Sustainable Play: Upcycled Alphabet Daily Practice with Suzy Ultman

Chapter 1 - Sustainable Play: Upcycled Alphabet Daily Practice

Overview

- I'm Suzy Ultman I'm an illustrator, toy maker, storyteller. (Suzy laughs) (bright whimsical music) Do you like to play? I like to play every day, and I'm so excited that we get to play together. I'm Suzy Ultman. I'm an illustrator, toy maker, and storyteller. Join me for my class Upcycled Alphabet Daily Practice. You get to take cereal boxes and cracker boxes from your house, and cut them into the entire alphabet from A to Z. This class is fun for all ages, from really teeny kids to adults. Throughout the month, we'll be painting letters. We'll be using pens. We even get to use some fun pom-poms. And the theme that we'll run throughout is that we're using materials that we have around the house. You can use this project to create a single alphabet or you can create words like your name, peace and love. Anything that comes to mind. Again, use your imagination and play. (bright whimsical music)

Materials

- Here are the materials for the class. First, we're gonna start with the cereal boxes. You can use cereal boxes or cracker boxes. You'll need about seven to eight to create the entire alphabet from A to Z. Next, you're gonna have your templates. You'll print these out and you'll use those to cut out the cereal boxes. And we have a color printout from A to Z that you can use to inspire your alphabet. So next we get to the fun stuff, all of the coloring tools. Now for this project you can pick what you feel most comfortable with. We've got these fun, really thick paint daubers. Those are great for small hands that just wanna get color down really quickly. We've got paints, your palette, brushes. You wanna make sure you got some water on the side, scissors, glue for any little extra bits that you would wanna glue on like a pompom or a cut piece of paper. Erasers. We have another set of pens that are similar to the really thick pens. These are called Poscas, and they're also great for small hands to get color down really fast. Very important, you wanna have a pencil for drawing. And then your color pencils. I love these guys. Pens and a full jar of pompoms. And these are my favorite materials. But feel free to use your favorites. You might have googly eyes around the house or bigger pom-poms, yarn, string. Anything that makes you happy, go for it and just make these colorful and fun.

Day 1 - A is for Apple

- I'm so excited we're gonna start making our alphabet. We're beginning with letter A. It's at the beginning of the alphabet. But for every letter, you'll basically be starting with the same practice. You'll have to cut your box down and then your template. I broke down my box. I cut off the edges. Now, I like to keep the scraps because I can use them for other projects. Maybe some of the small ones get recycled. Throw those off to the side. But I'll make a pile of my other sides. So just keep cutting around the entire box. You'll be able to get about four letters out of one average size cereal box, which is great. And then what I do is I cut the centerpiece out. All right. Now we are ready for the template. So we have A and B on our first template. So just take your time and cut around the edges. Make sure if you're not used to cutting with scissors, if you're young, that you've got a parent helping you out who's gonna make sure we're safe with scissors. I've been doing this for a long time, so I'm a fairly speedy cutter. But you take your time. Everybody goes at their own pace. That's the

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fun of making, is you get to go at your own pace when you do things. I do love cutting. It's like one of my favorite things to do, is to just cut things. All right, put that in our recycle pile. Take our A, and I'm going to suggest that you kind of cut as closely as possible to that A. And take your extra piece of cardboard and put that off to the side. Okay, now we've got our template we can trace. This is fun too, I do like to trace. Woo-hoo! Now, when I create things, I try and make them bubbly and easy to trace. There's no wrong way to do it. If your line kind of falls off of the template, that's cool, 'cause you're gonna paint it it afterwards, you're gonna cut it, it's gonna look fantastic. So then you have a nice template. Before you cut really close, like the exact template shape, what I like to do is just kinda get in there and cut around it. The cereal box cardboard is so nice to work with, it's pretty flexible, but this just makes it that much easier when you're getting into the corners and cutting. So now we're gonna cut around our line. And again, take your time. Always cut away from yourself. Nice bubbly shape. We're making an apple. Lots of other things that start with a letter A. I think I must be hungry today 'cause I'm thinking of avocado, but now I'm thinking about ants. There are two kinds of ants. There are the ants that like picnics and the aunts that come and visit that are part of your family. Now we've got your template cut out. You can look at the A to Z printout from the PDF and check out what I've drawn. Now, this is the fun part. So I'm gonna draw the interior of the A and I'm gonna create what you see on the template. But you can always go off and create your own idea of what an apple can look like. And I'm gonna show you some examples later of different paths you can take with this. But I love when people use their own creativity when I can give them a little inspiration and they can go off on their own. So you can follow my work exactly or you can go off in your own direction. Now, what I did here is I continued the leaf so that you have something to guide you. So now we've got to create a red apple. So, what should we start with? I've got several options. I can use a pen, a marker. These are the acrylic POSCA pens. We've got these Pop squeezable markers. I'm gonna use my paint because I love working with paint. I'm gonna put a piece of paper under this because I like to get messy. I think this will do. If you're working at a table at home and you don't have a parent around and you're working at a good table, make sure you put a piece of paper underneath so that you can get nice and messy and you don't stain the table. When I was young, when I was a little girl, I had a little craft, a teeny-tiny little craft table that my mom put a laminated paper on so she could wipe it up really easily, but not everybody has something like that. So you just wanna make sure that your table is protected. So I am just painting in our apple area. And you can see I just kinda went inside my line. The painting should be fun and just get close to the lines, but if it's not perfect, it's okay. I've got a nice big brush, so it holds a nice, like lots of paint. We'll do other painting where we have to get, we have to use smaller brushes because we're doing smaller lines or we might use a color pencil. But for something like this, you want a nice big brush so you can just lay down that paint. And you'll see once the cardboard dries that it takes up the paint really nicely. I'm very excited 'cause we get to put a little face in the middle of this apple and I do like to put faces on things. You might decide you wanna put seeds in the middle of your apple or maybe even a little worm inside your apple. I think, though, for today I'm gonna put some eyeballs in there. Okay. So sometimes I need to let this dry for a bit of time, but I'm gonna use the magic of putting down another color next to it while the red dries and see if it doesn't catch up. It's so much fun to see it coming together. So I'm gonna stick my finger right here in the middle of the apple just to hold it down a little bit and then I'm gonna start putting my green down. I chose kind of a minty green. I like to go a little bit lighter 'cause then I can put the little middle stem in, but you can use a dark green. You could even use yellow if you wanted to and then add little green touches. But I do like this minty green with the, actually minty or maybe, yeah,

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maybe toothpaste mint is what it's reminding me of today. So when I draw a face, I like to do it in pencil first. It just helps me get an idea of where we're putting it. You might wanna let your guy dry for a minute. So I'm gonna use a heat gun to dry it off. But a super handy tip. When I'm at home, I actually just use my hair dryer and it only takes about 30 seconds to a minute to dry this thing off. All right, now I can draw the face. My favorite part. So there are so many different ways you can draw the face. On the printout, I have a very simple little face. And if you're comfortable just doing that, you can do that. My apple is looking off to the side. He's like, what is up? Little nose, little smile. Well, I've got my pencil in hand, I'm just gonna pencil in a little leaf spot. All right. So I'm just gonna use a pen for the eyeballs. Draw those in there. Sometimes on the cardboard, you have to give it, with any sort of marker, a couple little passovers to get it to really fill in, it wants to soak in all of that wonderful ink. And then I'm gonna do something kind of fun. Just gonna give him a little red nose for our apple. All right, and while I've got my teeny-tiny paintbrush out, I'm gonna add some pattern to the apple. And I wanna go on with some color, so make it pink. I'm gonna make some nice little lines. This is a pattern that I enjoy making. It doesn't really mean anything. We don't necessarily see lines on apples, but I like to break everything down very geometrically. It's kind of how my mind sees stuff. So when I think about little shine on an apple, I think about these little glistening kind of strokes. So I guess it does mean something in my mind. And as I talked about before, they don't have to be perfect. It's actually more fun if they're kind of a little wonky. It gives your letter more personality if they're wonky. And if you feel like it, you can use the same color and give your apple some cheeks. If you are painting, I find that it's really helpful to have the brush that's the right size of things you wanna do. So make sure if you're doing fine painting, you've got a teeny brush, if you're doing big painting, you've got a big brush, or it's gonna take you forever to. If you're using the teeny brush to paint the whole apple, that would take you, oh my gosh, all day. So just make sure you've got a couple good brushes on hand. And finally we've got the leaf part of the apple. So I'm gonna use pencil for that. I do this funny thing all the time where I kind of get my pencil started and then. Gonna color that in, give that some color. Sometimes color pencils work nicely with a little water too if you're trying to get a heavier color or if they're not sticking to your paint well. So I just dip mine in water. All right. We have our first letter, the letter A. Take our paper out. And there it is. I've got some examples of other As. As I mentioned before, you can follow exactly what I do or you can go off on your own path. I love the idea of exploring your own voice and trying other things. You could do this A in an infinite number of ways. We talked about adding the little line pattern to this A. Here's a line pattern, but it's very different. So you can see just totally change up the look of the A with a new pattern. And speaking of patterns. On this A, I just put a whole bunch of smaller apples. I thought it'd be really fun to create an A that had a bunch of words that started with A. This is great for just exploring your vocabulary, for kids that love words, to hang up in a classroom, to hang up in your bedroom. If your name starts with an A, you could put that in it. You can see you've got everything from art to avocado, which I mentioned before. Ascot, that's almost like a tie that you wear around your neck. Not a bow tie, but a scarf, tie thing that you wear around your neck. Alligator, anchor. And that's just a really fun way to explore the letter. And then finally, I've got an A from my friend Chloe. She's nine years old. And we had a craft date together and she made this A alongside myself. So lots of different ways to explore the same exact letter A. I can't wait to see what you do.

Day 2 - B is for Burger

- I'm back with the letter B. I've precut my stencil. If you did the letter A, you'll remember that we

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printed out a PDF, and then we cut it out. So, here's our letter B, and I have leftover cardboard from our letter A. So, I'd cut out the cereal box, got my cardboard, got my template, and I am going to trace my B onto my cardboard. Got my pencil and I'm gonna start tracing. I'm very excited because for the B today, we are going to make a burger, and I do love a good burger. I like making them with my kids at home. And then we get to pick a lot of different condiments which we're gonna put on here. So, I've traced the letter B, and now we're gonna just trim around the sides, so that cutting's much easier when we need to cut along the outline. Just got that trimmed. Gonna recycle our leftover bits. Now, we're cutting along the outline. My favorite thing to put on burgers are the pickles which we will get into drawing in just a bit. Whenever I go to a new grocery store or a new town, if I can, I try to see if they've got special pickles that I can put onto my sandwiches and burgers. Okay. So, we've got that trimmed out. Now, we're gonna draw in our little circles so that it looks like a B. Now, I do love the entire alphabet, but I have to say that this is probably one of my favorite letters to draw. I do love this burger. We're going to put our patty in first. The top part of the B will be the top bun. The bottom part of the B will be the bottom bun. And here, I'm gonna draw some lettuce. I do love a little crispy lettuce on my burger. So, I'm gonna get a piece of paper to put under my B so I can make a mess while I'm painting and not worry about the table. Okay, I've got my nice big brush. Got a little water on it. I'm gonna get a bright yellow and start painting in my bun. Usually, we bake buns. But today, we are painting a bun. One thing that's really helpful when... you're painting... a project is to do the colors in stages, so that they can dry while you're working on the other color. We did the top bun, so now we're gonna do our bottom bun, and that way, our yellow can dry while we're working on the other parts of our burger. I've had hamburgers on English muffins. I've had hamburgers inside pita pockets. I know that sounds kind of weird but when you don't have other bread in the house, you'll kind of put 'em on anything. Now, if you don't feel comfortable painting, you can absolutely use markers. Your colors might just not be as bright. My hope is that this project, the painting is pretty straightforward that it'll encourage you and your friends to pick up a paintbrush and paint if you've never painted before, or if it feels like something that's a little intimidating because I do love to paint. It's very, very soothing. And fun. Okay. So, we've got our bun in place. Now, we're gonna paint the patty with pink. I know that hamburger patties are usually a little bit darker than pink, but I'm using my imagination and this will allow me to put a bunch of condiments on there like ketchup and mustard and pickles. If I make it too dark, it'll be a little bit harder to draw on top of. So, we've got our patty. And I'm gonna put some lettuce in there. Got my green for my lettuce. And you can see that I'm using my big brush for everything. So, my paints are still a little bit wet. I think what I'm gonna do is I'm going to pause and use my dryer to dry the paints. If you're at home, use your blow dryer to do that. It'll just make things go a little bit more smoothly as you paint along. Sometimes, everything is dry by the time you go to put the next color in, but sometimes not so much. Now, I know some people don't like lettuce on their sandwiches. My son is one of those people. He does not like any what he calls salad on his sandwiches. He just likes cheese and some type of patty. So, we have to find other sneaky ways to get him vegetables. It's always interesting painting upside down. Then when you turn it right side up to yourself, it looks slightly different. So, I'm gonna put a little more. I think the lettuce coming out a little bit. Now, for the fun part we get to add our tomatoes, cheese, pickles, ketchup, whatever is your favorite. I'm gonna draw in what I wanna, just kind of sketch in really quickly what I'd like to put in as condiments. So, I'm gonna put in some ketchup. It's gonna be my wavy ketchup, maybe some mustard with that. I think, next, I think we'll put tomatoes down here 'cause we've got that really dark green lettuce. So, the red will break up that green. And then we gotta have our pickles. So, I'll

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put some pickles here. So, I'm gonna go in with my handy-dandy acrylic pen. They make really nice wavy shapes. They're really great to use for details like this. My green's a little wet, so I'm turning this upside down again so I don't smear it all over the place. I feel like you cannot ever have too much ketchup. What's nice about having the paint underneath is it holds the ink really nicely. I'm gonna keep that out 'cause I'll probably use that for my tomatoes as well. Let's see, mustard. I think I'm gonna go back to my paint because a marker won't quite get as yellow as actual mustard. This might not either. We'll see. I think I'm gonna switch colors. So, I'm just going to a darker yellow. Got some water on my paintbrush that wants to... make things difficult for me. There we go. I see mustard and ketchup in these little waves but you might see it as a straight line. You can add your condiments the way that you envision them. All right. Pickles, my favorite. Get to go for a nice green. When I was little, my dad used to take me to a spot where he grew up called the "Pickle Barrel" and they had all different types of pickles in barrels. It was in Chicago. And I remember it was so much fun picking out your pickles. All right, got some pickles. Now, for the tomatoes. There's still one more step after this. I really enjoy doing...okay, We got our tomatoes. Not everybody loves a tomato on a hamburger. They can be kind of slippery and funny. But I do love a tomato I think it goes nicely with the lettuce and the pickles. I left a little bit uncolored. You can see the pink coming through. And I did that to make it look like there's a little bit of an edge, some dimension to the tomato. Then finally, I'm gonna dry this again really quickly 'cause we're gonna add sesame seeds, and I can see that some of the paint, the yellow paints still a little bit wet. When you're working with the heat gun, watch out for your fingers because the heat gun and a blow dryer can get very hot. And the back of the cereal boxes, they're laminated with ink, and the reaction between the heat and that ink can get very, very hot. So, just watch your fingers as you're using the equipment. So, now, for the final step we're gonna put on our sesame seeds. And those are just little black dots. Well, I guess they're more like ovoid. A sesame seed is a little oval thing. This part can take a little bit of time, but it's worth it. And then you've got your burger. Now, I also made a burger with my friend Chloe and this is her burger. So, you can have a burger with a friend.

Day 3 - C is for Cat

- It's time to create a cat. I've already printed out my PDF, cut out my stencil, traced it onto my cardboard, and I've got my lovely letter C. So we're gonna start decorating it. You can see the little ears. Let's go. We're gonna start by putting a nice thick layer of pink paint down on this kitty cat. Got our big brush and I'm just gonna go for it. I actually might need to get more pink paint on my palette for this cutie. What I like about this letter and the cat is that it almost feels like it does form the shape of a cat. We've got like our tail down here, got our head up here. Oh, I do need more paint. Shake it up, squirt it out. And I'm using craft paints that are very, very reasonable to purchase. These aren't artist paints, they're craft paints made for the projects that we're doing. Okay. Look at that cat. Now you'll see your little fingerprint there. That's okay. Can tidy it up now or later. Then I'm gonna rinse my brush out. An important tip with your brushes if you want them to last longer, is to not leave them sitting in water. You wanna always take, rinse 'em off and take them out of your water. We're gonna blast this kitty with some heat. (heater whirring) All right. Now I didn't dry off the whole thing. Bottom half's gonna be a little bit wet. I might get paint on my hands. It's not fun to create unless you're getting a little bit messy. All right, so put the little lines in for the cat ears. I do like to pencil things in before I start painting, and I usually start with the nose, because that's central to the face. It helps me get an idea of where I'm gonna put my eyes. And a kitty mouth. And I don't have this printed out in the PDF, but I'm gonna give this little kitty a bow tie and some cheeks. So

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I've got a really pretty blue on my palette that I'm gonna use for the eyes. If you want to, it is much easier to use markers or pens. You can use markers. Sometimes the paints, it's a little bit better on the other paint. That's why I like to use paint. But I've also been doing this for a really long time, so it goes a little bit faster for me. If you haven't been doing this for as long, or if you're working with little kids or you are a little kid, you can always use pens. The nose, the mouth. All right. So for the cheeks, I'm gonna use this pen. We talked about using pens. You can see how nicely these go down. Also, everything I'm using is water-soluble, so it comes out of clothes. It does also come out of tables, but it takes a little bit of scrubbing. I have gotten it on my table before. All right, I think I'm gonna make the bow tie blue as well. Our kitty is dressed and ready to go. And my friend Chloe made two special Cs. So here's my kitty, and here's Chloe's kitty. She used glitter. And then also since Chloe's name starts with the letter C, I asked her to make a C that was her very own self-portrait, and that's another way you can approach the letters. So here's Chloe's letter C. That's Chloe, and she loves to paint, and she plays basketball, so she put little drawings on her C that represent her. Have as much fun making your Cs as Chloe had making hers.

Day 4 - D is for Dog
- For the letter D, we're gonna make a dog. It's gonna be super cute with a giant big tongue. Usually in a letter D you have a center part here. Instead of drawing that, we're gonna draw our dog's tongue. 5 00:00:16,950 --> 00:00:16,980 Ah, that's so cute. And then the dog's nose and eyeballs. So you can make your dog, any kind of any color. 'cause dogs come a bunch of different colors. I am making a brown dog gonna lay on that paint all over the whole letter D. Sometimes when you're painting with across cardboard, the paint can get kind of what I would call sticky. So I'll add a little bit of water to my paintbrush so that I can get the paint to flow better across the cardboard. Now I'm coming across the tongue. Do your best to stay on your pencil lines. If you go a little bit off, it's fine. All right. I'm gonna do bottom half of my dog. I'm leaving the face for last because it's a little bit more detailed. I might actually switch brushes for that. All right, there we go. Got our whole dog painted. I'm kind of stroking it back again 'cause it's such, it's such a big amount of color coverage that I'm just making sure it's laid down nice and evenly. I am actually gonna go to a smaller brush because that's a really tight area. This one happens to be a number six and dabbing it with a little bit of water so that my paint flows. I'm putting my finger here 'cause just to press down this, this cardboard and I'm painting it right around the eyeballs. So much easier with a smaller brush. I'll call this my medium brush. My big brush was a 10 and this one is a six. The teeny one is just a teeny one. That's about how technical I get when I'm working on craft projects. Okay, so we've got our dog nicely painted. Now we're gonna do the tongue and I think I'm gonna keep my medium brush. I like the way it feels and I'm gonna have to work right up against that brown. I'm not going to dry the paint. I think I can work nicely with the two paints side by side. It nothing's bleeding. If you feel like it's not dry enough, then take a moment and just hit it with some hot air. Look how nicely that goes down. Now finally, I'm gonna do the eyeballs. So you'll see with this one we did something we haven't done yet, which is we left some open spaces because if I would've put brown on the whole thing and then tried to paint over with a lighter pink, it would've changed the color of the pink. We could have painted over the eyeballs with the black pen, but it's just still slightly easier to do it this way. It'll give us just a better area for the, for the pen to sit. I am gonna hit mine with a little bit of heat before I add the pen. Gonna hold it down again with my finger. Keep it nice and flat. This is a double sided pen. It's got a point on one side and a brush on the other. And I'm actually going to use the brush side 'cause it helps me fill in a lot faster. You could get yourself a thicker pen. The next

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step will be to put the fur on the dog. I'm gonna use a dark brown and I am gonna use my medium brush again. So I got a medium brush. Gonna poke around a little bit of the dark brown. Oh wow, that looks kind of light, doesn't it? I don't think that's gonna work. So we're gonna go to plan B, which I could use my black pen, but since I started with paint, I'll show you some black paint. You can absolutely use a black pen for this. Let's put a little bit of black paint down. What I'm doing right now with my paint is essentially what a brush pen does for you. So if you have a brush pen, you can use that. But I'm gonna give the dog a little bit of fur here. All right. And then we have a little dog. Maybe even take him out for a walk.

Day 5 - E is for Eye

- Are you excited for the letter E? I can't wait to make it. I've cut my letter out of a cereal box and it's time to get drawing. We know E is for elephant. It's for that funny looking vegetable eggplant. It's for beautiful green emeralds and it's also for our eyes. So we're gonna make an E for eyes. First we start by drawing a nice big eye in the top of our E and our eye has a special rainbow effect on the world. That's how we're gonna paint it, the way that we see things. So if you look at your PDF printout, you'll see that your eye has a nice rainbow emanating from it. Now we're gonna draw the rainbow lines on our E and that will help guide where we're going to add our paint. What's helpful to look at is you can put the center part coming right down in the eyeball area. All right, drawing the rays coming out of here. They veer kind of to the left on one side and now they're coming to the right on the other side. All right, so now we have our lines where we're gonna do our painting. I'm gonna start with the lightest color. That's usually how one works when they're painting. You don't have to do things that way, but for this it will, I think it'll make our lives a little easier as we go through this process. I am working with my medium brush for this. I'm gonna need a little more paint. It's getting kinda sticky. If your paint feels sticky and it's dried out, you can spray it with some water. Mine's actually getting kind of low so I'm gonna add a little more yellow to my palette. There we go. Now it's kind of fun here, since we're starting with our lightest color with our yellow, I'm gonna put a black eyeball so if you go in that line you can cover it up with black later on. And the inspiration for this eye came just me thinking about seeing the world in really positive, bright rainbowy colors. There's some days that don't feel quite like that, but if you can kind of imagine that, even on those days it is helpful. Now we're gonna work our way in. Actually, I'm gonna change my mind. We're gonna work our way out. We're gonna start from the center and go outward. I think it'll keep our hands cleaner. We're gonna start with one of my favorite colors, the hot pink. I love this color. I love to work with pinks. So hot pink for the center of our eye. Now you can change up the colors of this rainbow . If you like a more traditional rainbow, if you wanna do red, green, and blue, you could do that. You can pick whatever colors you want for your rainbow. This is just my suggested Suzy colors. These are the colors that spoke to me. I can already feel the happiness coming from this eyeball. Look how awesome that pink color is. And next we've got our red. I like to do it kind of like a coloring book. I like to start on the outside lines first and then color my way in. And you can use markers for this project too if you're more comfortable with markers. Gonna give myself a little more red. When I push up my glasses I mean serious business. This is fun. It does feel like a coloring book project to stay between the lines that you drew. Okay, now I like to do all my same colors at the same time so I'm gonna do my other red. But you might be somebody who would prefer to do like finish out your rainbow on this side. I don't know. Everybody works a little bit differently. Hm, I think for me, I need to turn it upside down. Okay, I'm not sure where to put my fingers so I'm just gonna hold it like this. Don't worry about getting your fingers messy, getting paint

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on them if things aren't dry. Just be cautious about your clothes. Like I said, all this stuff washes out, but the darker colors might make a stain. So just after your painting, make sure you go wash your hands. I always have to remind myself of that. I tend to wipe my hands on my pants every time I'm done with something. I do that when I'm baking too. I just wipe my hands on my clothes. Can start to see the rainbow coming together. Now I realize that I made a mistake. So even I make mistakes. I make them all the time. We're not balanced here. We've got pink, red, red and then I had add an extra stripy thing here. So I'm just gonna erase that because it might show through on the paint. Don't necessarily have to erase it, but help us out in the long run. All right, onto the blue. And you almost get a full rainbow with the eyeball being yellow. The only rainbow color we're missing will be green. If you wanted you could add another stripe into this. You wanna take your time around the eyeball. That might be one area that's a little bit more fussy 'cause it's got a little bit of a curve to it. Everything else is really easy to just straight lines and just paint in your color and have fun with it. Now, before I fill in the eyeball, I'm gonna give it a little bit of heat. You can see how the cardboard gets a little bendy with the heat and they might do that when they dry. You can kind of just bend it back. It's really easy and flexible to work with. All right, so now we're gonna do our eyeball. This is where I love the brush marker. It's super fun to work with 'cause you can just, well first I'll do the eyeball. I love the feel of the brush marker. Makes me really happy. And then we're gonna do our eyelid. And I'm just kind of outlining with for now. I'm gonna thicken this up a bit so you can see the eyelid. And I kind of wanna close off this area down here. I feel like there's a little bit of a gap. And we've got our eyeball. See you later. (chuckling) Get it?

Day 6 - F is for Flower

- Get ready for a super fun time. F. We're gonna paint a lovely flower on this letter. I'm gonna start by putting a pink base on my F. As I've mentioned before, you can pick a different color, whatever your favorite color is. If you are sticking with all of my colors, if you look at the printed out PDF, I did put some work into how all the letters fit together. So just keep that in mind if you wanna follow all of my colors. But if you wanna go on your own path with your colors, then you'll just be surprised at the end when you put the alphabet together and see how they all fit. We are gonna put a tulip on this whole entire F, so I'm going to give this some heat before I draw my tulip on here. Now, I chose a tulip because I lived in Amsterdam for three years, and they grow a lot of tulips there. They have a really famous tulip festival called Keukenhof where there are just fields and fields of tulip gardens and it's beautiful. So tulips quickly became one of my favorite flowers when I lived in Amsterdam. But I think it would be really cool to see your favorite flower. It'd be even neater to see like a whole bunch of these F's with a lot of different people's favorite flowers painted on them. I've drawn my tulip. It's kind of fun to put the leaves like going into the F and around the F. And now I'm going to paint my tulip. I'm using my medium brush again. Gonna scoot my other tools over to the side there. And then fill in the pencil. All right, I'm gonna do the stem next. Oh, kind of went out of my zone there. And now for the leaves. And there you have it. Here's your fabulous flower.

Day 7 - G is for Goose

- Next we're gonna make a glorious goose. This goose is really fun to make. It's a little bit like our cat, where it's going to be in the shape of a goose. So we're gonna start with a off-white color. You can make it white too, but I'm gonna make this goose a little off-white, and I'm gonna go to my big brush to lay down a whole bunch of off-white paint. We're not gonna paint the beak. So first, actually, I'm gonna go back and draw just like a little mark for myself so I remember not to paint the

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beak. You don't have to draw that mark, but it's a good reminder. Look at that cute, little goose. Okay, I'm gonna give it some heat. We've talked about penciling in your eyeballs and all that stuff so I'm just gonna put it right there across from the beak. I'm gonna use my handy dandy brush pen. Color in my beak. That is fun to do. And then, I'm just gonna make some feather-like shapes, just like the fur on the dog, down the side. And there we go. Our G looks just like a goose.

Day 8 - H is for High Five

- I think you're gonna be head over heels for this H. It's super cute. It has teeny tiny little hands because we're saying hi with this H or high five. I just wanna mention that you need to be really careful cutting around these little fingers. So just do your best, follow the template and let's get rolling. For our little high five letter, we are going to draw the face first. We're doing something slightly different on this guy, in the sense that we're flooding the whole thing with a dark glue, so we really wanna make sure that we've got our face blocked out because we won't really be able to layer on top of the blue. I've got my blue paint now and I'm gonna start working on H. Ugh, those little fingers are so much fun to paint. Look at that. I'm gonna use a smaller brush around the face. So I'm just gonna kind of really quickly put on the paint up here. I'm gonna create like a little, looks like a little mask for our friend. Whoop, got awfully close there. Then I'll paint the legs, the other leg, and then I will use my medium brush. And paint around the face parts. If you're using a lighter color for the H, you can layer darker colors on top of it. But for this blue, if I try to paint even black on top of this blue, it'll just fall out. You won't really see it. It sticks a little bit more time, a little bit more patience, trying to get in all these little spots. And something else you could do, that would be a whole bunch of fun is you could put googly eyes on for the eyeballs. I think that would add a lot of spunk to this little character. I'm gonna use the the dryer to add some heat and you can see that my painting around all these areas, it's not perfect, but it's just to give me some space to create the cheeks with the red and the face with the black. I'm gonna do my face first and instead of the brush side I'm gonna use the marker side because it's a smaller, a smaller area. I need a little more control over my pen. Look at that, the H is smiling at us. Yay. And it looks like I need more red paint, so I'm gonna switch to the posca pen and see how this does. Oh wow. That's lovely. Look at that. That's so easy to make the cheeks. Now, we've got our happy high five friend. And for those of you that are nervous or can't cut these tiny little fingers, I have a second option for you. If you use the template and just go straight across the top, you can make a house do high five or house, it's your choice. Have fun.

Day 9 - I is for Ice Cream

- Are you ready to make some ice cream? We've got the letter I. Let's get started. I'm just going to draw in our ice cream lines. Here's our little cherry on top. Then I'm gonna grab myself some pink. I'm thinking that this is cotton candy ice cream. When I create these letters, I'm trying to have the shapes mimic the object or animal that we're talking about. So this is the letter I, and I want it to look like an ice cream cone. For the letter G, I want it to look like a goose. And I think the ice cream cone was the one that came the fastest to me because, an I actually does look like an ice cream cone. Hey, look at that! Cotton candy ice cream done, or maybe it's strawberry? So next, we are going to do the cone. We're doing the cone next, because I want that to dry before I put on the the cone details. I'm gonna grab some yellow with my big brush again. Now, I've got a very special pen that I'm gonna try for my cherry. It's called a dauber, and it's really easy for everybody to use because it just makes circles. So we're gonna try daubing out this cherry. Look at that, how fun! Got

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our fun little cherry on top. Thank you, dauber. I'm gonna put a little heat on it 'cause it looks like it's not quite dry. If I wanna add some detail, it's gonna all bleed everywhere. So an ice cream cone usually has some sort of waffly pattern on it. I'm just gonna draw some lines here. And if you want to, maybe that's where you stop. Maybe you just use your pencil and you draw some lines. I'm going to add another layer of color over the waffle lines. It's gonna go with my dark yellow. And I'm gonna take my little teeny brush, teeny-tiny brush. Then finally, you can add sprinkles, or your favorite topping to the ice cream cone. My dad called sprinkles, Jimmy's, and it could be 'cause his name is Jim, so he liked to use that term instead of sprinkles. This ice cream cone looks so good. I could almost take a bite.

Day 10 - J is for Jeans
- We are on J. And who out there likes to get dressed in the morning? Mm, I sometimes do. Well, we're gonna make some jeans that you will just love. To begin our joyful jeans, we are going to draw the head and I cuff my jeans. That means I roll them up at the bottom so I'm drawing my little cuff, and then a pocket. Here's our pocket. And just because I've got my pencil I'm gonna draw the little stitch lines on there. Ooh, I forgot something. We need to give our jeans a face so draw that face in there. Okey dokey. Now I'm gonna start with the light blue jean color first and my big brush, and I'll start up here at the cuff. We're gonna paint right around the pocket. Once that's done, you can just, ugh. So nice. Paint in the rest of the J. Easy peasy. All right, got it. Next, we are gonna do the head of our little person wearing jeans. They're in a bit of an awkward position because they're fit into a letter J, but we'll just imagine that that's the head and they're wearing their jeans. I'm gonna go a little kooky here and make a bright pink head. We did say that this was very, a very joyful J so we're making it super joyful here. Now, you don't have to paint around the face because we're gonna make the face. We're gonna use black pen for the face, so it will paint over the pink, so you don't have to be as cautious. I do draw on there so I have some kind of guideline for myself. These colors look nice together. Now I'm gonna switch to my medium brush and we're gonna go in with the blue, the darker blue for the cuff and the pocket. I'm not sure where I'm gonna hold this thing down. It's kind of wet everywhere. Now I am covering up those stitch marks with my blue paint, so I will have to just redraw them or keep a sense of where they are. My J curled a little bit, so I'm going to just flatten it and then draw in my face with my marker. Add a little nose, and then I'll switch to my brush so that I can fill in the eyeballs faster. There we go. Now, last but not least, I'm going to do the stitches. We need to go over that with the light green color. Again, I'm gonna get my small brush and dip it in some green and then I'm just eyeballing this and adding some stitches. Now that our J is dressed, it's ready for its day.

Day 11 - K is for Koala
- It's time to get crafty with the letter K. We are going to make a koala out of our K. If you've ever looked at a picture of a koala, they have a very distinctive nose. So I've drawn the nose. Like I mentioned before, usually when I start my faces, I usually like to start with the nose, because it's the central piece, and then you can draw everything around it. I've got my eyes, my little crafty koala smile, and some cheeks. This koala's going to be a brownish color. I'm going to get our big brush and lay down some brown koala. Now, you don't have to be perfect around this koala's face, because we're going to be adding black for the eyes, and that will work fine over the brown. Like I covered that one eye up. This one's sort of covered. I'm just going to gently go around the nose. Oops, just covered up the mouth, that's okay. We'll draw it in in black. Same thing with the cheeks.

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On some of these letters where you do a big flood of color, you might notice that there are little spots and you can fill them in later, you can leave them open. It depends on how you like your final piece to look. You'll notice as the cardboard dries, that it has a really, really nice look, and the paint tends to spread pretty evenly across the letter. I'll show you as I dry it, here you go. (dryer blowing) Okay, now back to our brush pen to do the nose. If you don't have a brush pen, you can use a big marker and a little marker. Did the eyes. I can still kind of see my mouth through there. I'm going to do the mouth. I'm going to give some pink cheeks to the koala. Now I'm trying something a little bit different. There's a little brown on that one, and there's not quite as much brown on this one, so we'll see how that works out. So it looks pretty nice. I don't think you can really tell a difference on either one. Now, this doesn't work for every color that's why sometimes I have you block out the cheeks, but for certain paints in the same color range, it does work. And your happy koala is done and ready to go home with you.

Day 12 - L is for Lemon

- Things are getting juicy. We're gonna make a lemon out of this L. As we start our lemon, we're gonna draw where the leaf starts and stops. And I'm gonna try something a little bit different than we have on the PDF. I'm going to add in the half circle that we see with lemons when we cut them into slices. So I'm gonna add that right there. And then our seeds. One, two, three. First, we start with our nice, bright lemony yellow color and our big brush. My favorite. Oh, sorry I shouldn't have favorites with my brushes, right? We don't want anyone to feel bad. But I do love laying down a lot of color. All right. If you get the paint around the half circle, then you can just go wild and throw down the rest of that paint on the L. For the inside of our lemon squeezy, I'm gonna use a dark yellow, and I'm gonna paint over those seeds. They're just there for me to see under the outline underneath. If you look really close, you can still see your outlines under the paint and use them as a guide. If you want to, you can redraw, but I can still see mine well enough. And now we will paint the leaf. I've got my medium brush. It might be a little bit easier with a large brush, but I've already got my medium brush in my hands, so I'm just using that for now. And we are working in a slightly tighter spot. This is definitely gonna need to be dried off before I paint the next parts. Rinsing out my brush. You wanna make sure you thoroughly rinse your brushes between colors, or they'll pick up the color from the previous paint. So let's do the seeds. Hmm, I think I'm gonna stick with my medium brush. I'm gonna go for my dark green. And as soon as I put it down, I feel like my medium brush is just too big for that job. So I am going to get a little bit more green. My other green is sort of drying up as well, which is making it hard to paint with. Getting a little more green and the smaller brush. I'll try it again. There we go. All right. And I'm gonna put finally a couple little textural marks on the leaf using my small brush. You could also put one big line, like we did way back when we started with our apple. Ready to make some lemonade with your L.

Day 13 - M is for Monster

- Are you ready to create your own little monster? Let's get started. With this monster M, you could let your imagination run wild, and whatever you see in your head as a monster, just draw it and start painting, coloring, adding googly eyes, whatever you want. For today's class, I'm gonna draw the monster that popped into my head when I was creating this alphabet. It's a very happy monster. Like I've talked about before, I like to do the nose first. Here's our happy little monster smile. And then I gave my monster these big starburst-y eyes. Maybe it's a rockstar monster, I don't know. I'm not sure where this monster came from in my imagination. It's just what I saw when I closed my

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eyes. These might be the biggest eyeballs we draw for this entire alphabet. It's a wide-eyed monster. I'm bringing out a new color. For my monster, I'm gonna use some gray, and gray doesn't have to be gloomy. I'm mixing the gray with bright pink. One of my favorite books as a kid was "Where the Wild Things Are," and it's about a young boy that goes off in the middle of the night and ends up hanging out with a bunch of wild things, maybe monsters, and they all have different personalities. So I think your monster's personality should match you and what you're feeling that day. Don't be afraid of trying something a little more challenging or new. That's how you start to learn how to use your brushes or your pens, whatever it is that you're working with. Now I get to just paint big areas, yay. That's fun too. We'll fix that, the mouth, when we paint over it. Okay, not bad. This is probably the most complicated painting we've done so far in the alphabet, partly because of all the little nooks and crannies around the eye starbursts. And now we're gonna paint a more complicated eye. So just if you can follow along with it, great. If not, you're creating your own monster and that is just as awesome. All right, now we're gonna start on the eyes. I'm gonna use my small paintbrush and go in with my, I'm gonna use green. And this is the challenging part. It definitely took me a while to learn to paint curves well. (laughs) As you go in a circle with a paintbrush, it gets a little trickier. Just do your best. You can always move the letter to go with the way your hand wants to go. If you have paint pens at home, that is a much easier route. The color just might not pop as much. The cardboard really likes to suck in the ink from the paint pens. Okay, now onto eyeball number two. So one thing I am looking at is how I drew that line and kind of matching up the two eyeball lines so our monster looks like it's looking the same direction. Oh, and the nose and the mouth. We'll do that while we've got our green out. There we go. Sometimes if you put too much water on your paintbrush, it doesn't really wanna play with the other paint. So now for the final step, we're gonna color in the starburst. So I'm gonna use the dryer one more time to make sure our eyeballs are totally dry. Talking about the monster eyeballs, not our eyeballs. Now, you could just leave it like this and be done if this next part looks too tricky. I am gonna use my small brush? Question mark. We'll see how this goes. So I'm gonna put pink into the starburst area. I like to work pretty quickly and have fun while I'm painting, so even for me, this is a little tedious, like to have to go in and be like really careful and make sure I'm staying in the lines. But it's good practice for me too to take my time and work that muscle. When you're doing the the painting around the eye, it does sort of help to do it in sections. Now, the very last part is going into the inner eyeball to paint it. This is just a place where you wanna be careful. And the bright pinks are fun. They really brighten up as they dry. And there we have it, a super happy fun time monster.

Day 14 - N is for Notebook

- Now it's time for N. This little cardboard N, we are gonna make a piece of notebook paper. This is one of my favorite designs. I loved creating it. I love making it. I'm just gonna start by drawing out our design. We've got the lines of notebook paper. Put one, two, three, they're about an inch apart. If this were real notebook paper, they would be very exact. But this is not real notebook paper, so we are just eyeballing it. Awesome. And then on the side of the notebook, we've got the red border. It's usually two red lines. Then we draw three holes so we can put it into our three-ring binder. I'm gonna use my off-white. You can use white as well. I like off-white. Just a little bit softer. And the big brush. Since the paint color's so light, the off-white or white, we can lay that over the pencil marks and you'll see the pencil from underneath when it's time to add the next color. So I've got my off-white paint. And just paint your whole N. And then put some heat on it. (heat gun whirring) And if you don't have a heat gun, you can use a blow dryer. And if you don't have either, just give it time

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to dry before you add your details on top. As I look at it, I actually am having sort of a hard time seeing the lines that I drew. I thought I was gonna be able to see them, but this paint was too heavy and I can't see it. I can just about see them. I am going to draw my lines back over because it is very, very helpful to have them as you're adding the details. And this happens sometimes. Different paints react differently with the cardboard. First, I'm going to start with my red, and I'm going to use one of these POSCA paint pens. And just paint right across. I just put down the wrong color. I was working really quickly, and the red is actually for the border on the side. One way you can fix this mistake is by, it might get a little messy, is take your paintbrush and make sure there isn't much water in it, 'cause the water will react with the pen and make the pen bleed. So get your paintbrush pretty dry. Get your white paint and then sort of dab it over that area. Now the next important step is, you have to let dry this completely. Because if you go to put another paint color on top, it will all bleed. So we're gonna make sure that's nice and dry before we add our blue. 'Cause notebooks have blue lines and red borders. So now we've got our blue on our small brush, and we can start drawing lines with confidence that it's the right color. A little bit of water on there. So you can see that it's like, it's not drawing the best line because the white isn't, well, it's just bumpy because I've got an extra layer of white under there. But once the whole piece is complete, it'll just make it extra charming. I'm getting all sorts of funny little doodads on my paintbrush. There we go. It might be from the white paint up there. The paint line itself doesn't have to be perfect, but if you're just trying to line 'em up, it's really great brush practice. Then I'm gonna make the little holes for the three-hole punch. We're gonna make those blue as well. So since we have blue on our brush, we're gonna continue with those. And as I mentioned, this one was a little strange looking. It wasn't quite super circular. That does happen, though. Sometimes when you put your paper in a three-hole punch, it gets a little bit torn. So maybe that's just a torn page. Okay. We wanna make sure that our paint is dry. Now we're gonna add our red. I'm gonna turn it because I didn't dry this side, and I don't wanna smear blue everywhere. So I'm gonna start on over here. Then I can keep my hand off of the letter while I'm painting these strokes. There we go. Now, there's some pencil marks that you can still see, since this is white, and if you want to, you can go back in and erase those, but I sometimes just keep them in 'cause I like seeing the pencil on there. Even with our little goof, this N looks pretty neat.

Day 15 - O is for Owl

- Oh my. It's O. (laughs) I adore birds, so I was very excited to do an owl for the letter O. We are gonna start again with the nose, which with our owl, that's a beak, right in the center. And then we're gonna give our bird giant eyes. I wish I'd be able to see more owls in the wilderness. I've mainly seen them at rescue centers. They're kind of hard to see out in our backyard, probably 'cause they usually come out at night when I'm asleep. All right, so we've got our owl eyeballs and beak. This is another one that we're painting in that dark blue. We wanna make sure we keep the eyes and the beak open to the cardboard so that we can paint with our other colors inside of those openings. I'm getting my blue and I am gonna use my big brush. I do find it easiest to paint around the eyes and beak first because then you can just have fun painting in the big empty spots without worrying about these fussy little areas. Owls have those big, beautiful eyes so they can see at night. That's when they go out to get their food, so they need to be able to see in the dark. Okay. I'm gonna give it a little bit of heat. You could probably just go and paint the yellow eyeballs next, but I think some heat will just help me stay neater as I work on the little owl here. (tool buzzing) Sometimes I forget I'm painting and I put my whole arm into the paint as I'm painting and then I smear it everywhere else. That's why I like to use the drying heat gun or blow dryer. It helps me stay a little bit neater.

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Next we're gonna go for the yellow eyes and I'm gonna use my medium brush for that. Now we're gonna use our pen to fill in the black. I think I'm gonna need to use the brush part of this, the brush pen. There are circles for the middle of the owl's eyes, the pupil, and I would like to give my owl some eyelashes. I drew them on, but you can't see them, so I'm going to pencil them in evenly on both sides. They're a little hard to see on the blue, but they still show up. I'm filling in the beak a little bit more around the edge here. There we have our owl.

Day 16 - P is for Panda

- Check out this P with cute little ears. We're gonna make a panda. Before I paint the P, I'm going to draw in the cute little ears and start with my panda nose, giving the this bear a cute little black nose and a smile. And then pandas have those big black furry spots around their eyes, so we're gonna draw those onto our P. And you can have fun with these shapes because it is fur so it's kind of an oval, it's kinda blobby. Just have fun drawing those. And we will be giving our panda some cheeks. And the body of the panda is down here. Gonna get my paints together. You can use white or off-white. I'm using off-white today, like I did for some of the other characters. And then we will also need some black for the nose and the fur around the eyes. I might use a pen for that, but I'm not sure if I'm gonna use pen or paint. And a little light pink for the cheeks. I am going to start with my big brush. Oh, I have two big brushes, so I'm gonna use this one. I tend to have favorite brushes. The more I work with a brush, my hand gets used to it and it just becomes like an extension of my arm. So putting down our off-white for the face or the head. And no need to draw around the pencil marks. They're just there as a guide for when we put down our other colors. We'll see, I know when we did the notebook, we had some issues with the pencil marks showing through. We'll see if it works this time. I'm gonna do the ears and the body because I'm super excited to be painting this little panda and I just wanna add all the little touches here. Sometimes I get so excited to paint, I don't wanna stop even though maybe I should. Like I got a little bit, can see there's a little bit of a bleed there, but that's okay. The most important thing is to just have fun with it. All right. Give it a little bit of heat. I'm not sure where I'm holding this yet. Put my finger there. All right, so I do think I have to draw over it. It's a little bit hard to see everything. I can see, I can see my nose and I can see the little smile. Oop, and the cheeks. So first I'm putting the stuff I can see that I drew, and then I can't actually see the eyes at all so I will redraw the eyes. And what's really awesome is I have a little fingerprint here, and I'm just gonna put an eye right over that so it will cover up my fingerprint. Okay, I think I'm gonna want my eyes to come in a little bit closer. You can make these decisions or as you're painting or as you're drawing. So let's do a mix of paint and pen maybe here. We're gonna get our black and do the eyes. I'm doing the top first, and then I'm gonna flip the panda and do the bottom part. Oops, and I got a little black speck there now. It's fun to work with such high contrast colors, but there's also the risk that you will get the paints all over each other. I'll show you an easy way to cover that up. All right, so the eyes are complete. I feel like this eye is slightly smaller. And one thing you'll notice about most animals and nature is that it is somewhat symmetrical. It doesn't have to be perfect, but just add a little bit there. I'm gonna cover up this little spot here where I went sort of outside of the line more than I like. Okay, let me use the pen for the mouth. I noticed as I'm painting here that where I penciled in the mouth was a little off center. So I'm gonna center my mouth here. And then, hmm, let's try a color pencil for the cheeks. We don't use color pencil much on these. I actually put a little water on it. Sometimes color pencils give you better color if you put water on them. Let's see how this works in here. It gives a different feel. It's just as cute and sweet, just not as bright maybe as the paint. It's very satisfying to color it in. All right, so now for the little

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spot over our panda's head. First, you wanna make sure that the spot is dry, which it is. And then I'm just gonna go back over it with my off-white paint. And done. This panda is ready to play.

Day 17 - Q is for Queen
- Today we're doing the letter Q, so make way for the queen. We are here with our queen, the letter Q. We're gonna start by drawing where the crown ends and then we're gonna draw the oval center of the Q and that is gonna be the queen's face. There we go. Really, that easy. First, we're going to paint that oval and you can use any color you like for the face. And then, next, we're gonna do the queen's crown and grab some yellow paint for that. Nice golden yellow. And I'm using my medium brush. And now we get to make the big pink body of the cue. This will be fun. I'm gonna probably use two brushes for this. I'm gonna start with my medium brush to paint around the face. Because it's such a tight area, I need more control with my paintbrush. I'm just creating a boundary or border around the face. There we go. And then once that's done, can grab your bigger brush and draw another little border there. And then just start painting. If you're trying to be super duper neat about all of this. One thing that's really nice about the cardboard is that when the paint dries, it doesn't really show the strokes, so it doesn't matter which direction you go you can go up and down, side to side and it'll dry really nicely and have a really nice clean look. Always tricky trying to figure out where to put your finger to hold things down when everything starts to get really wet. All right. Going back and just filling in. I want it to look really pink, so I'm just adding a little extra paint in some spots. There we go. Now, I'm going to put a little heat just on the face because if I put my hand down right now, I'm just gonna get paint all over it and make a huge mess. So I'm gonna give this whole thing a little heat. Now with this face, it's a pretty simple face. You can draw it in or you can just use a marker and go for it. I'm just gonna go for it. We've got two eyes for our queen and a nice big smile. And ta da, here's our queen.

Day 18 - R is for Rainbow
- It's rainbow time with the letter R. We're gonna draw a rainbow bursting across our letter R. First, we need to draw the little oval in the middle of the top of the R. And next, we're gonna draw our rainbow stripes. I like to start at the bottom as my guide down here, like at the little leg. So there's our first stripe. And maybe just give like a little bit of a space there. And then we'll draw our second stripe coming across our R. â™ª Do-do-do-do-do-do-do â™ª I'm not sure if we're gonna be able to get a space in there, but we'll draw the line anyway. And then we will draw our last stripe. Okay, now, you can use whatever colors you would like for your rainbow. I'm using yellow, my favorite bright pink, and green. And blue. We can't forget blue. Now we've got our blue. All right, and then a little bit of green. It looks so pretty on the palette. I think I want an outfit in those colors. Alright, so we are gonna start with the green. I'm gonna use my big brush first and go in and draw on this outline that we put on here and around the center of the R, just like that, and down the stripe. Whee! Then I think I'm gonna do the blue next. I was questioning whether I should start, I like to start lighter colors and go darker, but this R is its own thing, so we're gonna go down so we don't get our hands super-duper messy. Maybe just kinda messy. When I'm putting down two dark colors next to each other, I like to leave a little bit of the cardboard showing. It helps the colors pop off of the the cardboard background. Next, we're going for this beautiful bright pink. I like to take a little bit more time when I'm painting something that's long and curved. Again, it doesn't have to be perfect, but I like to move really fast when I'm painting, and I think it helps to take up just a little bit more time with this one so it looks like the rainbow's arcing over. It's also harder to paint curves

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than straight lines. And then finally, we've got our yellow. It looks really wet, so I'm just gonna give it a little bit of heat so we can see it dried. (dryer whirring) And there we go, we've got our own rainbow connection.

Day 19 - S is for Strawberry
- I am super excited for S. It's the first letter of some of my favorite words, like stars, snails, strawberries, and, well, me, Susie. We've got our strawberry S here, cut out with a stem. We're gonna finish off drawing the rest of the stem here. And that is the only drawing we are gonna do for our S because we're gonna add something fabulous today to our letter. We're going to add pom-poms. Super excited for those little squishy pom-poms. We've got green on our pallet. I'm gonna start with that and color in our stem. I love strawberry season. It means that it's getting warmer outside, and get to make strawberry pie and eat fresh fruit. So we're gonna make this really bright and happy for the warm summer strawberry season. Now we need some red. I'm gonna start with my medium brush because I've got some really tight little areas in there. Then I can switch to my big brush and paint the rest of the strawberry. Before I get to add my pom-poms, I need to dry the S. I think I'm gonna pick it up and point it that way. (hair dryer whirring) All right. You wanna make sure it's pretty dry before you stick those pom-poms on. Then get your glue. Make sure it's coming out at a good rate. Sometimes the glue blobs out, and sometimes it doesn't wanna come out at all, depending when you used it last and how clean the top is. Okay, so my glue's coming out okay. I think I'm gonna use about like 14 little pom-poms on here. So put 14 blobs where you wanna put the dots of your strawberry. Whoa, see, it's kind of blobby. You can put down more pom-poms or less pom-poms. I thought that 14 looked really nice. All right, then we just smoosh them down. And here we have our S. And something else you can do with your letters is that you can make a portrait letter. Since my name starts with an S, Susie, what I decided to do was make an S that resembled myself. Here's my Suzy S. If your name is Jack, you can make a J that looks like you. If your name is Becky, you can make a B that looks like you. And just have fun with it.

Day 20 - T is for Tree
- It's a T and it's also gonna be a tree. First up, we're gonna give our tree some leaves. It's pretty bare right now. We can put in a line here for this leaf up here, and then we're gonna add the leaves to the top of the tree. This is gonna be the tree trunk. Now our tree has some leaves. We are gonna start with the green leaves. I'm using my medium brush, because these have some detailed areas. And you can paint your leaves all one color if you want to. I think it's fun to make them different colors. I imagine this is a tree in the spring where everything's in bloom. You could use fall colors and paint a fall tree. And just for balance, we're gonna do one more green leaf. I'm gonna add the bright pink for a nice springtime look. Just a couple of those. And then I'm gonna add one more color. We'll add the blue just for a little fun. I know there aren't blue leaves, but if you think about maybe if you're looking at a spring tree at sunset, the colors start to shift and change. Now to color our tree. I'm gonna get my kind of aqua green color, and I'm going to stick with my medium brush. It's a pretty detailed area in here that we need to paint. It'd be fun to start with a trunk, that's the easy part, but I'm gonna start with this area first. If you're feeling nervous about all this painting, it might be helpful to let it dry first. You could paint the entire tree with the light color and paint the leaves on top, but it would change the color of the leaves. They wouldn't look quite the same. Doing it this way allows these colors to stay really bright. All right, now we get to do the trunk. I'm gonna switch to my big brush. And we have ourselves a beautiful bright tree.

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Day 21 - U is for Umbrella
- It's unbelievable U. To start our umbrella for letter U, we will draw an umbrella. Kinda over to the side here 'cause we wanna fit in some clouds as well. And I kind of like a rainy day, it's a nice time to just be inside, play games, maybe take a nap. We're gonna draw on some clouds. Can have fun with the cloud shapes. I feel like everybody has a different way they like to draw clouds, so you draw them the way you like to draw them. Gonna go backwards this time. We're gonna fill in the whole U, and we're gonna draw around all of our little lines. We're gonna use gray. The gray rainy day. And I got my medium brush. Gonna paint around my outlines here. And then fill in the rest of the U as you move along. If it feels like you might not be able to paint this many teeny clouds, then just draw a few bigger clouds on your U. Just trying to get across the idea of the umbrella with the clouds. We're painting this the opposite of the way we painted the tree, in the tree, we painted inside the leaves first, and then we painted around them. For the U, we're doing our gray first because we can paint on top of it. Gonna give it some heat to dry it off and then paint in my little clouds and my umbrella. (heater whirring) Okay. I'm still gonna use my medium brush, and I've got my off-white paint, you can use white paint if you like. And just start painting your little clouds. You can see that I'm sometimes painting a little bit over the gray, and the white or off-white will just do its own thing, and you don't even see the gray underneath. It will make a nice smooth line for you. I'm leaving my umbrella for last because it's a different color. We want the umbrella to stand out since U is for umbrella. I'm gonna grab my small brush to do the outline of the umbrella. There are some corners on here. And there we have it. Our little sky scene. Cloudy day with our umbrella.

Day 22 - V is for Vase
- Today we're doing V, and I always thought V looked like it should be holding something. So our our V is going to be a vase. We've got our V nicely cut out and we need to draw in the rest of the letter, which is also going to be the water for our flowers. Look at that. I think I will start from the top down to keep my hands clean. First, we'll paint the flowers with a little bit of yellow, and they are setting in the water, so they stop right there. Looking good. Now we get to add the water. So just be careful right at that yellow spot because the yellow is still wet. Just kind of paint around it, and you can paint around your outline. And you've got your water for your vase. Finally, we're gonna do the V. I'm gonna grab my big brush. I was using my medium brush. Add a little bit more pink to my palette, the bright pink. I am going to start by painting around close to the blue water. Alrighty, we're gonna do one finishing touch. I'm gonna dry the letter first. Then we want a center for our flowers. I'm gonna use some more pompoms. Grabbed myself this nice blue color, blueish, greenish color. We're gonna do our blob technique like we did for the strawberry right in the middle of the flowers. You can paint those if you'd rather paint them, you could put a sticker there, a round sticker. We're gonna put some pompoms. There we go. And we have our vase. The V is probably one of the most complicated letters to cut out. There are a lot of curves around the flower and the stems. So I've created a second option that you can make. We have a V for violin, and that's a really simple shape to cut out. So if you're struggling with cutting out the vase, or you think it will be too complicated, you can do a lovely violin.

Day 23 - W is for Watermelon
- What's up, W? This W is going to be a watermelon. We're gonna start by giving it a rind, which is the green part of the watermelon, the outside. And then we're gonna give it a little bit of a border. Try to follow the line you drew before. There we go. I'm gonna grab my green dobber. I'm gonna

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use this for the outside of the watermelon. That pretty green. It's gonna change a bit once it hits the cardboard, but look how easy that is to put on your cardboard. Oh, that's lovely. (dobber grinding) This is a nice option to using paints. It definitely looks slightly different. The marker soaks a little bit more into the cardboard, but for our watermelon, it's really fun, 'cause it makes it look more like a watermelon rind. If you feel like it's drying out, just give it a shake and push it down. You'll give it a fresh ink boost. All right, so we've got our green watermelon rind. Next, we're gonna take our medium brush and just paint in a little white border here. This will help the green pop. I'm gonna give it a little touch up in some places, so it's a little bit brighter. There we go. Okay. And paint our watermelon. I'm gonna go around my white outline first. Kind of got ahead of myself and started painting up there. I got very excited. But it does help to go around your outline first. Then if you ever have an edge that you're not happy with or you wanna go back and restraighten, you can do that. That's looking watermelony. We just need some seeds, so I've gotta dry the pink first. (device whirring) Okey dokey. And then for the seeds, I'm gonna use a different paint pen that has a finer point that'll make it easy to draw the seeds, and just draw in a bunch of little, there's some wet parts here. I'm trying to figure out where it's the driest, so I don't smudge everything. And you can paint in your little watermelon seeds. There are seedless watermelons. If you decide you don't feel like doing this step, you could just say it's a seedless watermelon. (cap clicking) And our finished watermelon looks just wonderful.

Day 24 - X is for Xylophone

- Next, we get to work on X. We are going to start with white or off-white. We're creating a xylophone, and we're gonna have almost every color on here. And it's helpful to have the white base first. So just throw that paint on there. Before you start the next step, you wanna make sure that your paint coverage is completely dry. I'm gonna grab my heat gun and dry off the X. (heat gun whirring) All right, that is perfect. Look at that, nice and dry. The next step is that you want to draw a little outline just right inside of the X. This is gonna be the edge of our xylophone. Just follow the line of your cutout piece of cardboard, and try to keep it even the whole way around. Now we're gonna draw the bars on the xylophone. So start by putting a line right through the middle of your X. And about like an inch up, draw your first bar, your second. There we go. And we're gonna do the same thing going down the X. We're gonna work top to bottom, so we keep our hands clean. Starting with the gray. Super, now we're gonna do our bright pink. I need a little bit more. And the other side. Next we have yellow. Remember to wash out your brush really well between colors. Then we have red. Oops, I got a little yellow down there. Have to cover that up with something. And now to blue. I'm gonna use our lighter, kind of minty green blue color now. Oh, we're almost there, can see the whole xylophone coming together. Now we're gonna fill in our dark green, just covering up that yellow there. As you're putting down your color on the bars, you can follow my pattern or you can put down the colors in whatever way makes you happy. Just have fun with the whole rainbow palette. Gonna add my last color. Now I'm gonna dry the whole thing so I can add my little black, I guess they're screws that they put in to hold the bars down on the xylophone. (heat gun whirring) Okay, the last step is grab your marker and add the screws. I'm gonna use the brush side. Just kind of judging where the little dots are across from each other with my eye. Now we have our X for xylophone.

Day 25 - Y is for Yeti

- We only have two letters left. Y for yeti? Why not? We've got our Y, and we are going to put a yeti

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face right here in the middle. I have not seen a real yeti, so I'm just guessing that this is what a yeti would look like. All right, we're gonna make our yeti that kind of minty, greenish color. Paint around our yeti face here. This is a very cute yeti. It's not a dangerous yeti. Fill in the rest of the Y with the paint. Next, we will paint the yeti face, which is white or off-white. I'm using my off-white. I'm gonna stick my finger right here to hold it down. Looks like I might have to redraw that face on top of the white paint. That's okay. I'm gonna hit it with some heat before I add fur and a face. I'm drawing in that face one more time. Might look slightly different than the first face I drew. And I will take my black marker, and draw my face. Sweet little friendly yeti face. You can make your yeti scary if you want to. And then the fur is going to be the darker blue color. You can use a marker for this. You can use the POSCA pen. I'm gonna use paint. We did this before on the dog. I chose these colors for the yeti because I feel like it seems like the yeti lives in cold weather. Here we have our sweet, little yeti.

Day 26 - Z is for Zig Zag

- We did it! We're at the letter Z. Get ready to zig and zag. I am so excited about our letter Z. We're gonna do something that's somewhat abstract. The letter already zigs and zags, so we're just gonna add color and shape to make it feel more zigzaggy. I'm gonna start by just creating some boxes following our Z shape. And I'll go down the Z. And over. And we're gonna make this thing really bright. We're gonna start with our yellow. I'm gonna use my medium brush to go around the squares that I just drew. It'll be easier for me to fill in the blocks if my Z is dry, so I'm gonna hit it with some heat. (blow-dryer whirring) Okay, I'm gonna start with my favorite hot pink color. Sometimes if there's too little on your palette, it makes it hard to grab paint on your paintbrush, and then it'll be hard to paint, and that's not fun. There we go. I'm just kind of putting the color in here and there, these pops of color, to give the Z a lot of movement. If you have different colors that you love, you can add those to the blocks. Okay. I'm cleaning my brush and I'm switching to red paint. And now our final color on our final letter. I'm gonna use my blue. And here's the Z. Thank you so much for joining me on this adventure. If you're curious about some projects and ways to use the letters, I've got something to show you. First, I'm gonna start with our finished set of letters. These are perfect flashcards. You can pull them out at any time and go over your alphabet letters. Over here, I have the S that I created as a self-portrait. These are wonderful to use in your bedroom. You could put it on your bedroom door, you could put it on a bulletin board. You can also create one for somebody you care about and send it as a special card. Or you could use it as a gift tag. Right now, I have a gift tag with the strawberry S. But if I wanted to personalize it, I could put the other S on there. We also have a nice little banner that we made, or bunting, and I simply use some twine that I taped to the back, and it makes a very sturdy bunting that you can hang in your room, or classroom, or living room. You could put your name. You could just put the ABCs. There's a lot of different ways you could use it. And finally, we have a necklace. I use the PDF with the alphabet small and cut those out using the same technique that we did for the bigger letters, painted them, and then added some hole punches to create a love necklace. And then two monogram necklaces for myself, or two versions of the S monogram for myself. One with a rainbow and one with a little pattern. These are some of my favorite ideas. I'm sure you have loads of your own. I can't wait to see what you do, what you find around the house to upcycle and create new and wonderful things of your own.

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