

## LESSON: Chalk Mountains

TIME: 60 minutes

### SUMMARY:

The class will read aloud the wordless book *Chalk*, focusing on clues left by the illustrator. Students will use a unique technique to create **chalk landscape drawings**. Finally, they will reflect on their learning and extend it to new titles.

### OBJECTIVES: Iowa Core

#### Literacy

- **RL.2.7** Use information gained from the illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of its characters, setting, or plot.

### MATERIALS & RESOURCES:

- *Chalk* by Bill Thomson
- White paper
- Colored chalk pastels
- Cotton balls
- Optional extension: Wordless books for small group practice

### INTRODUCTION:

**Read** the wordless book *Chalk* by Bill Thomson. Begin by paging through the book, discussing the expression on characters' faces and details of the setting. Enjoy the book but don't worry about telling a story yet.

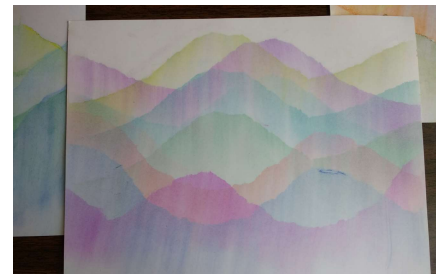
Reread the book including storytelling the plot based on the pictures.

- Use character voices and sound effects.
- Take your time on page, discussing clues left on the pages by the illustrator.
- Reread the text again to find even more details and encourage students to do some storytelling.

Discuss times students' experiences with different types of chalk. Today students will use a unique technique to create **chalk landscape drawings**.

## EXPLORATION:

1. **Tear paper mountains:** Tear a piece of paper lengthwise to create rolling mountain tops and valleys.
2. **Chalk paper mountains:** Color the torn edge liberally with chalk pastels.
3. **Create the horizon:** Place the chalked edge over another sheet of white paper. Use a cotton ball to push chalked color away from the torn edge and onto the white paper. Lift the paper and admire the horizon.
4. **Add layers to the landscape:** Apply a new color of chalk along the torn edge. Place the torn paper in a different location of the white paper, and again push chalk away to create layers of mountains and valleys. Colors may merge and add to the effect.



## IOWA CORE REFLECTION / JOURNAL PROMPTS:

*What clues did Chalk's illustrator include to help you understand the plot, characters, and setting?*

**Extension:** Ask the media specialist to compile a set of other wordless books. Students will read books in small groups, again discussing illustration clues about the plot, characters, and setting.

## BRIGHT SPOTS:

- How did you choose your chalk colors and mountain shapes?
- What surprises you about how your artwork turned out?
- If you made it again, what would you try?