

SUN-SHADOW MANDALA

- I. Write down your responses to the following questions** (be specific - not just flower, but a specific kind of flower).
1. What animal are you most like? (bird, fish, mammal of the mountains, desert, etc.)
 2. What plant are you most like? (tree, flower, shrub, indoor, outdoor, wild, domesticated)
 3. What color are you most like?
 4. What mineral or gem are you most like?
 5. What natural element are you most like: earth, fire, air, or water?
(you may choose some aspect of the element, such as breeze, hurricane or tornado for air, or mountain, desert or beach for earth)

II. After answering the five questions, write five sun sentences and an explanation.

I am most like _____ because, like _____, I _____.

Example: "I am most like poison oak because, like poison oak, I can hurt you. I can get flaming angry and unleash that anger on others. When its leaves have fallen off, poison oak doesn't always warn you of its presence, and I don't always warn you before one of my outbursts.

III. Fill in the chart and select adjectives for sun images:

1. Fill in the squares under "Most Like" with your sun images.
 2. Fill in the squares under "Adjective Describing Column I": Find one word to express the quality you share with the sun image. Use a thesaurus and dictionary.
- Example: A word to describe both you and poison oak might be "dangerous."

IV. Complete the chart by selecting antonyms and shadow images:

1. Fill in the square under "Opposite of Word in Column II": find an antonym (the opposite) of the adjective next to the sun image. It must be the same part of speech.
 2. Fill in the square under "Most Like column III": Write down the name of an item that is most like the word you chose in the column that says "Opposite of Word in Column II."
- Example: poison oak / dangerous / harmless / daisy

V. Write five shadow sentences and explanations:

1. You do not have to possess the quality expressed in the "shadow" adjective, though you may. Make a list of the qualities of the shadow symbol and think about what you *do* have in common with the shadow symbol. You may not be harmless like a daisy, but you may be a generally upbeat person.

Inwardly, I am like _____ because, like _____, I _____.

Example: I am most like a daisy because, like a daisy, I am sunny. My personality is "sunny" and I am upbeat most of the time.

VI. Draw the sun-shadow mandala:

1. Staying within the framework of the circle, use color and shape (but no words) to draw or symbolize all of your sun images and all of your shadow images. Arrange them any way you like. You can divide the circle in half and draw all the sun images on one side and all the shadow images on the other, you can pair the sun and shadow images, or you can mix the images, considering their relationship to each other and how the colors and shapes look together.

Being a "good" artist is not important. You can use symbols instead of drawing the actual item. For example, you can draw a bear paw print to symbolize a bear.

1. Write the person's name above or below the circle.
2. List the five sun symbols and the seven shadow symbols below the mandala.

VII. Mandala Poem

Read sample poems

~~1. Read the poem "Winter" by Tom Richards and then read the sample poems.~~

2. Choose one of your sun or shadow symbols and write a poem modeled after "Winter".

Begin the poem, "If (your person) were a (type of symbol), he'd be a (specific symbol)."

3. Develop the poem! Look at all aspects of what you have chosen your person to "be."

4. Pay attention to the way you shape the poem. Decide where to end a line and begin a new one. Decide if you want stanzas.

5. Look at your word choices. Did you use the most vivid word, the word that will paint the clearest or most exciting or accurate picture?

VIII. Turn in your work stapled in the following order: 1. picture 2. chart backwards (holes to the right) 3. sun sentences 4. shadow sentences 5. poem

DO'S AND DON'TS FOR MANDALA:

- Do not turn in work done in pencil.
- Spell all words correctly.
- Make it neat; do a rough draft of the chart on binder paper first.
- You may choose only one symbol, not two.

About the adjectives:

- The adjective must describe the relationship between your person and the symbol - not some other quality of the symbol.
- First pick an adjective from within your own vocabulary; then go to the thesaurus to see if there is a more vivid or accurate adjective.
- Use the dictionary to check to see if an unfamiliar adjective you are using really fits.
- Don't use the same adjective twice
- You will be marked down if the adjective is not an adjective.
- You will be marked down if the opposite adjective is not really opposite.
- The shadow symbol should really embody the characteristic of the adjective in column 3.

About the sentences:

- The shadow sentences shouldn't automatically use the "shadow" adjective; find an underlying common characteristic that really applies to both your person and the symbol. Ask yourself if the statement you are making about the person you chose is really true or has an element of truth to it.

About the mandala:

- Ability to draw is not a factor, but effort is.
- Drawing symbols on the mandala without considering why you place them where you do, can produce an uninteresting mandala.
- Don't put additional symbols on the mandala.
- Don't represent the mineral or gem on the mandala as if it were a color; draw the mineral or gem.
- Do not use words on the mandala (even as a label on a product)
- Avoid anthropomorphizing (giving an animal human characteristics); it makes your symbol seem cartoon-like and sometimes silly.

GRADING:

1. I will collect each of these parts of the project as we complete them, check them and give you credit for them: sun sentences, chart, shadow sentences, poem.

2. The entire project will be graded for the following qualities:

Mandala: placement of images, creativity, and *effort*; the person is named and sun and shadow images are listed.

Sentences: form is correct, interesting comparisons, accurate comparisons, spelling and punctuation.

Chart: words are in proper column, adjective is really an adjective, antonym is really opposite, adjective is vivid and accurate, spelling.

Poem: completeness of "portrait" of person; precision, effectiveness, and liveliness of word choices; care, thoughtfulness evidenced in the shaping/form of poem; spelling.