

# Preschool Little Masters

---

## *September*

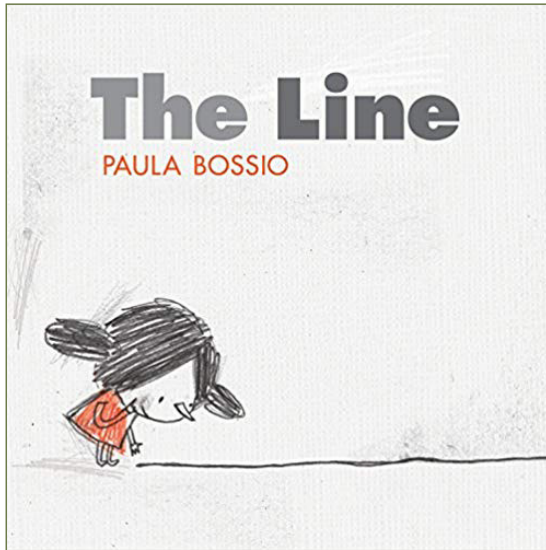
---

© The Wisdom Wonder Project, All Rights Reserved. Please refrain from sharing your subscription and/or lessons with others. The Wisdom Wonder Project's curriculum represents thousands of hours of hard work from teachers, staff, and parents. As a non-profit, thank you for helping us protect our content so we can keep providing these materials to you at a reasonable cost.



# *The Line*

By Paula Bossio



*“A line is a dot that  
went for a walk.”*

– PAUL KLEE



## Book Overview

*The Line* is a wordless picture book about a little girl who finds one end of a very special line. This line has the amazing ability to transform itself into a myriad of things, including a slide, a bubble, and even a hungry monster. Children will love the playful surprise ending. You will find similarities between this story and *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson.



## Element of the Month

*Line*—an element of art defined by a point moving in space. A line may be two or three dimensional, descriptive, implied, or abstract.



## Vocabulary

*line, thick, thin, broad, stroke, bend, square, triangle, circle, rectangle*



## Exploring Color

Before you get started let's get your Tempera paint bottles ready. I like to mix a little water with my paints to make it easier for the children when squeezing. Use your plastic paint bottles from the Collection Materials, squeeze enough paint to fill them halfway up, then top them off with  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of water. Now, shake, shake, shake!!! Use these paint bottles, refilling as needed, whenever tempera paints are listed in the materials.

**Exploring Color Activity 01—Mixing Red.** For this activity, you will need the color wheel, a paint palette, the tempera paint bottles, paintbrushes, cardstock, and a small jar of water. Red is a primary color. Take out your color wheel and ask your child to find red. We're going to use the primary color red, with white and black to make different shades of red. Start by squeezing small blobs of each of the three colors of paint, about the size of a quarter, onto the paint palette. Invite your child to use their paintbrush to take a little paint from the red and place it on their paper. Then, ask them to take a little white and add it to the red to see what happens. Repeat, mixing red with black paint. Guide them to keep experimenting with mixing various amounts of red with white and black while paying attention to the different hues it makes. Using the paint already on their palette, have your child paint a picture. What can they make?

**Exploring Color Activity 02—Making Purple.** The coloring mixing continues with purple. Gather your color wheel, a paint palette, the tempera paint bottles, paintbrushes, cardstock, and a small jar of water. Purple is a secondary color. You make purple by mixing two primary colors, red and blue, but don't tell your child that yet. Begin by squirting red and blue onto your child's paint palette. Ask them to use their paintbrush to put a little red and then a little blue on their paper together and then mix it up. What discoveries do they make? What color do they see now? What happens when they add a little white or black? Invite your child to use the paint on the palette to paint a picture. When they are finished painting, look at the color wheel again. Show them the different purples in between red and blue. Did they see those different hues when they were painting?



**Exploring Color Activity 03—Making Orange.** Again, you will need your color wheel, a paint palette, the tempera paint bottles, paintbrushes, cardstock, and a small jar of water. Orange is a secondary color. You make orange by mixing two primary colors, red and yellow, but don't ruin the surprise by telling them yet. Even though these color mixing activities might be getting repetitive for you, the repetition is just what your child needs. By doing this same process with different colors, they learn the process more thoroughly and how to play with colors on their own in the future. Begin, again, by squirting red and yellow onto the paint palette. Ask them to experiment by putting a little of each onto their paper and mixing it up. What discoveries are there this time? What happens if they add a little white or black? Invite your child to use the paint on their palette to paint another picture. When they are finished painting, look at the color wheel again. This time, ask if they can find the red and then the yellow. What color is in middle? Is that the color they made too? Also discuss what happened when they added white and black.

**Exploring Color Activity 04—Making Green.** For your child to mix the last secondary color, you will need your color wheel, a paint palette, the tempera paint bottles, paintbrushes, cardstock, and a small jar of water. Green is a secondary color. You make green by mixing two primary colors, blue and yellow. Again, don't tell your child yet. Begin by squirting blue and yellow onto the paint palette. Ask them to experiment by putting a little of each onto their paper and mixing it up. Are they still surprised by the discovery when the paint creates a new color? Before asking them to add a little white or black, ask them if they have a prediction for what will happen when each of those is added. After experimenting with the black and white, invite your child to use the paint on their palette to paint another picture. When they are finished painting, look at the color wheel again. Ask if they can find the blue and then the yellow. What color is in middle? Is that the color they made too? Did they see those hues when they were mixing?



## Element Activities

**Element Activity 01—Dot on a Walk.** This month's focus is on lines. As the quote states above, "A line is a dot that went for a walk." That is where we will start, with a dot. Lines can be thick, thin, wavy, straight, curved, and zig-zag. For this activity, you will need a protective tablecloth, Q-tips, toothpicks, sticks, paintbrushes, tempera paint bottles, cardstock, a paint palette, and a small jar of water. Set out the protective tablecloth, the painting tools, paint, and paint palette. Have your child choose a color to use. Give them the choice to either use the

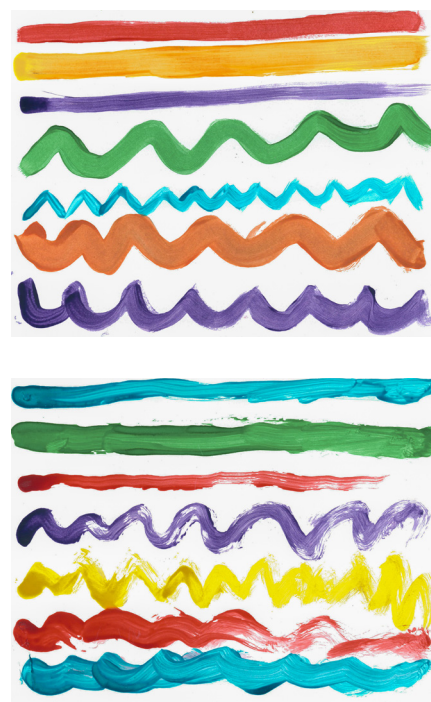


color right out of the bottle or mix a color of their own. Invite them to begin by making a dot with one of the tools, then making a line from that dot, like "a dot that went for a walk." After that, encourage them to try the different tools and the different ways of making dots and then lines. Can they make straight, bent, or broad lines? What happens when they press down hard on the paper with each of the tools? Does the line change? What about if they press lightly? Invite your child to turn the paintbrush so that only the edge of the bristles are on the paper. What happens to the line? Allow your child to make lines in as many ways and for as long as they would like.

### **Element Activity 02—Line Matching.**

Your child will practice painting lines by matching their line to yours. The materials you need for this activity are paintbrushes, tempera paint, cardstock, a paint palette, and a small jar of water. You paint a line, and they paint a line. Each of you should have a paintbrush, whatever color(s) of paint you would like, and cardstock. Begin at the top of the paper and work towards the bottom. Take a brush in your hand and make a line. It can be thin or thick. Have your child make a line on their paper. Now compare the two lines. Ask your child what they notice? Do the lines look the same? If not, how are they different. Dip your brush in paint, and press the bristles down onto the paper as hard as you can, and make a line. Ask your child to do the same. What happened? Why?

Now try placing the bristles as lightly as you can onto the paper and make a line. What happens and why? Continue trying different types and sizes of lines, such as short, long, wiggling, and zig-zag. You will each end up with an interesting piece of artwork full of lines.



**Element Activity 03—Large Movement Painting.** Large movement uses the entire arm to move the paintbrush and encodes the learning in a new way for your child. For this activity, gather a large piece of newsprint or butcher paper, paintbrushes, tempera paint, a paint palette, a small jar of water, music with a beat, and a protective tablecloth. Lay the large piece of paper on the floor on top of the protective tablecloth, turn on some music, and paint lines on the paper using large movement following the rhythm of the music. Encourage your child to paint from one end of the paper to the other with one line. Listen to the tempo



and follow it by moving your brush slowly as the music slows down and quicker as the music speeds up. How do the lines change as the tempo changes? What happens when they try to match the tempo with a wiggly line? For a change of perspective, try hanging the paper up on a wall or a fence outside. Experiment using different types of music. You can also try incorporating music that has drums and then piano. How do the different instruments influence the strokes? Take your time leaning into this experimental activity with your child. Save your child's painting to use as wrapping paper, or cut it up and give the pieces as gifts.

**Element Activity 04—Shared Painting.** You will need cardstock, tempera paints, paintbrushes, a paint palette, and a jar of water. Before you paint, have your child choose which color they want to use then squeeze it out onto the paint palette. Now, tell your child that you will be making a painting together by taking turns adding to each other's lines. Start by making a dot on the paper and then ask your child to draw a line, starting at the dot you made and continuing until they feel like stopping. Keep taking turns picking up where each other leaves off until your child feels finished. Remind your child that lines can be straight, zigzag, wiggly, and curved. Step back together and look at what you made. You can repeat these steps, but this time, change colors with each line.



# Andy Warhol

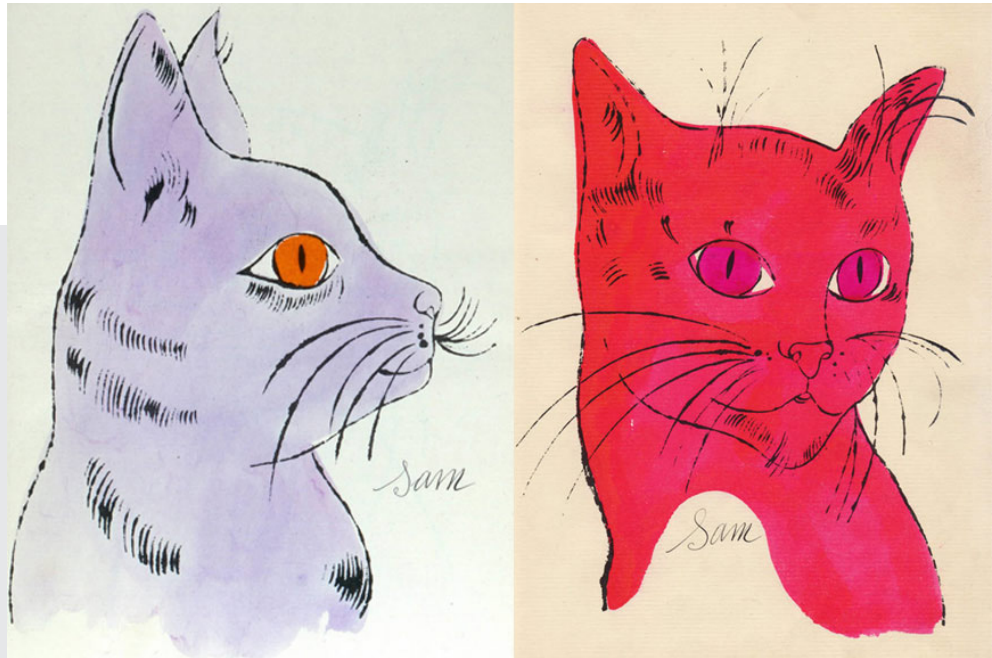
ARTIST  
OF THE  
MONTH



## Artist of the Month

Andy Warhol was a famous American artist and a leader in the modern art movement known as Pop art. He melded together the worlds of advertising, visual arts, and celebrity that flourished in the 1960's. Some of his best known works are of common everyday objects, such as *Cambell's Soup Cans*. The Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburg, the city of his birth, is the largest museum in the United States dedicated to a single artist, and it has a sweeping collection and archive of his work.





*Illustration of Cats by ANDY WARHOL*

© 2020 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc.

Licensed by Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York



## Study a Famous Work

Andy Warhol created this painting using the "blotted line" technique, which is a combination of simple drawing and printmaking. Pay attention to the free flow way in which the cats were drawn. Discuss the painting with your child. "I wonder why the artist chose to use the colors red, orange, and purple? How do those colors make you feel? I see many different types of lines, what do you see? Thinking back to our story, *The Line*, do you see any similarities between the lines in the book and the ones Mr. Warhol used in his drawings of cats?"





## Artist Inspired Project

**Animal Illustration.** For this piece of art you will need two styrofoam trays, liquid watercolors, black acrylic paint, two pencils, cardstock, adult scissors, a Sharpie marker, watercolor paper, paintbrushes, a small jar of water, and a paint palette. If you have not taken the time to prepare the watercolor paints in small jars according to the instructions, do that now as well. They will store in the jars and be ready to pull out and use at anytime. You are going to use Andy Warhol's *Illustration of Cats* for your child to make their own illustration of an animal; it can be a cat, dog, fish, hamster, etc. This is a two-step project so feel free to stretch it out over a couple of days.

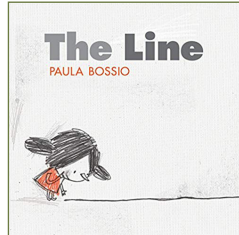
Have your child choose the animal they would like to draw. You might want to give them only a few options! Take out the styrofoam tray and a pencil, and place it in front of your child. Get a sheet of printer paper and another pencil for you, and cut the paper to the same size as your child's tray. Use the paper and pencil to demonstrate each step (the steps are described below) before you ask your child to do the step on the tray. Depending on what animal you both are drawing, turn the tray either landscape (horizontal) or portrait (vertical).

Use these directions to draw an example for each step and then guide your child through the same step. It can be tricky to draw on the styrofoam, so assist your child as much as they need. Find the center. One inch up from center, start drawing the eye with your pencil. Bring their attention to the curve of the eye. Next, draw the nose and mouth. If you are drawing a fish, for example, then you will only be drawing the profile, so talk about why you'll only be drawing one eye. You may want to show them in the mirror what this means, or if you have a camera on your phone, take a picture of your child's profile and show it to them. Now, draw the head and body. Keep referring to Mr. Warhol's simple drawing and remember to keep the lines simple.

After the animal is complete, have your child paint over the lines with black acrylic paint, then help your child press a piece of cardstock over the tray while it is still wet to make the print. Remember that acrylic paint is not washable! Let the paint dry. After the paint has dried, ask your child to choose two different colors of watercolor paint, mixing additional colors as needed. Using a small paintbrush, invite your child to paint their animal print. Show your child how to not use too much water by touching the brush to the side of the jar before painting. Set the painting aside to dry, and press it under a heavy book if needed once dry. Using the Sharpie, help your child sign their name on the painting, then hang it up to enjoy.



## Materials



The Line



Styrofoam Trays



Black  
Acrylic  
Paint

Music With a Beat  
Newsprint or Butcher Paper  
Q-tips  
Sticks  
Toothpicks  
Water  
Clear Plastic Paint Bottles  
Color Wheel  
Paint Palette  
Watercolor Paper

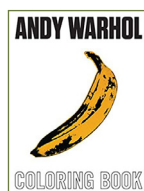
Cardstock  
Jar of Water  
Liquid Watercolors  
Paintbrushes  
Pencils  
Printer Paper  
Scissors  
Sharpie Marker  
Tempera Paint



## Recommended Products



Andy Warhol Puzzle



Andy Warhol  
Coloring Book



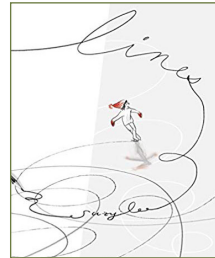
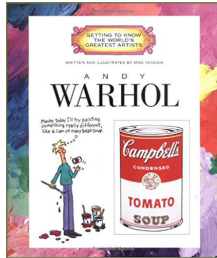
Adjustable Wood  
Table Easel



Acrylic Paint Set



## Recommended Books



# Expressions of Gratitude

Thank you to my friend and colleague, Susie, who has steadfastly stood by giving me words of encouragement, a listening ear, and grace as I embarked on this journey.

Thank you to the Little Wonders staff, who I have had the privilege to learn and grow with. It's never a dull moment, and my life is richer having you all in it.

Thank you to my family, who has patiently endured the piles of books and notes while writing this.

## References

[Google Arts and Culture](#)

[The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc.  
Licensed by Artists Rights Society \(ARS\), New York](#)

[Society of Artists Rights](#)