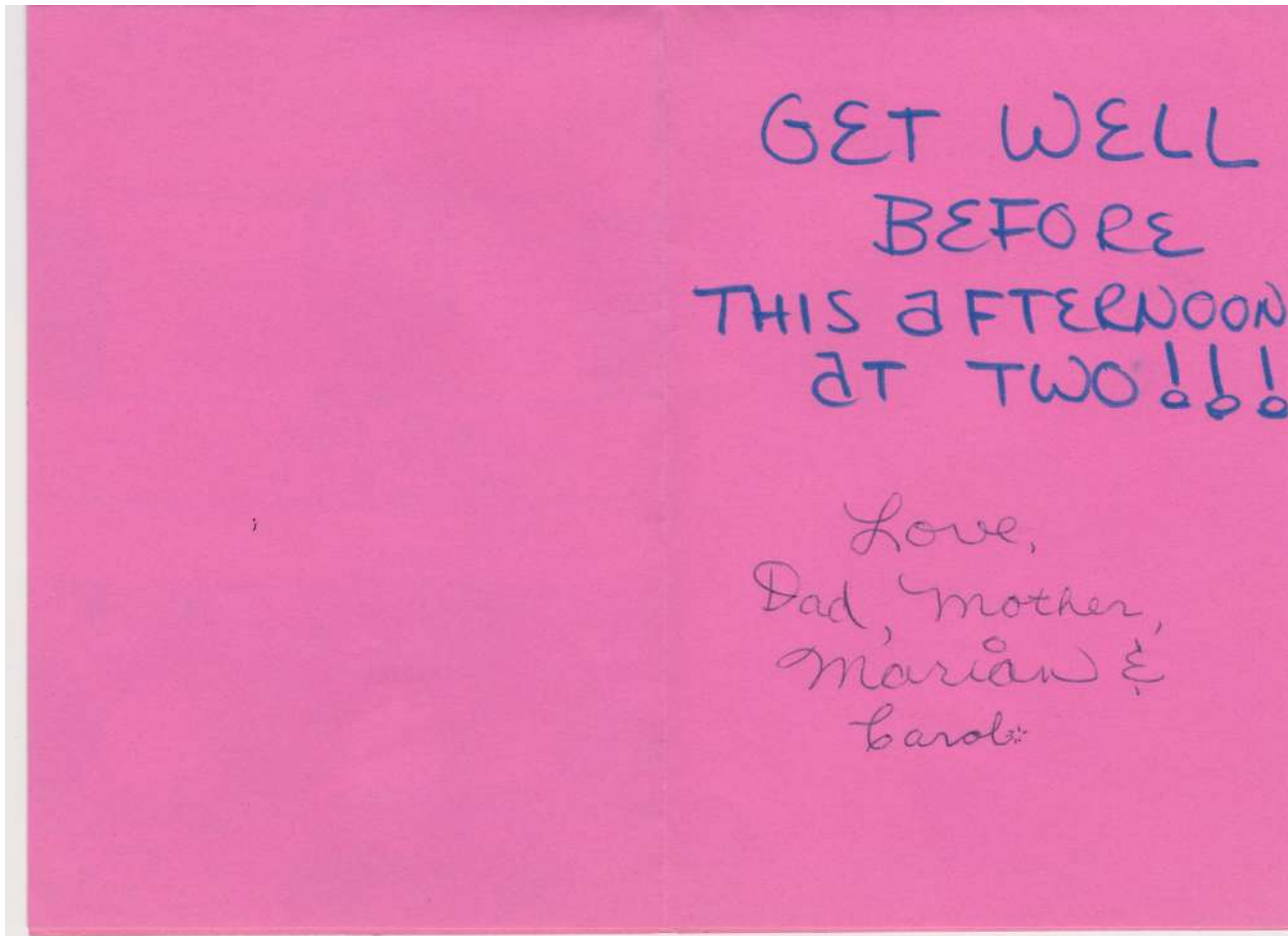
Love, Frances, Marian, Gm, and Carol

This one was done later. I did some calligraphy, doodling and rhyming. I made a logo and a company name.  
(Front and back of card is shown.)



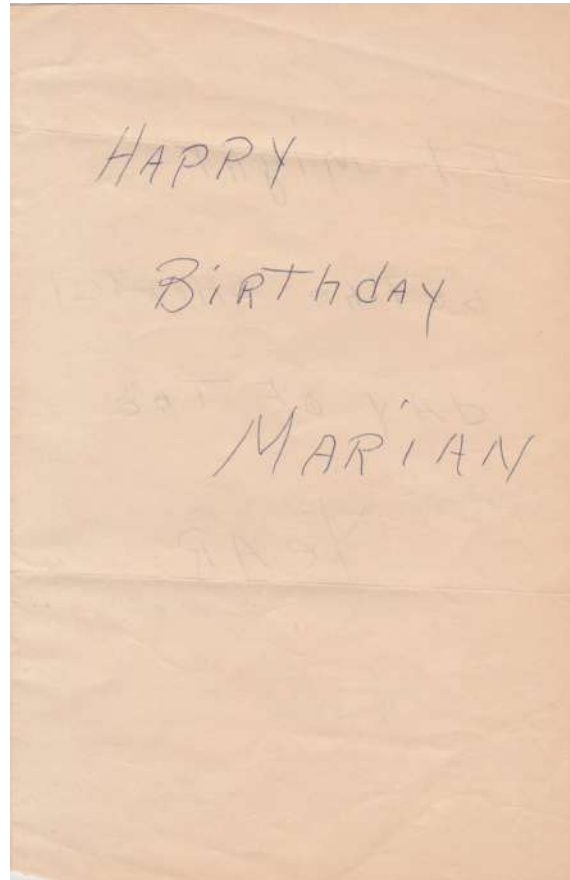


This is the inside.

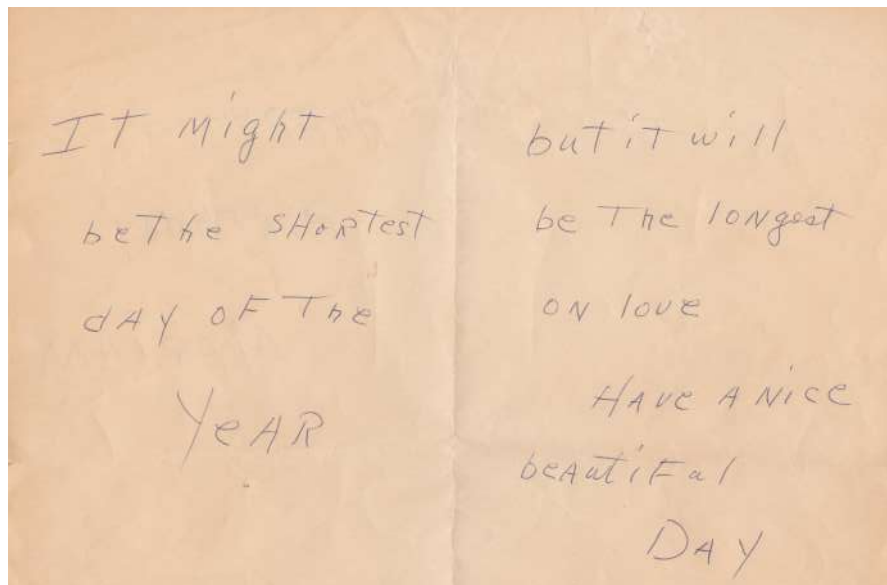


And finally this is a card that my Dad made me. I didn't think much of it at the time. No drawings, no color. But this card means so much to me now!

(Outside)



This is the inside.



# Chapter 2: Tools

Some things to have before you start:

(You don't need them all. Even if you just have a pencil and a piece of paper, that is fine. Lots of cool art is done in black and white.)

Paper (new, recycled, construction, etc. Ask before you use.)

Pencil

Colored pencils

Crayons

Pens

Ruler

# Chapter 3: Calligraphy:

The meaning of calligraphy is artistic writing.

When you start, you can just keep it simple.

Begin with the alphabet, then progress to words.

Don't be picky, picky.

Relax, have fun!

Eventually, let your handwriting go wild! (That's how new fonts can happen.)

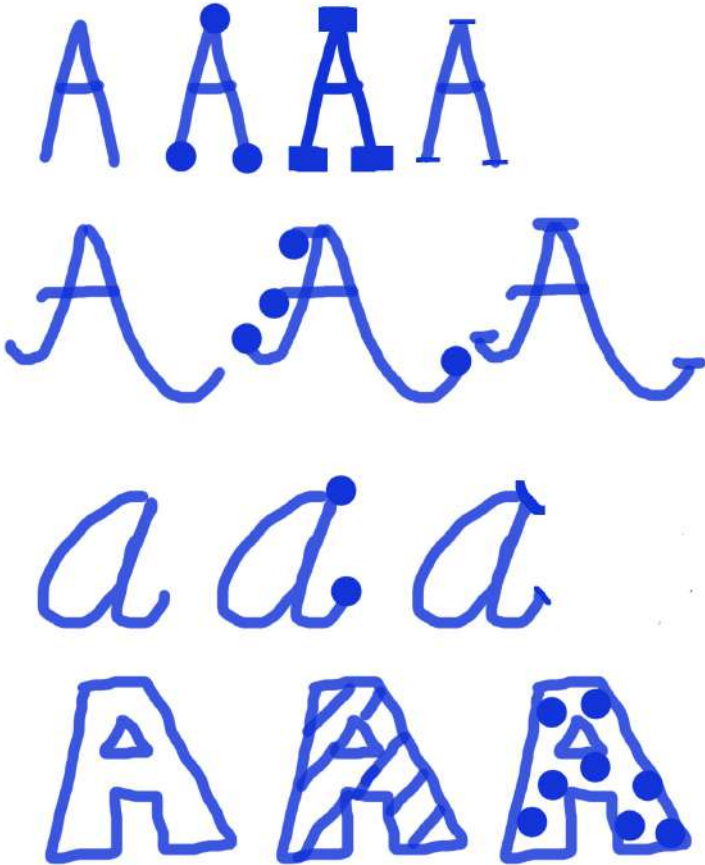
P.S. When you are writing, just know that it might not be perfect. If you require 'perfection' from yourself, just know it might not happen. And that's ok.

Here is a simple calligraphy example.

Write your letters and add polka dots (or short lines) at the ends of the letters.



Here are some examples of what can be done to an A.



How to make

# **BLOCK LETTERS.**

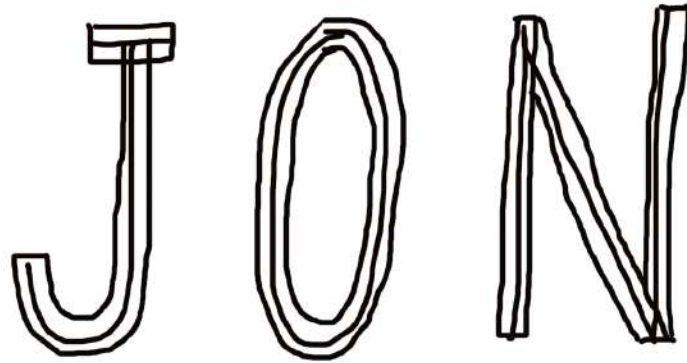
1<sup>st</sup> write the letters in pencil.



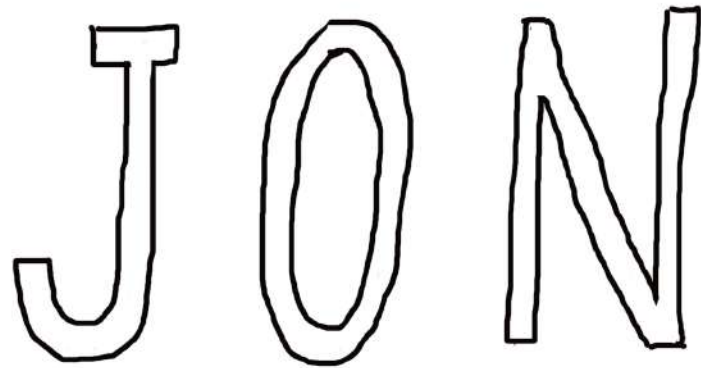
JON



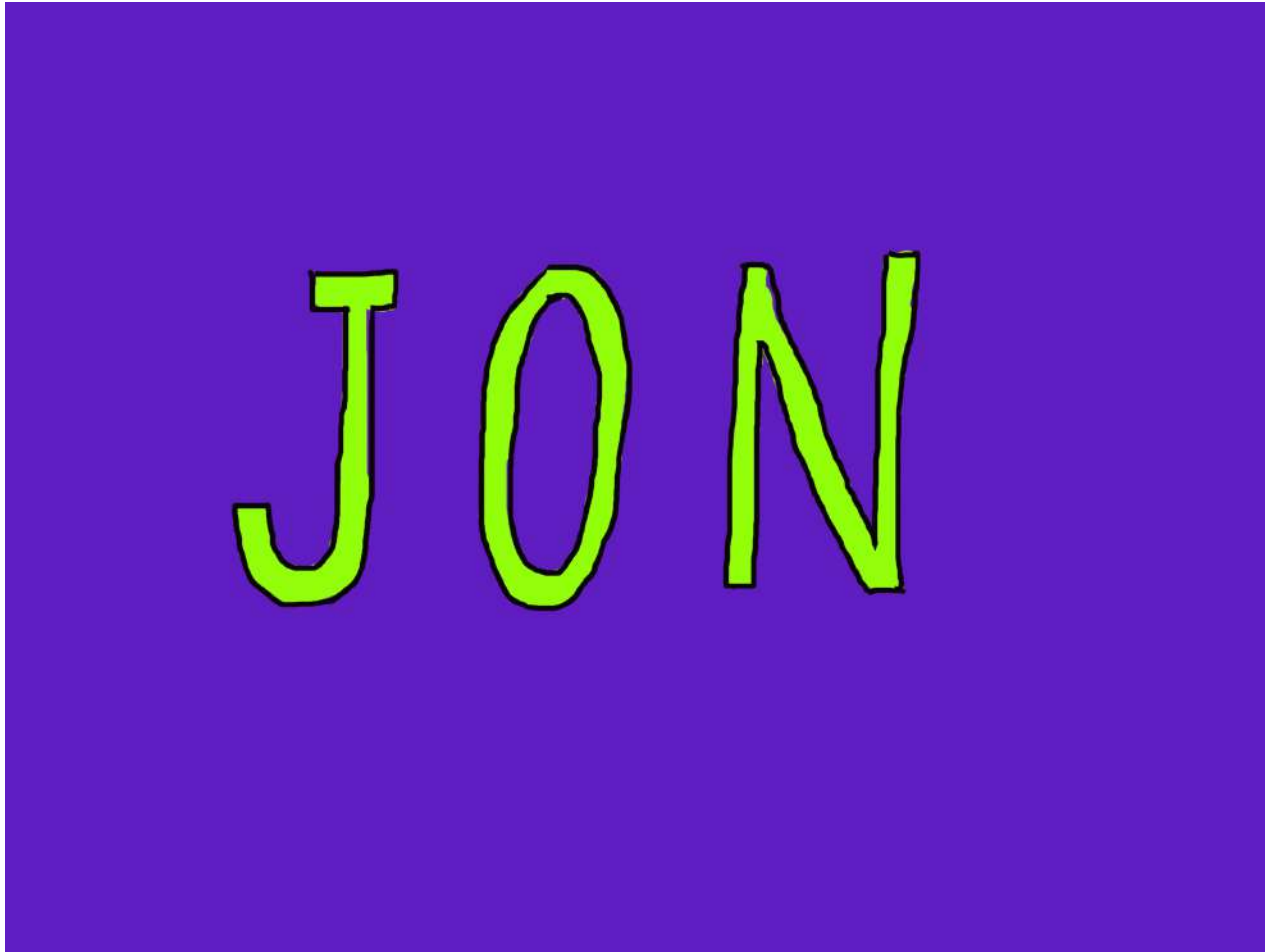
Then draw 'boxes' around your letters.....



Erase the inner lines....



Now that you know how, you can draw block letters on construction paper or use colored writing utensils for the card. (Like colored pencils or crayons or markers.)



Here's another block letter version.

JON

How's this for fancy shmancy?!!



Block it!

A  
NICE  
DAY

Color it!

A  
NICE  
DAY

Polka dot it!





Decorate it!



You can also draw block letters for a poster.  
And you can create your design on recycled paper, like  
magazines, newspapers, old phone books.....with  
permission, of course.



More calligraphy! Take your time. You can do this.  
I made up these styles. One style has lots of straight lines.  
You might want to use a ruler. The other is curvy.  
Play! Have Fun!



PQRS

TUV

WXY

Z

Y y Z z

1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 0

Cursive!

happy  
birthday

happy  
birthday

happy  
birthday

Different!

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY

# Chapter 4: Doodling

The meaning of ‘doodle’ is an aimless or casual scribble, design or sketch. That means when you start drawing a doodle, you might not know what it’s going to look like. But it can also be repeating a shape like a square or circle. Or lines that make a checkerboard. (This will make more sense as you continue to read.)

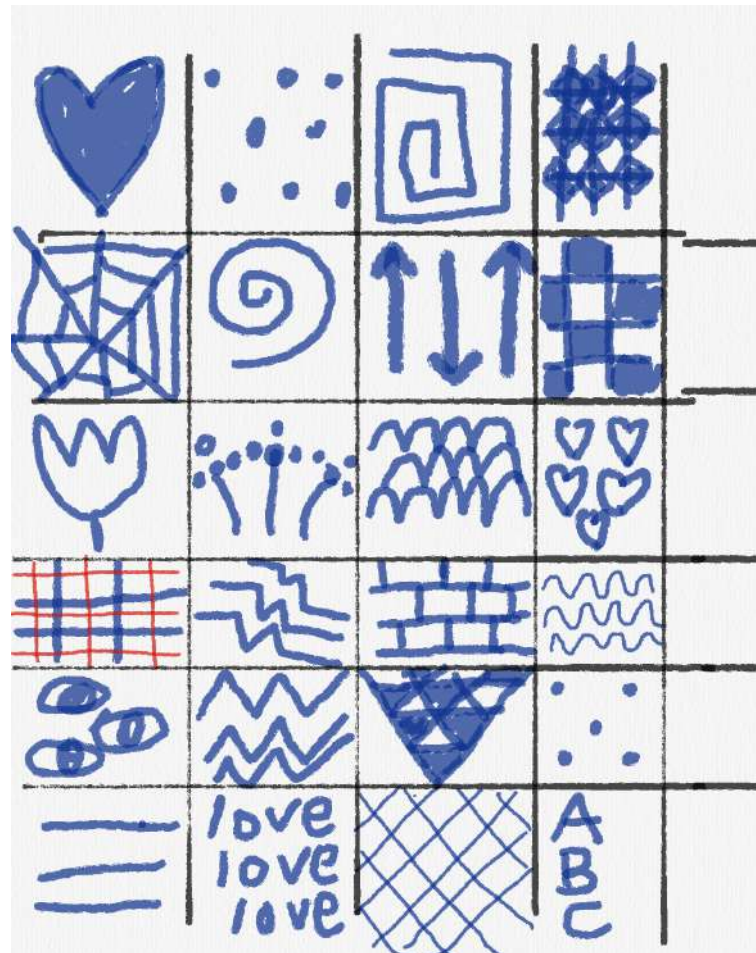
On another note about doodling: just sitting down with a pen and paper and doing silly drawing can be relaxing and fun.

And some of you like to use a ruler with your art. If you like that, go for it!!!

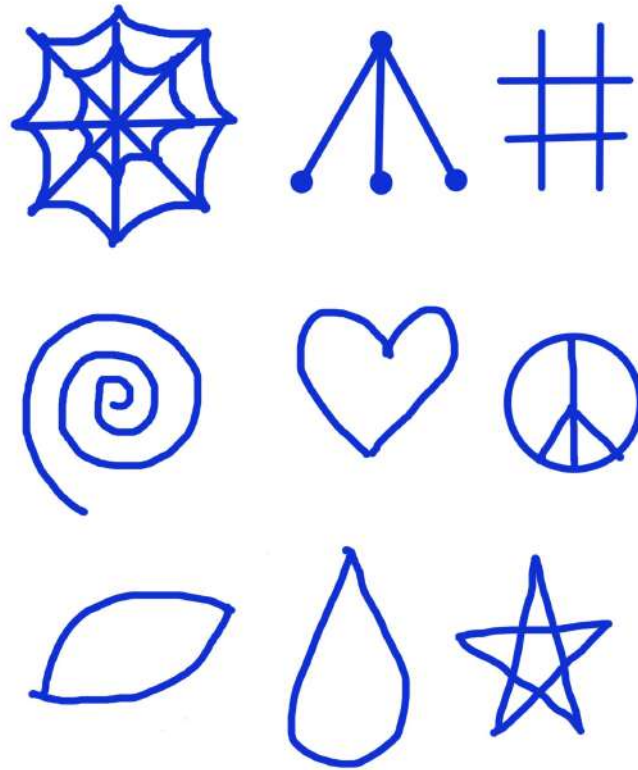


Doodling examples.

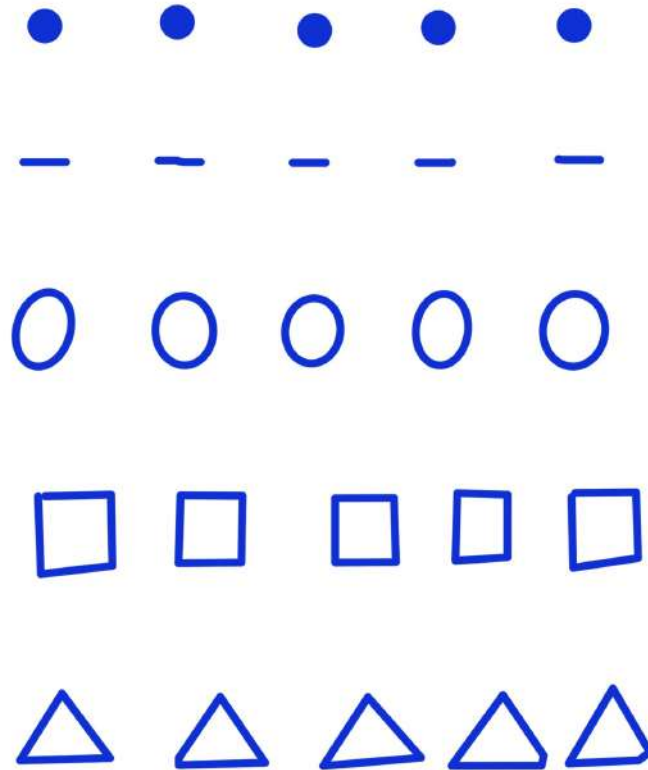
Easy, peasy, lemon squeezy!



More doodles!



Oodles of doodles!



More!

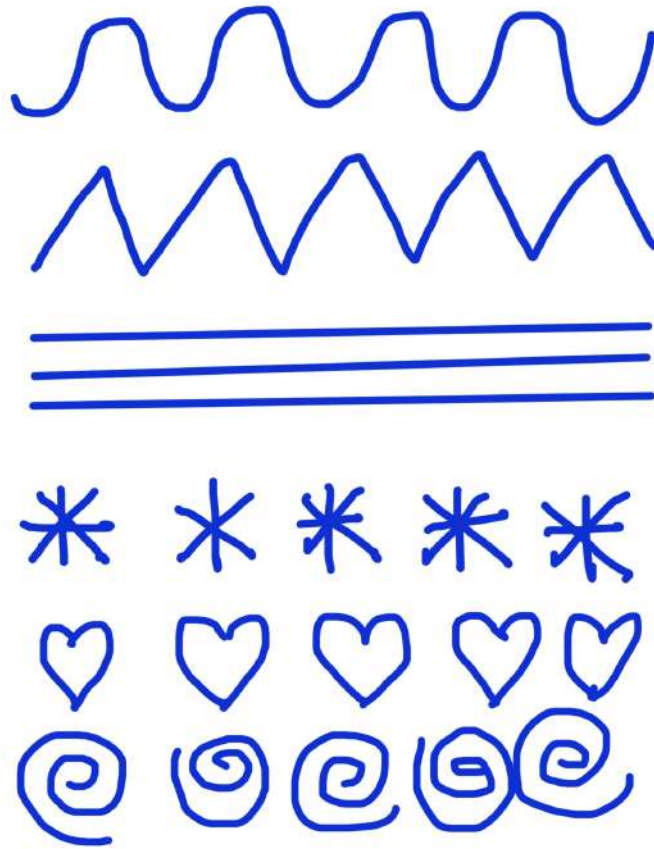
h h h h h

z z z

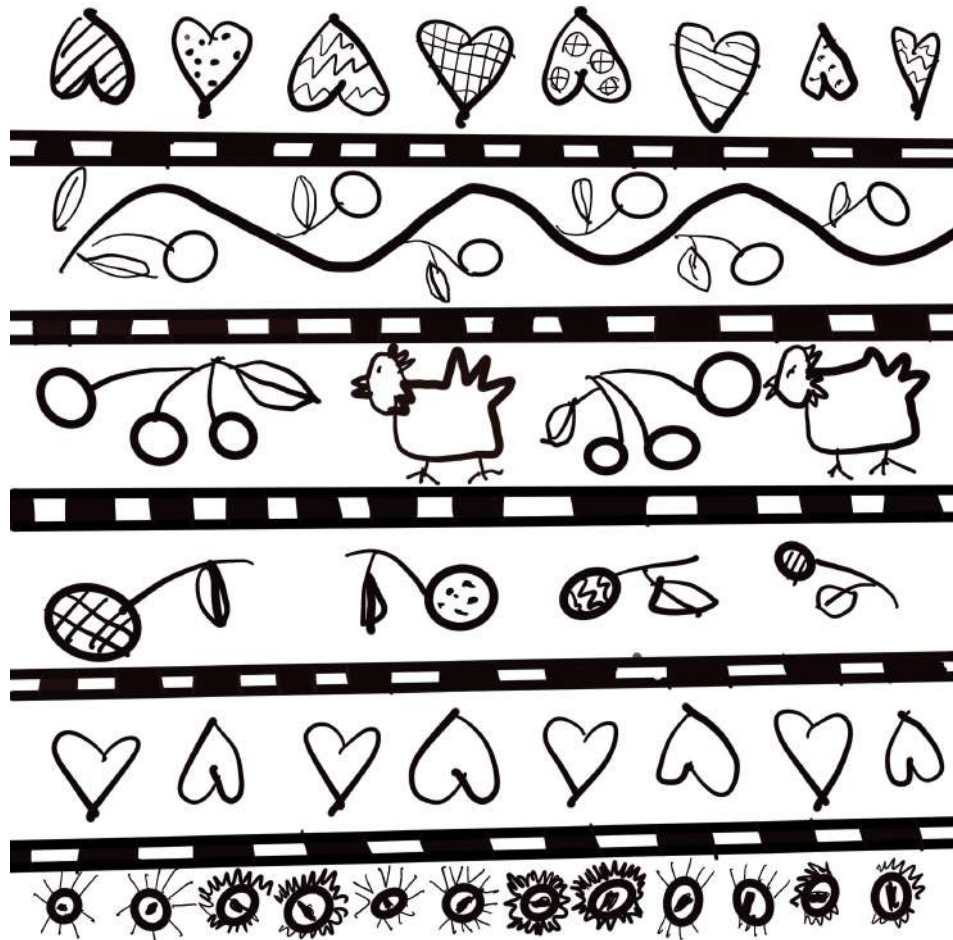
c c c

☺ ☺ ☺

And some more!



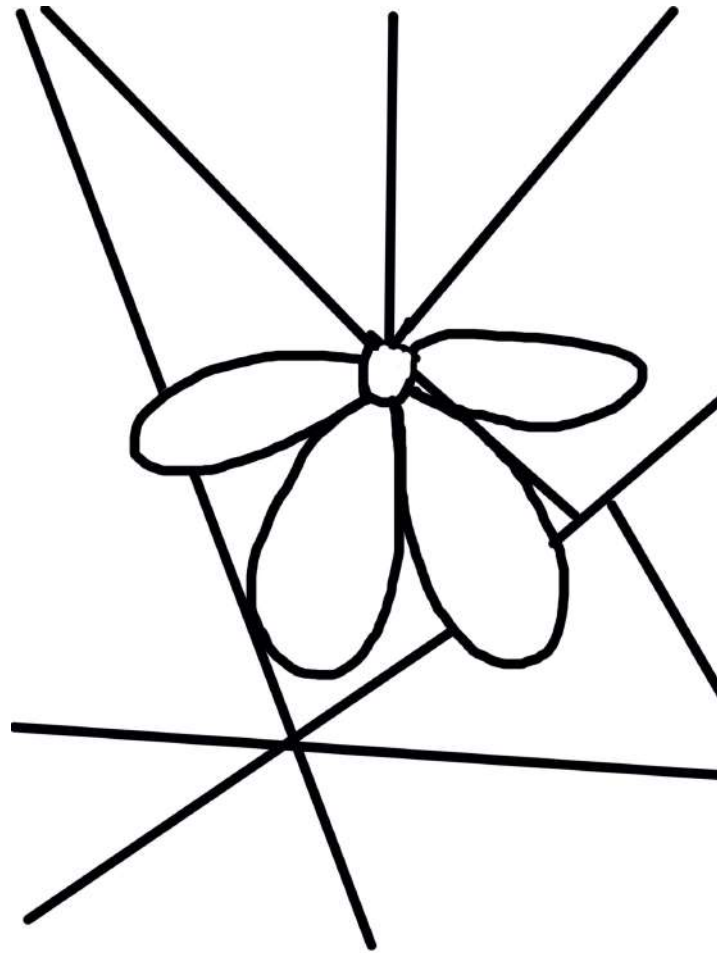
Doodles made into patterns. Use your imagination.



Here are block letters and nautical doodle patterns.



Draw some lines.  
Doesn't need to be fancy.





Fill in with oodles of doodles!



You can color it.

This can even be the front of your card.

Your words can go on the inside.



Another busy card front.



This was fun!

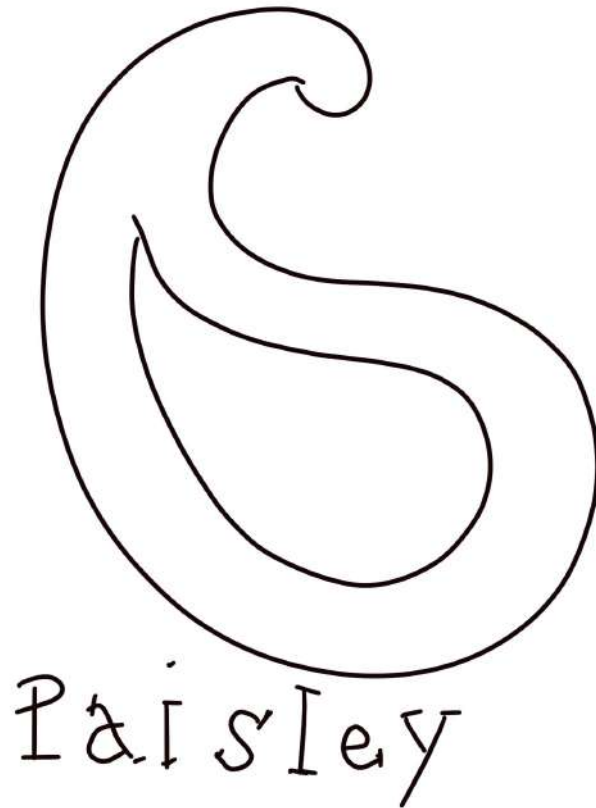


I did this on fabric. I did not color it. (I colored the other side...so some of the color 'escaped.')

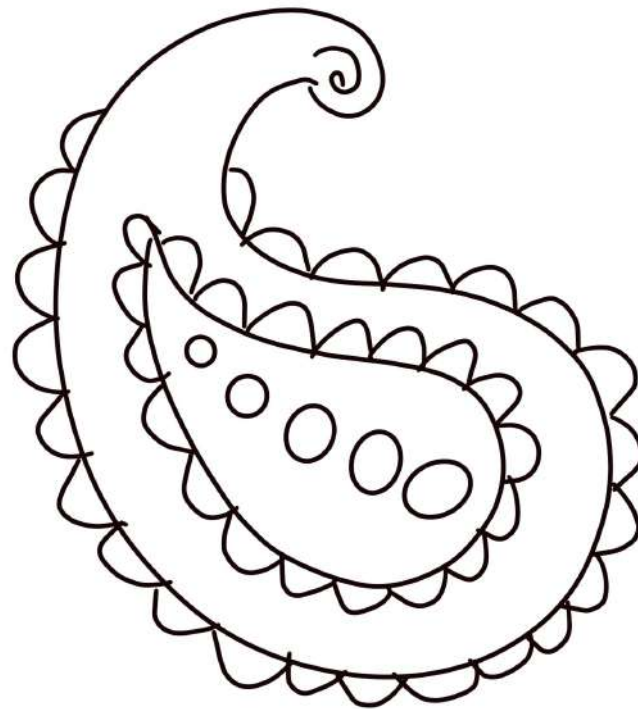


A Paisley is a perfect shape to doodle.

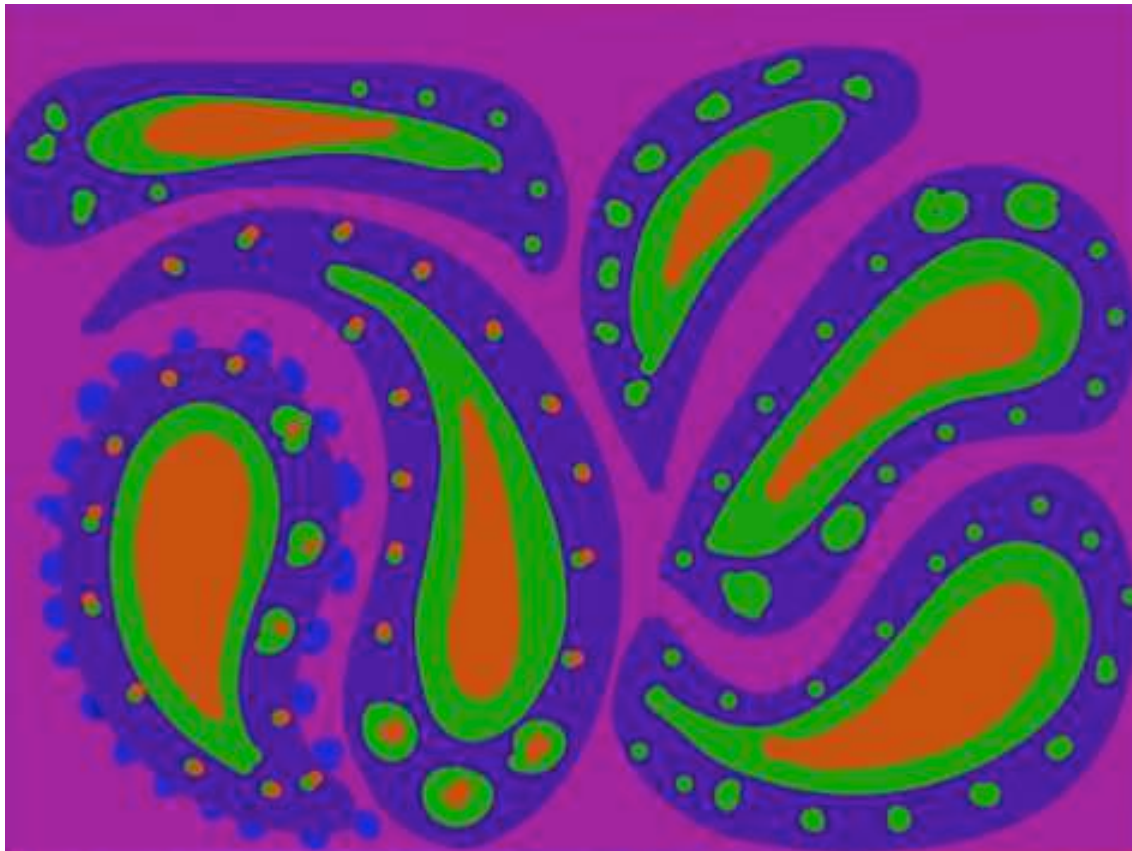
Paisley: part 1



## Paisley shape: part 2



Let your imagination go wild!

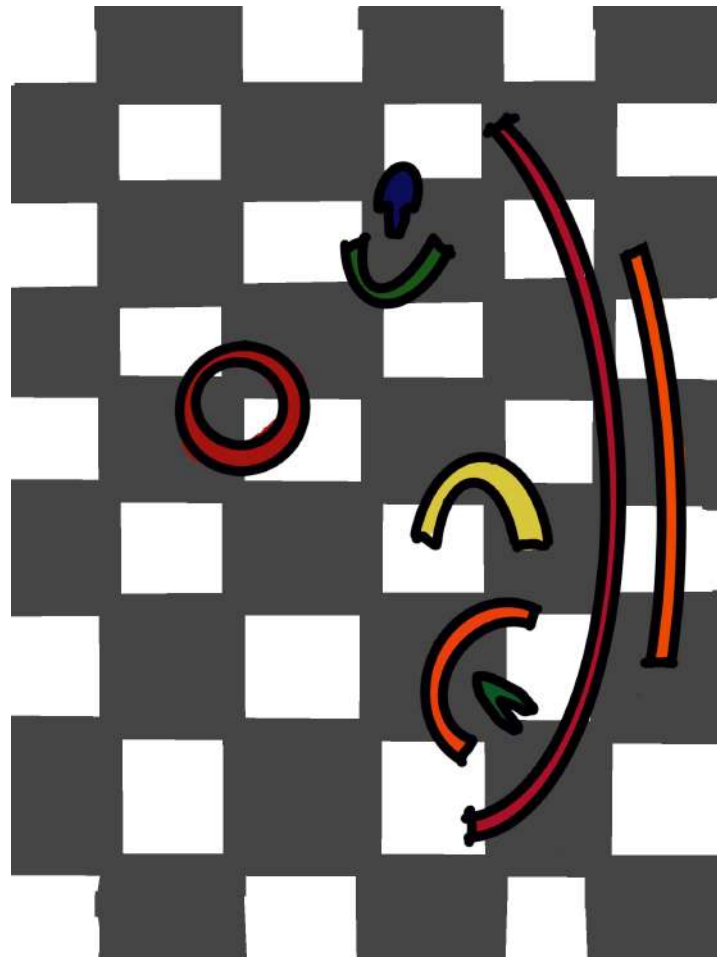




You can be inspired by items around the house.



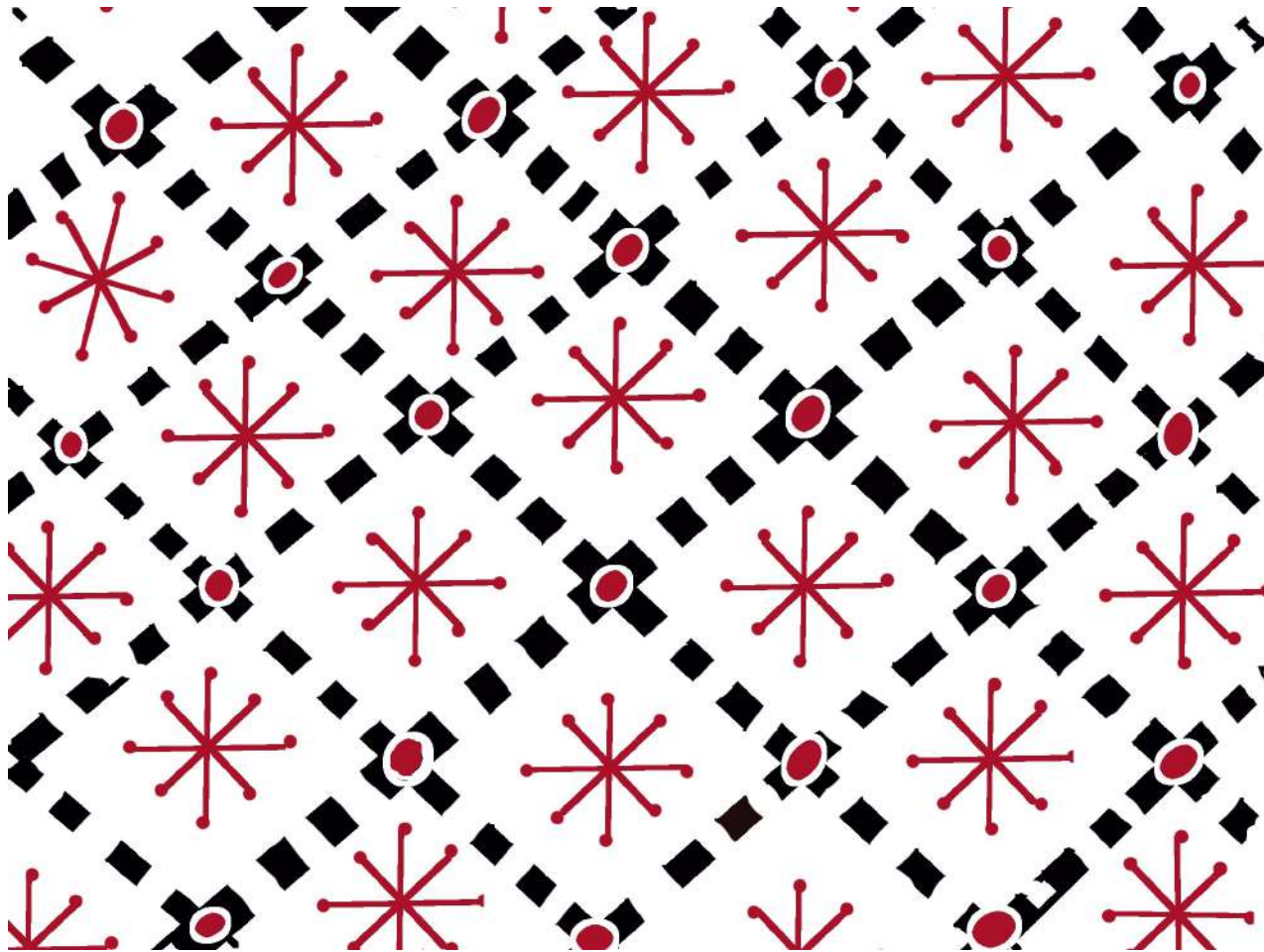
Here's my drawing just for fun.



More inspiration!



Here's my drawing.

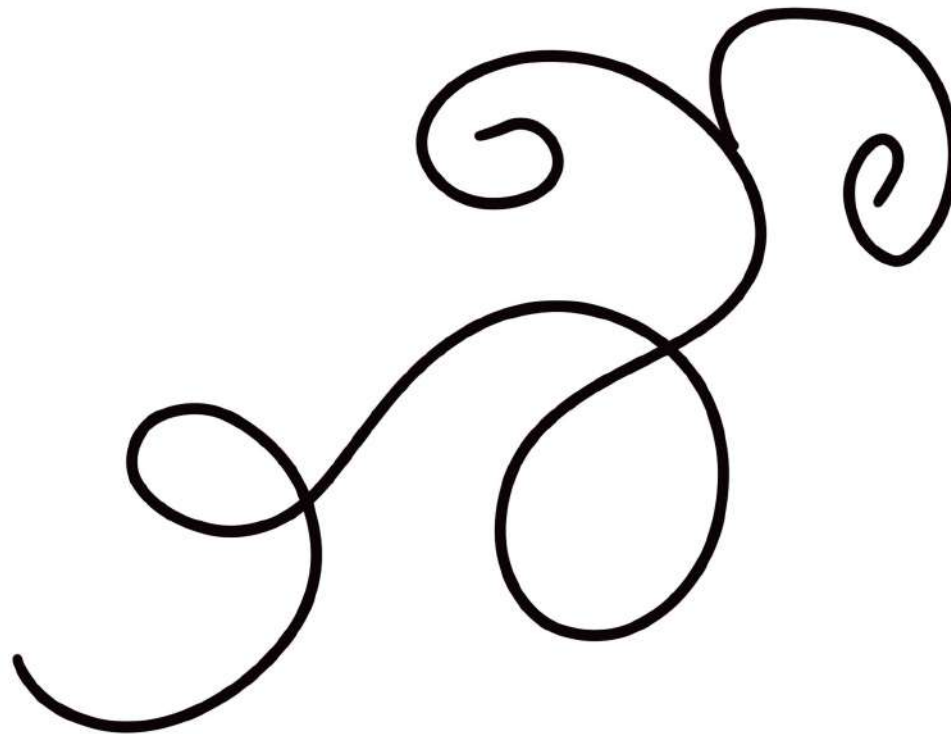


How about this?!

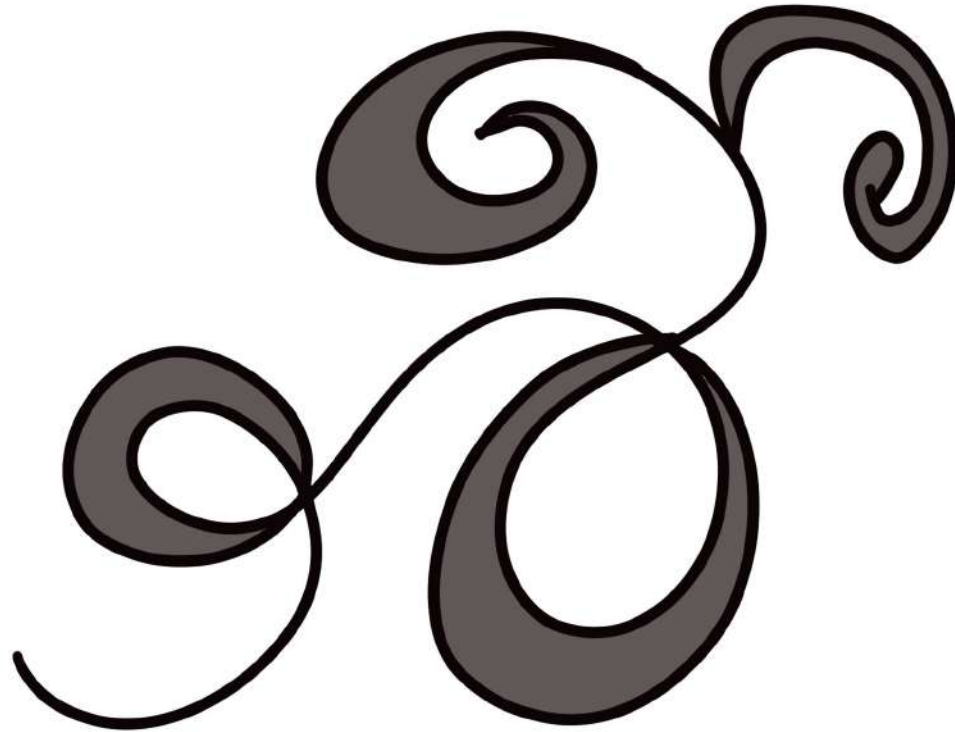


This is an easy design.

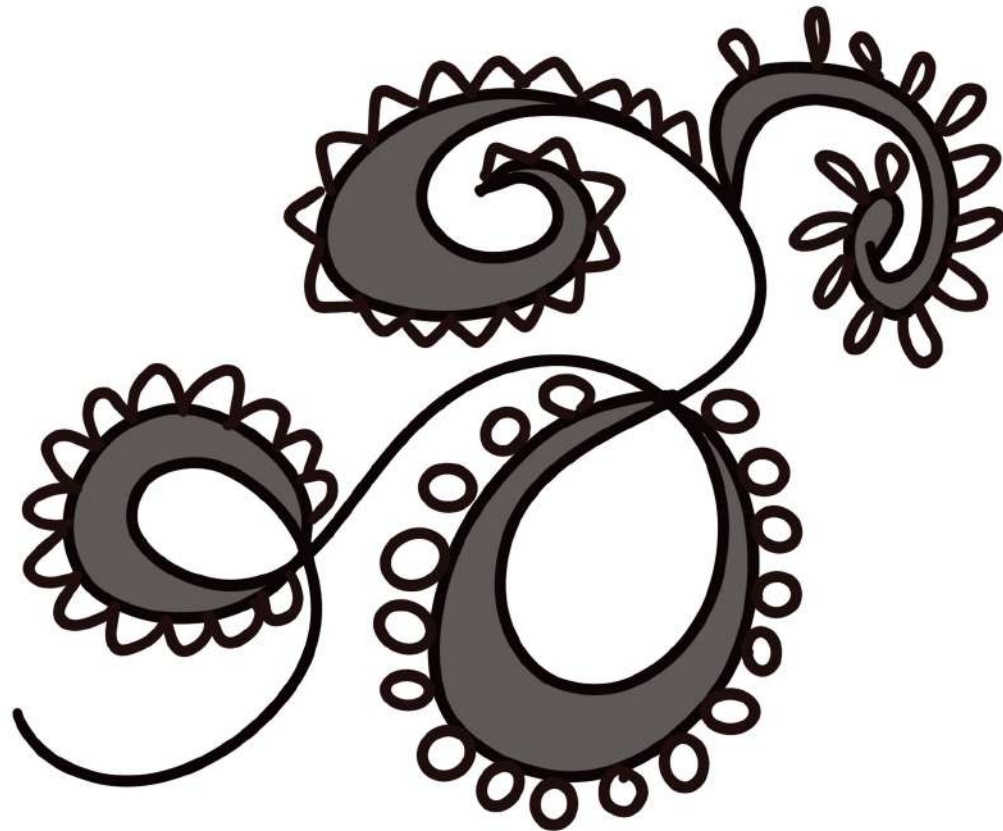
Vine: part 1



Vine: part 2

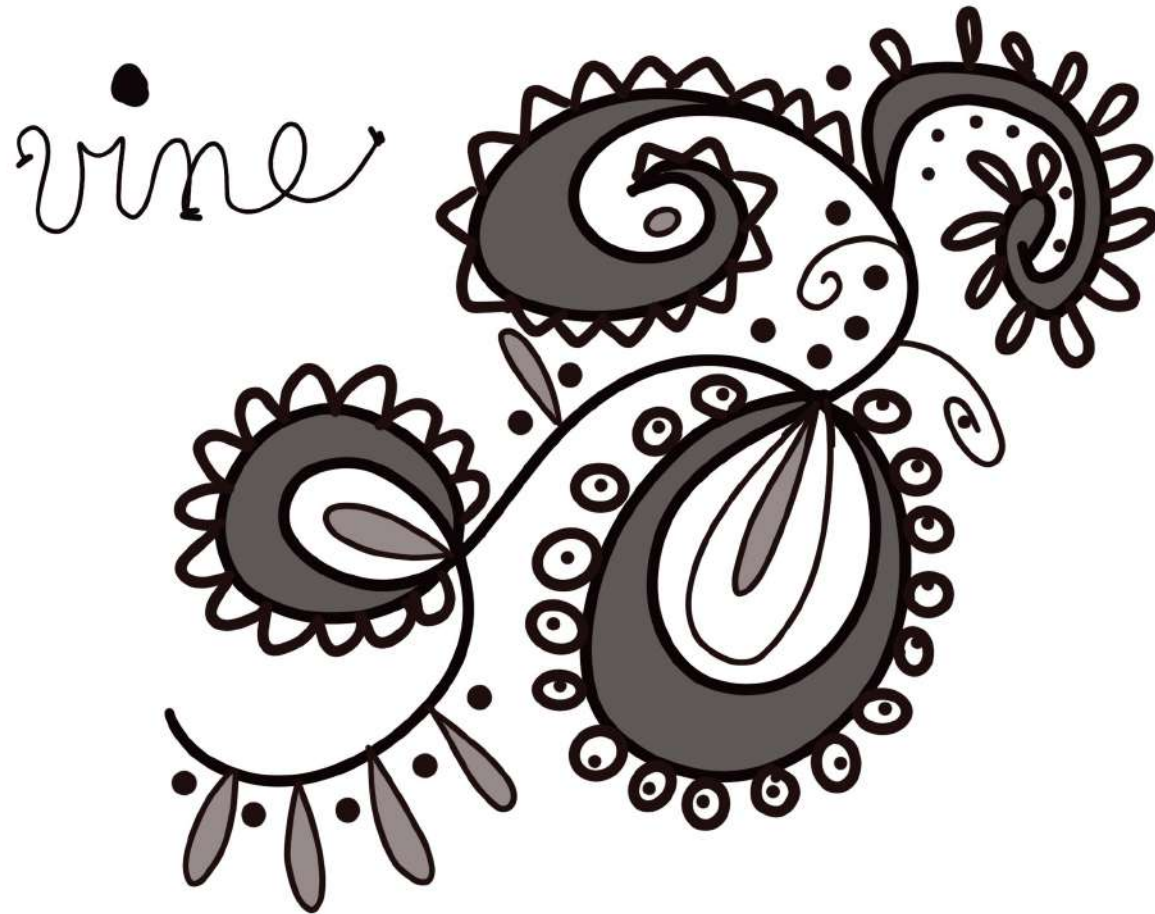


# Vine: part 3





Vine: part 4 (you could color it)



# Chapter 5: Drawing

I told you I am not an illustrator. A lot of kids I have met can easily draw better than I can. Maybe you are like that. Doesn't matter.

If this brings you joy, use some of your spare time drawing instead of playing video games or fighting with your siblings.

If drawing doesn't float your boat, you could spend like 5 minutes a day just doodling. And then throw it away.

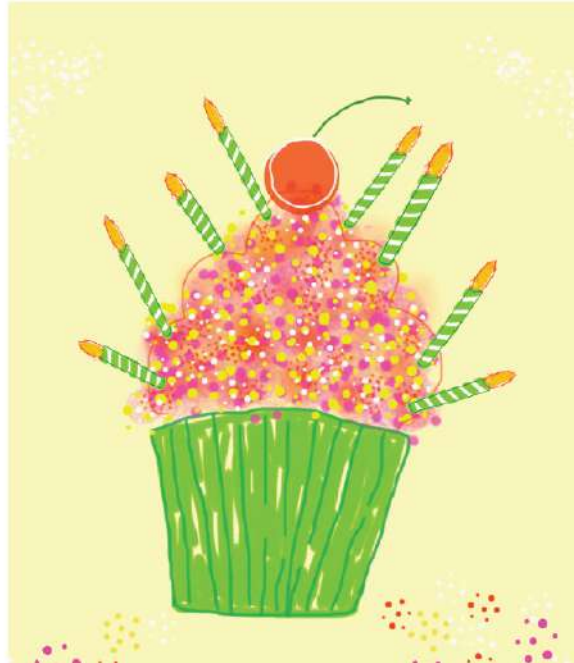
This chapter gives you simple drawings to be inspired by.

Relax and have fun.

Drawing a candle is an important part of making birthday cards!



Cupcake, anyone?!



Here are some balloons for you!



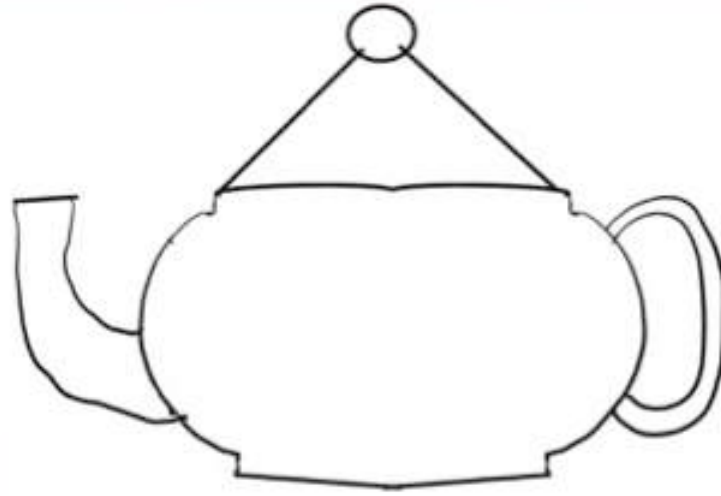
Draw a tea cup for someone who likes tea.



Make a birthday card.



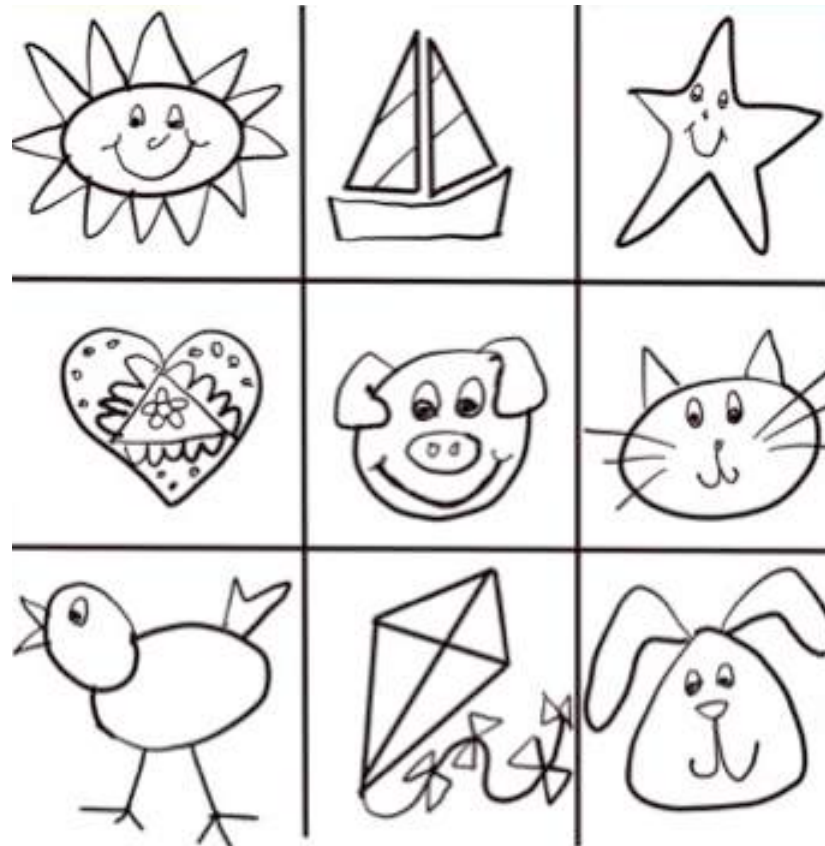
A tea pot can go with the tea cup.



tea pot



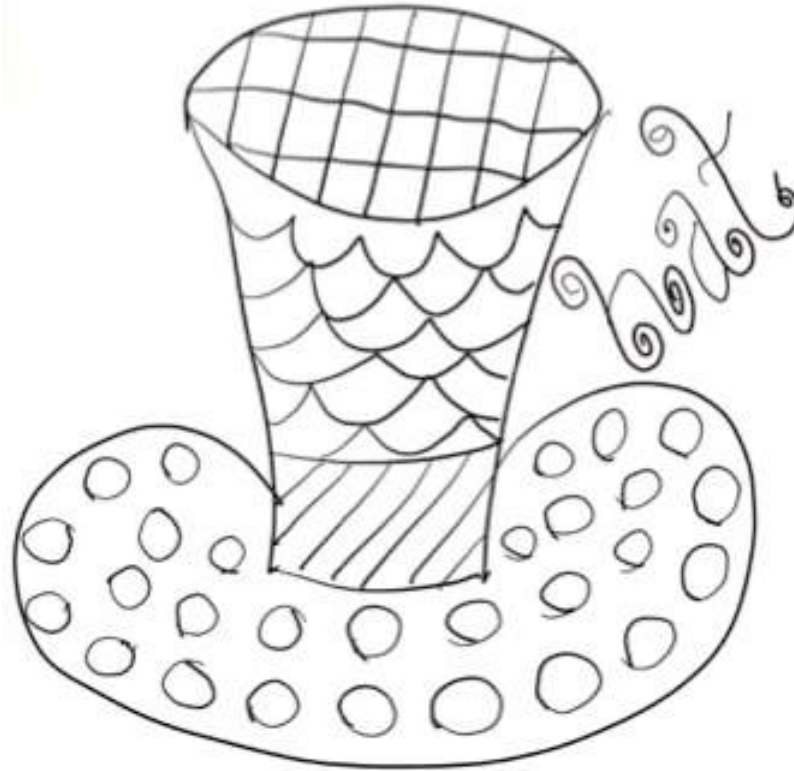
Start looking for drawing inspirations.



Easy, right?! For someone who is adventurous?  
(Look at the drawing and break it down into shapes. Can you see the circle and the rectangle? The rest are lines and doodles.)



Wild and crazy! For someone who likes to dress up?



Happy Birth-Day card!



Peace: always in style.



Flashback to the 1960's!



I had lots of fun with this!

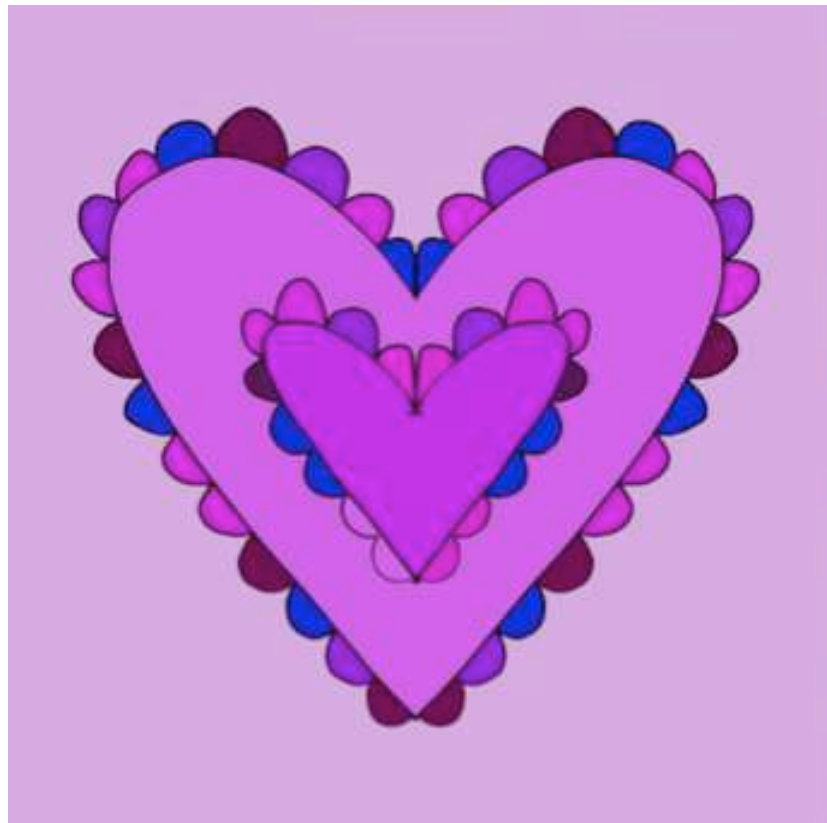


Wild and wacky.

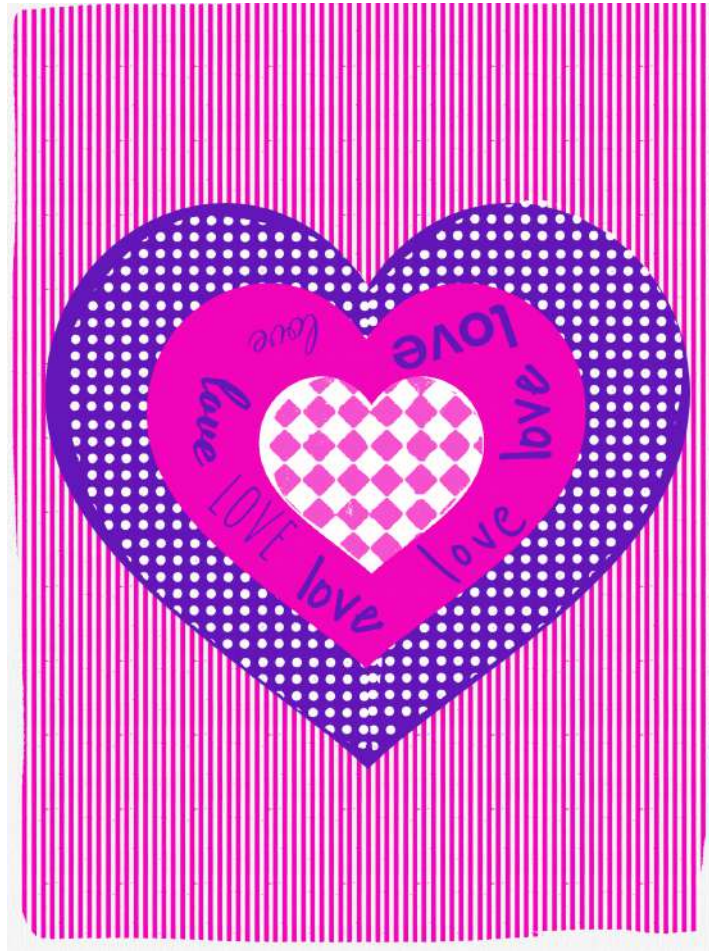




If you can draw a heart, draw 2.



Or 3.

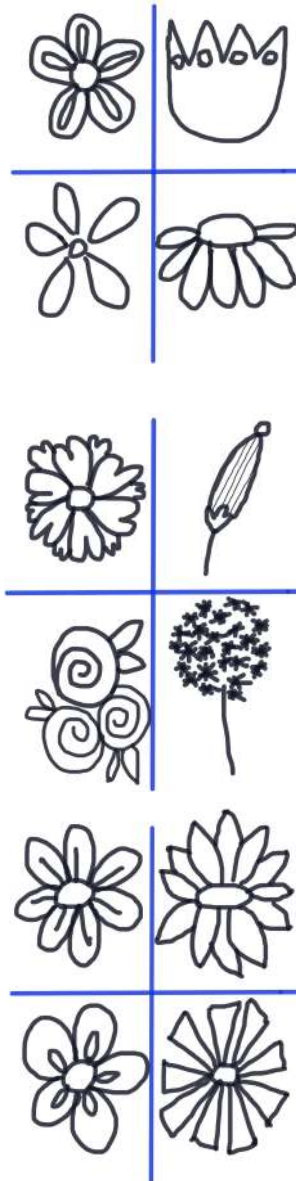


Who wouldn't want a crown for their birthday?!!



Easy flowers.

Start by drawing 1.



Then maybe a bouquet!



Animals are another subject matter you might choose to explore. As I said, let your imagination go wild!



This was inspired by a wall hanging I saw.  
Below is a base for a silly face.



There are so many different things you can do!





Weird but fun.



Easy coloring and doodling.



# Chapter 6: Idioms and Puns

Now it's time to decide on what words to write on the card. Idioms and puns: love them!!! As I said earlier, they are phrases which do not really make sense. Play on words, play with words. Or you can write a poem. Or nice words.

Idiom/pun examples for a birthday card:

- Here's food for thought: BIRTHDAY CAKE!

or

- Don't bite off more than you can chew!

(You might use the 1st one for the front and the 2<sup>nd</sup> for the inside.)

And then there are just silly words:

Malarkey

Whippersnapper

Persnickety

Flabbergasted

Shenanigans

Nincompoop

Thingamajig

Whatchamacallit

Gobbledygook

Pumpernickel

Hoopla

Baloney

# Chapter 7: Examples

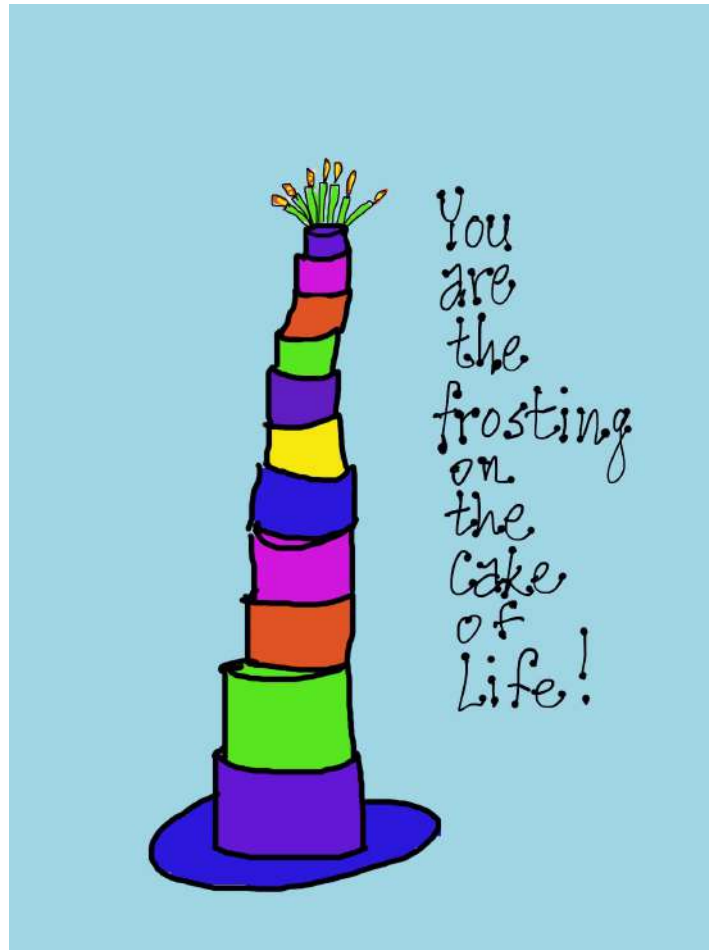
Next are ideas for 2 birthday cards:

Below is the front.

(If the cake looks complicated to you, look closer. Break it down in layers. And the more it leans, the funnier it will be!)

(And doodling on the cake is a super duper idea!)

Inside you can write “Happy Birthday!”



Another card: on the front write:

It's  
Your Birthday!  
Celebrate  
Bright &  
Early!!!

Inside: draw a cake with fried eggs on it.

Write: Mmm...

Cake and eggs for breakfast sound yummy!!!!





So there you have it: my book about you making cards.

My hope is that you enjoyed some of the ideas and that you will be inspired to do some calligraphy, doodling, drawing and writing. A lot of people enjoy doing art but some are worried that their work isn't very good. And so they won't take a chance on it. Don't be that person!! Relax and have Fun!

Best wishes, Marian\* McGlothlin

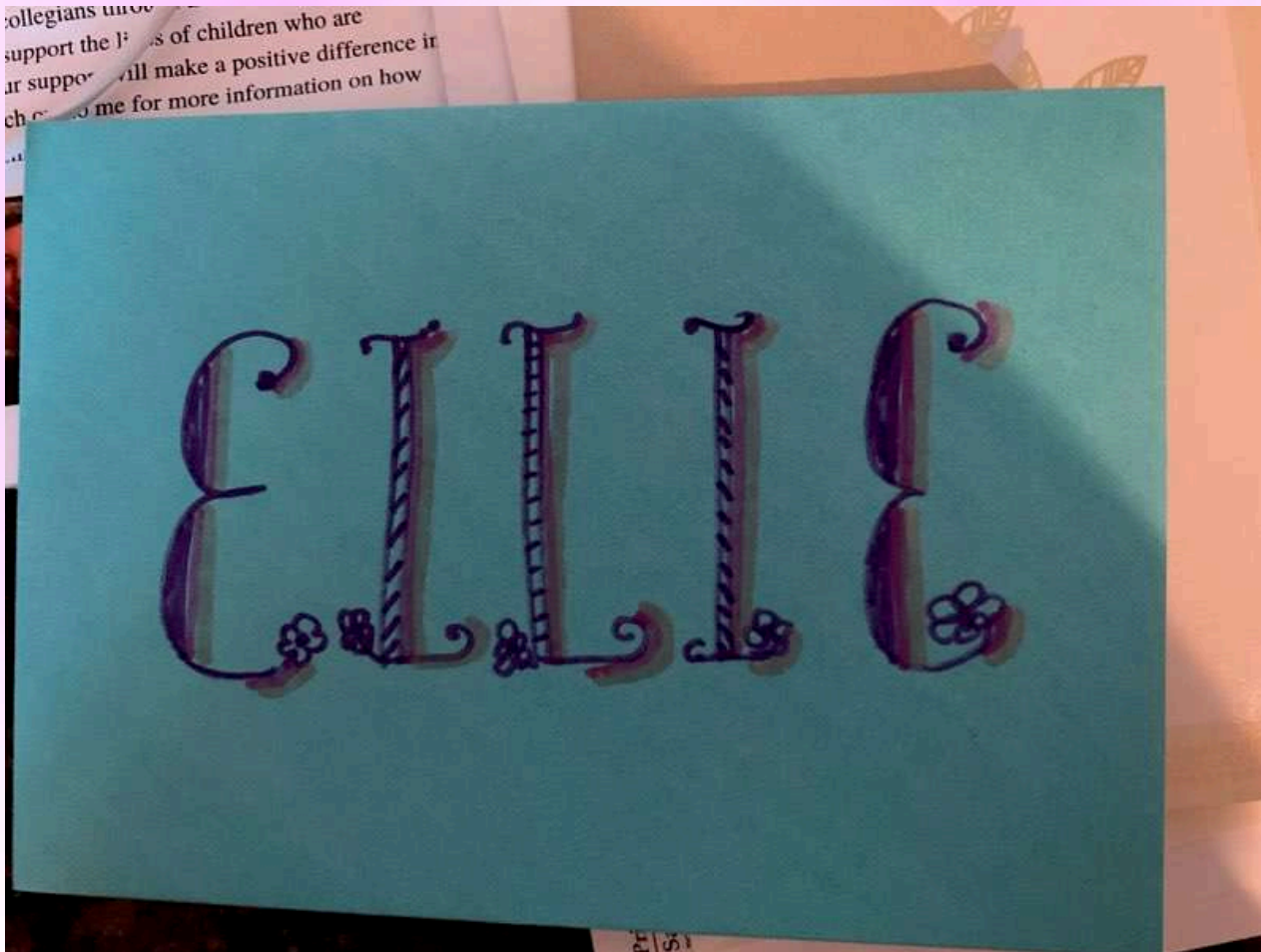
THE END

P.S.

# Chapter 8: P.S.

P.S. Adults might also be inspired by this book.

I shared my book with my sister and this is what she did. Yay!!!



Really, this is the last page.

I want to tell you what I'm doing these days with sending greetings. I make postcards for family and friends whom I don't get to see often enough. I send some people a card once a week. They need extra attention because Life is quite a challenge. I have been doing this for years and people will, from time to time, tell me how the cards have touched their Lives.

Below are some words from these people:

'I have saved every one you sent...Thank you again for your thoughtfulness.' (written by a woman for her husband who went through cancer treatment)

'He still looks forward to the postcards. Thank you so much!' (written by a woman for her disabled husband)

'Thank you for thinking of me..it makes my day.' (written by a woman living in a convalescent home)

I appreciate the time you took to make my father's life (and mine) a little better..thanks again for being who you are and doing what you did.' (written by a man whose father was my friend)

'I looked forward to them. They connected me with the world and friends.' (written by my friend who was very ill in convalescent care for a while. He's so much better now!!!!)

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