



James Castle House Lesson Plan: Flip Side Drawings

Castle often made double-sided drawings to show different views of the same subject. He used this technique to explore the rooms of his home, the landscapes around him, and the buildings on his family's property.

Get creative and show two perspectives of your bedroom, your house, the street you live on, or even your pet! Take a look at some examples of these types of works to help inspire your own idea here.

Materials

- Paper or found paper/cardboard surfaces to draw on
- Charcoal or pencil
- Oil pastels, tissue paper, crayons, or other preferred medium to add color
- Paintbrush
- String and pushpins

Activity

1. Choose Subject and Prepare Drawing Surface

- First decide which two perspectives of a subject you want to draw – it could be anything from the front and back views of your house, two views from opposite windows or even the front and back of your pet dog!
- This works best if children choose a subject that they can draw from observation rather than from their imagination. That way they can physically move around the space when drawing the differing perspectives.
- Find a suitable drawing surface for your artwork. It may be regular drawing paper or, as Castle used, found paper such as discarded cardboard packaging.
- As this artwork will use both sides of the surface be sure to find something thick enough to ensure both sides are usable.

2. Draw the Front View

- Face your subject from one direction and draw it on one side of your paper.
- Use charcoal, pencil or your preferred drawing tool.

3. Draw the Flip Side

- Position your body to now face the opposite view of your subject (e.g if you were facing the front of your house, now go to the back).
- Flip over your paper and draw the “flip side” view of your subject.

4. Add Color and Details

- Castle used materials like wet tissue paper to add color to his work, but use your own preferred medium to now add color to your artwork.
- Children could create a series of “flip side” images in this style. For example, drawing different rooms of house, views from multiple windows, or a range of perspectives of the yard or street.

5. Create an At-Home Exhibition!

- Castle was known to use the outbuildings on his family's property as gallery spaces – arranging and hanging his artworks inside.
- Use this as inspiration to set up your own at-home exhibition of your Flip Side artworks! Hanging them from string across a room (like a clothesline) is a great way to be able to view both sides of each artwork.

