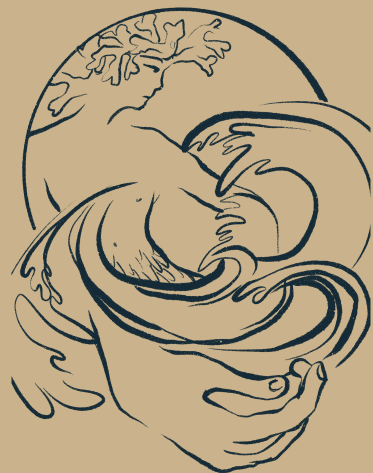


## The Shape of Stories

Myths are shared stories that make sense of our relationship to the world around us - connecting us to nature, the seasons and our ancestors.

Find a view of the skyline and imagine what else the shapes of silhouetted buildings and trees could be. Using free associations (like cloud watching) you can jump between imagined characters and events suggested by the shapes to develop a story.

Use the images on the postcards in the box as prompts for improvising your own mythic stories.



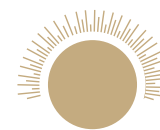
## What inspires a poet?

*I often explore shadow and dusk, walking or writing in evenings to adventure into stillness, and what is unknown, unseen, mysterious - the underworld and underbelly of my life and the world hidden from daylight.*

**Sarah Acton**



.....  
MESSAGE



# Shadows



Shadows soften the edges of the day, they flicker in the afternoon sun or grow long in the dusk. Shadowy shapes are vague, partially seen.

They bring both uncertainty and creative possibility in our art and life experiences, the highs and lows. Memory has shadows too, sometimes they appear beside us, only partially glimpsed.

Silhouettes are interesting visually and in the imagination, outlines of what is there and also what is not there. Shapes are best seen through contrast - the silhouettes of bare winter trees or roofs against the skyline.



## Begin here

Activities to get you in the mood, break up your routine and help you enjoy creative flow.

### Natural compass

Track where the sun is in the arc of the sky at different times of day in relation to where you sit. Using the sun, moon or stars, how differently does time pass with a sky clock?

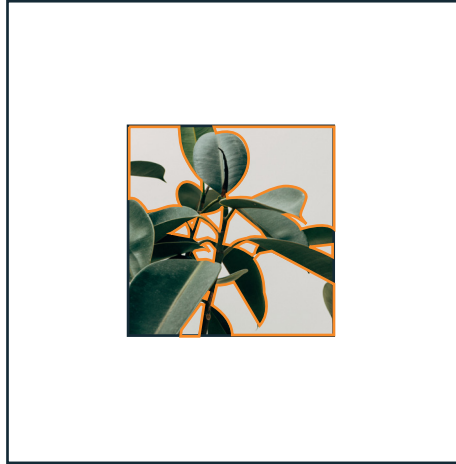
### Mirroring

Find a mirror and use your reflection or part-reflection to play with simple hand and body actions as symmetrical patterns. Draw or note shapes or ideas that take your interest.

### Give thanks

Spend some time alone outdoors or near a window. List three joys you have experienced today or things you are grateful for in the moment. It will be different each time you do this.

## Negative Spaces



Use the viewfinder in the resource pack to frame an outside view. Keep looking up and then down at your page to draw the framed view by marking only the spaces between objects, trees or houses.



The process uses what artists call, 'negative space' to build the picture.

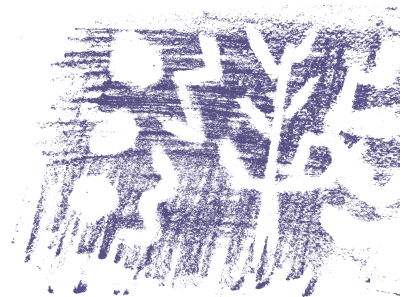
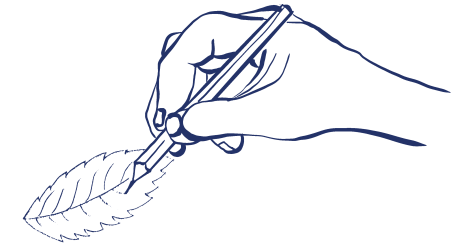
## Shading and Relief

Working with prints is interesting, like an echo of a voice.

Making heavy marks with your pencil, you can then work into the indents on the page beneath.

Experiment with shading onto and around the dented marks and see what textures and hidden depths you can reveal, or you might just explore create something new from the suggestion of shape or pattern.

You can also create a large shaded area, then erase lines to 'draw' a tree, animal or shape.



### Artist Tip:

The putty rubber is soft, so you can squeeze it to make a small point for fine lines or into a ball to dab onto the page and twist to make little circles.