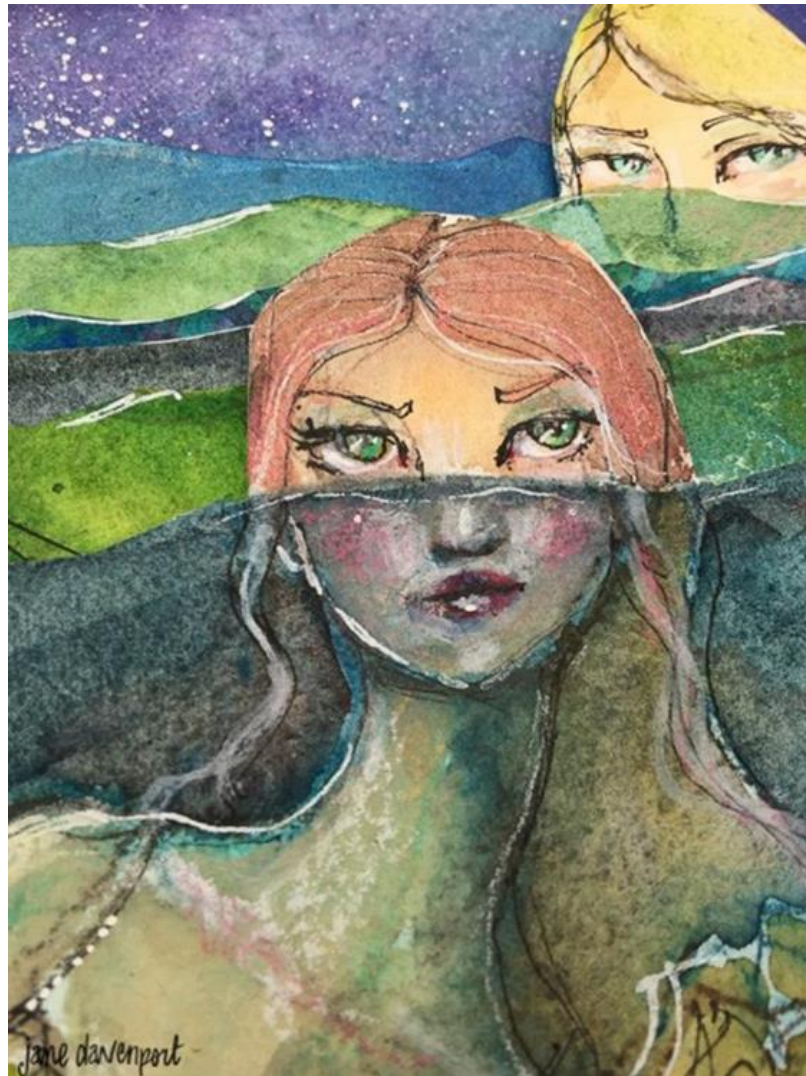


Grade 4 – Merfolk



Portraiture

What do you see?



Mermaids by Jane Davenport

Artistic Focus: Portraiture



Mermaids by Jane Davenport

A **portrait** is a painting, photograph, sculpture, or other artistic representation of a person, which usually focuses on the person's face and head.

Today's objectives:

1. To draw a portrait with proportions that approximate those of the human face.
2. To use best practices with watercolor paint.
3. To let the imagination run free, creating imaginary beings.

WA State Visual Arts Standard

When making works of art, utilize care for materials, tools, and equipment in a manner that prevents danger to oneself and others. (VA: Cr2.2.4)

Jane Davenport

- Australian artist, bestselling author, art instructor, and Creative Director for Jane Davenport Mixed Media art supplies.
- Studied in Paris and has been a fashion photographer in London and Australia.
- Lives at 'The Nest' overlooking Byron Bay in Australia.
- Avidly draws in her art journal and encourages her students to do the same.
- Known for her whimsical paintings that feature fantasy beings, such as mermaids and fairies.

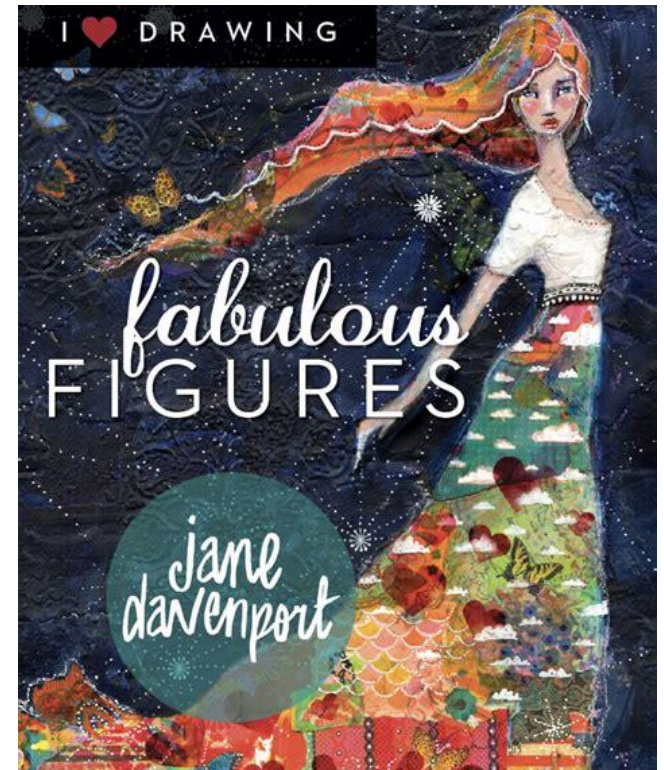
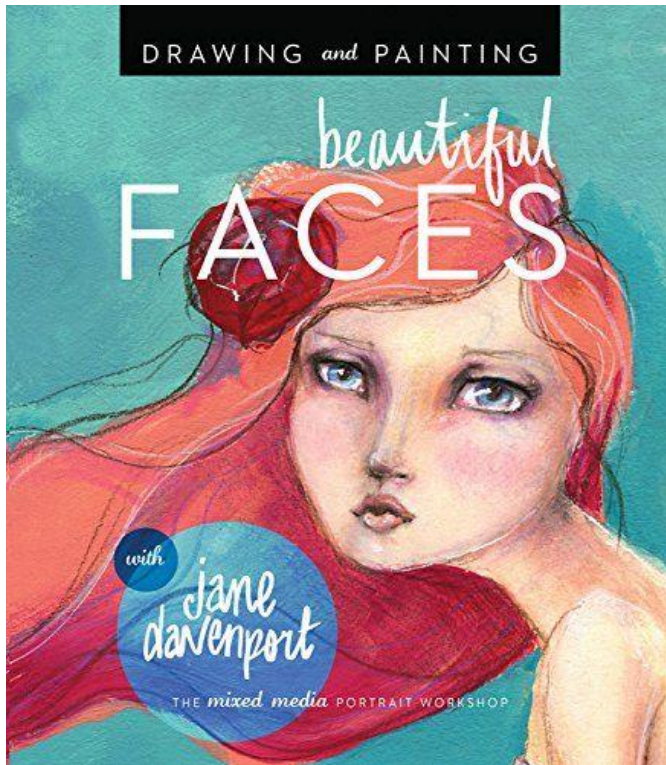


Artwork



There are plenty more fish in the sea by Jane Davenport

Artwork



Some of Jane Davenport's art products and books

Artwork



Colorful faces and flowing hair
from Davenport's art journal

Merfolk

- The legend of the mermaid is centuries old and can be found in the mythologies of many cultures around the world. There are many tales of mermen as well.



The Little Mermaid, c. 1890,
E. S. Hardy



Do you recognize these
characters?

Harry in the Great Lake from Pottermore

Materials

Watercolor paper



Paper towel



Pencil



Watercolor paint



Paintbrushes



Water cup



Eraser



Example of Today's Project



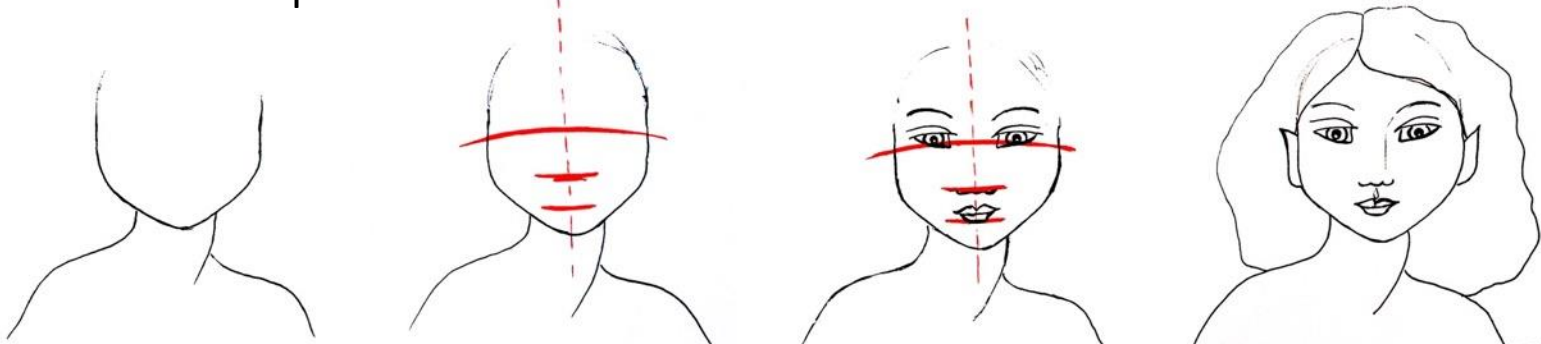
Before You Begin

1. Write your **name** in pencil on the **back** of the paper.
2. Flip over your paper.
3. **Roll up your sleeves!**



Drawing the Human Face

- Look at the steps that led to this blue mermaid.

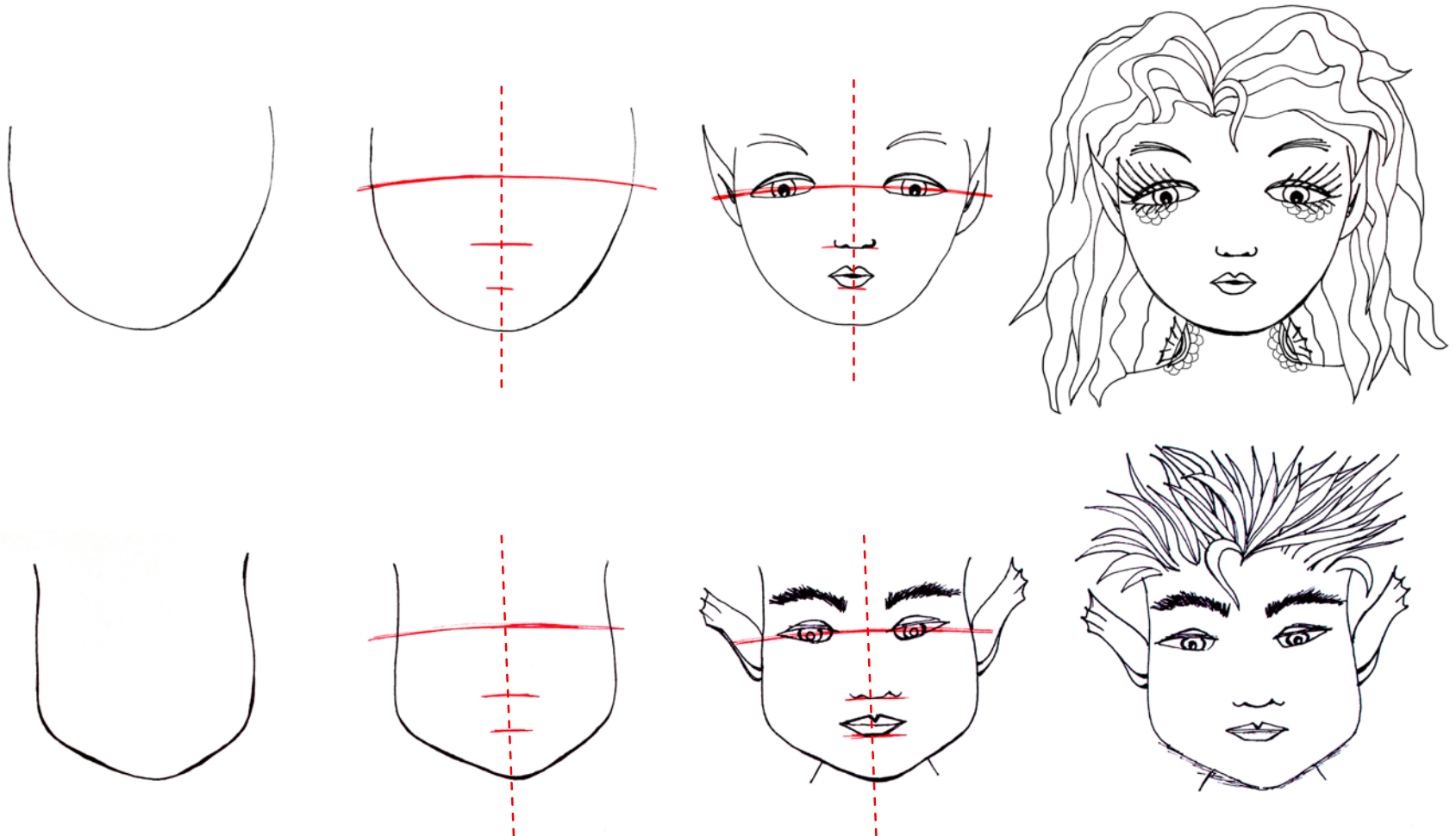


- A dotted vertical line in the middle of the face helps achieve symmetry.
- The long red line divides the top and bottom halves of the face and shows where the eyes should go.
- Halfway between the eye line and chin is a line for the bottom of the nose.
- Roughly halfway between the nose line and chin marks the bottom of the mouth.



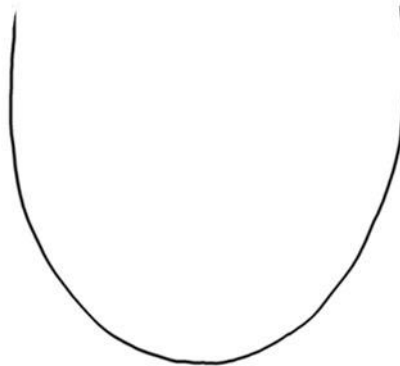
Two More Examples

- Where is the vertical, red line? Where are the horizontal, red lines?
- Notice how the merman has a wider jaw, bushier eyebrows, and no visible eyelashes.



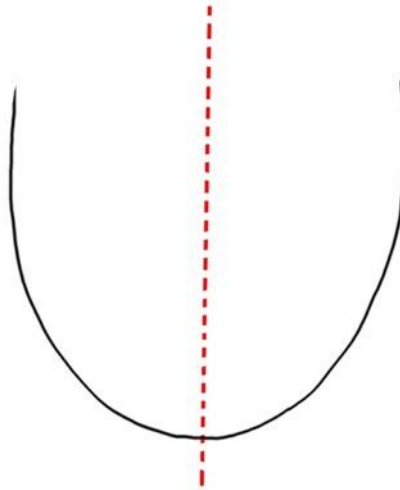
Step 1

- Decide if you want to draw a mermaid or merman. You may even want to try a self portrait of yourself reimagined as a merperson!
- Draw a **U** with your pencil.



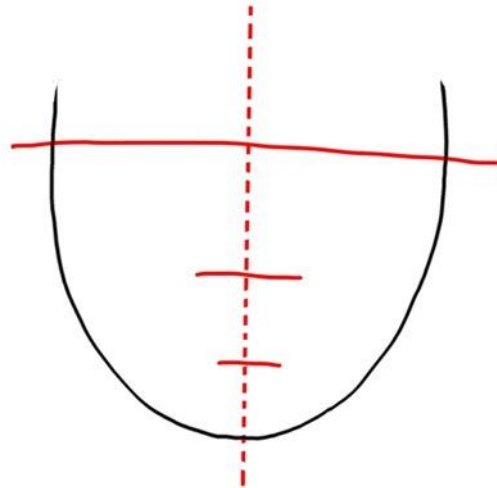
Step 2

- In pencil using very light pressure, draw a vertical line down the middle of your **U**.
- Draw very lightly, so that you can easily erase this guideline later.



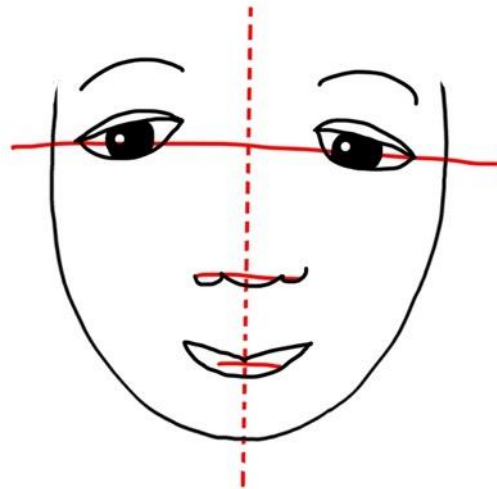
Step 3

- Again, using very light pressure, use your pencil to draw three horizontal lines.
- The eye line divides the top half of the face from the bottom half and should be drawn about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up your U shape.
- The nose line goes halfway between the eye line and the chin.
- The mouth line goes halfway between the nose line and the chin.



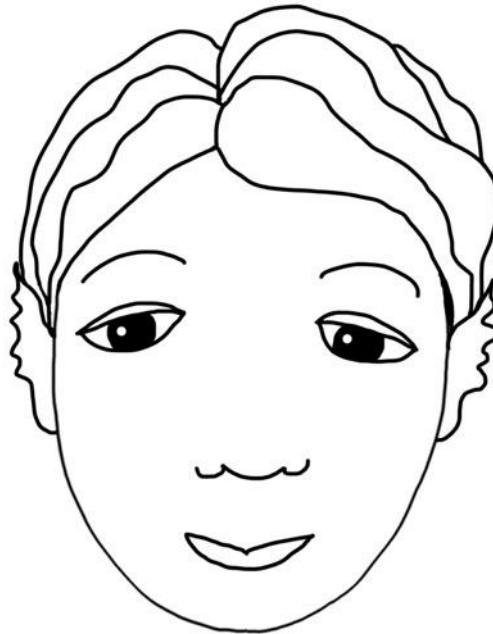
Step 4

- Using harder pressure now, draw the eyes sitting on the eyeline, evenly spaced from the center, vertical line.
- Draw the nose on the nose line over the center, vertical line.
- Draw the mouth with the bottom lip sitting on the mouth line.
- Draw eyebrows.
- Erase your pencil guidelines, leaving only the facial features.



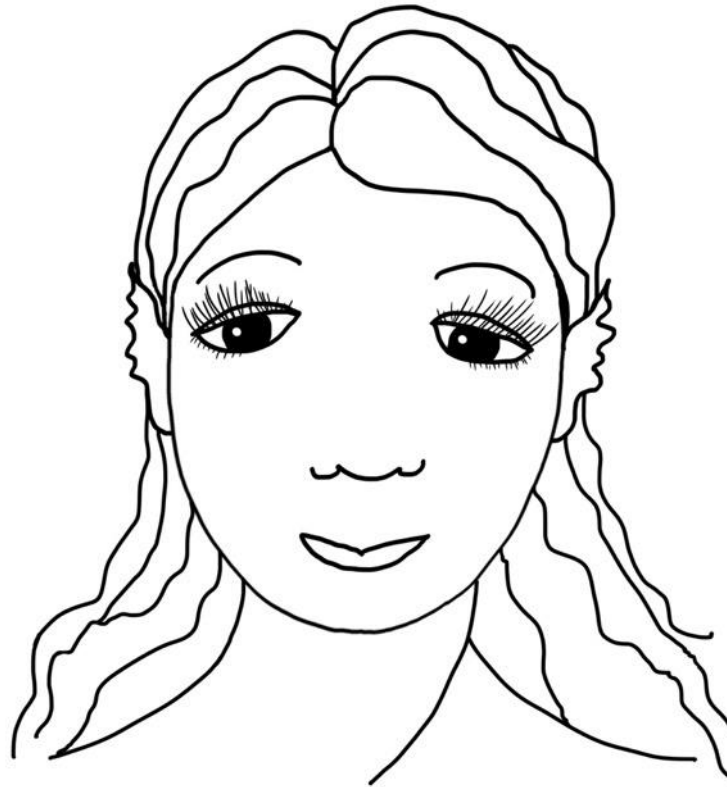
Step 5

- Draw ears and hair.
- If you stop here, your merperson might be male or female.



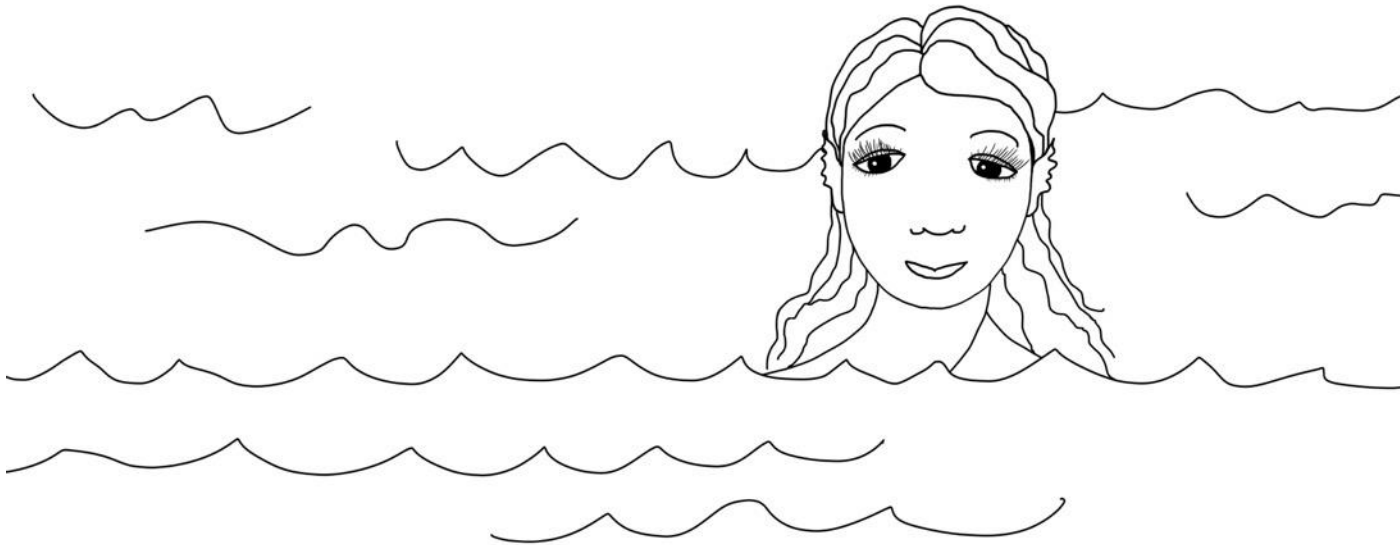
Step 6

- Draw a neck and shoulders.
- Feel free to make any additions you'd like.
- Some ideas are long hair, eyelashes, scales, gills, a crown, pearls, and shells decorating the hair.



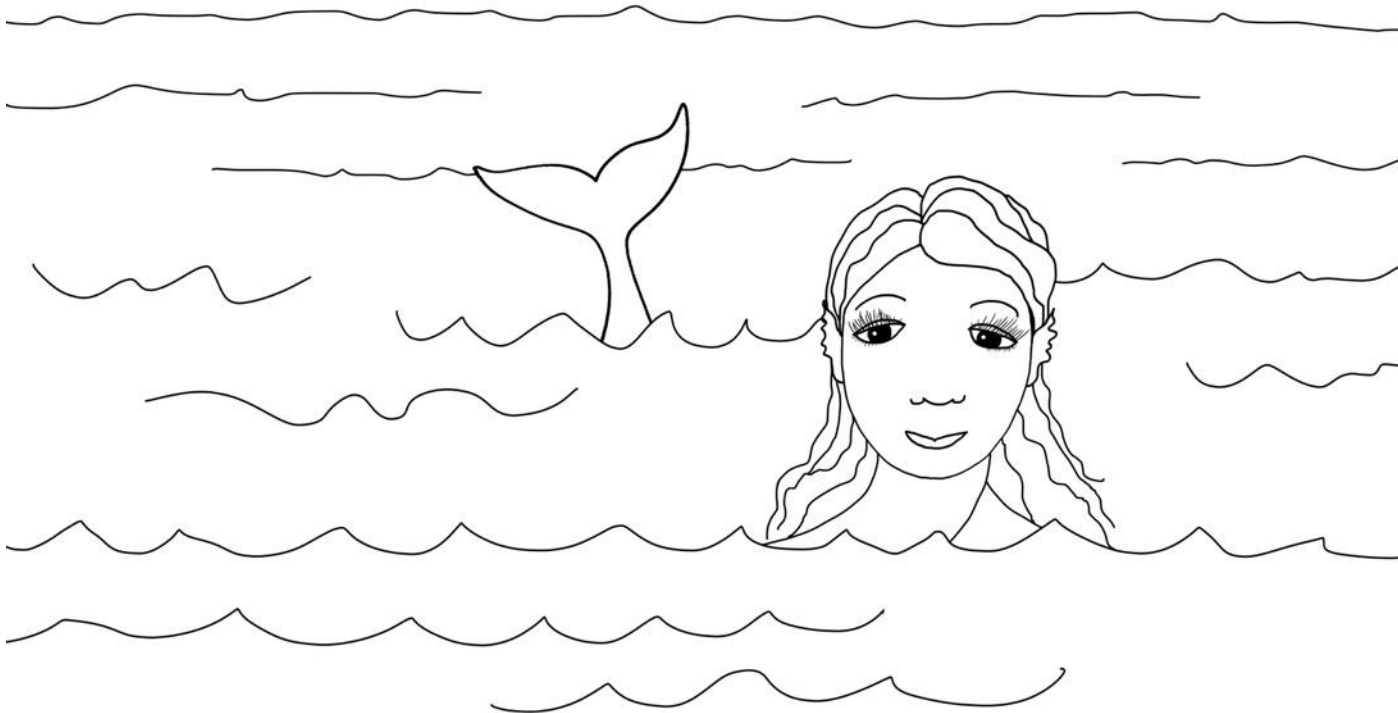
Step 7

- Merfolk are fun to draw, because they don't have to look entirely human.
- You don't have to draw arms or hands if you don't want to; instead you can simply draw water all around the head, right up to the neck.



Step 8

- Make sure to draw a tail, so we know it's a merperson.
- What kind of shape do you want the tail to have?
- Think of different fish tails.



Step 9

- Now have fun choosing colors. Use your imagination!



Reflection

- How did it feel to draw a portrait of a creature that is not exactly human?
- Did you enjoy the drawing or the painting more? Why?
- What was your favorite part of our project today?
- Would anyone like to share their art?



Credits

1. Photos of Jane and her work taken from <https://janedavenport.com>
2. About Mermaids: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mermaid>
3. Mermaid from Peg + Cat: <http://pbskids.org/peg/about/characters/more>
4. Merpeople from Harry Potter: <https://www.pottermore.com/explore-the-story/merpeople>
5. Starbucks logo: <https://www.starbucks.com>
6. Ariel and King Triton from <https://movies.disney.com/the-little-mermaid>
7. Original LWSD sample art, used with permission.