

## *Erica Weiss Class notes for high school students*

- Students first learned about the Big Picture Project with the video introduction on the website.

Watch the video here: <https://thebigpictureartproject.com/>

- Students were asked to write a reflection about a personal story of their own. My students are international students, and many of them reflected on their move to Canada. Some other popular topics were pets, holidays, hobbies, birthdays, vacations and sports.
- I suggested that students work from photos they had taken themselves. Some students found public domain photos online to connect to their story. Many students used the photos as a starting point and changed parts to make the drawing their own.
- In previous lessons, students were introduced to what a contour line drawing is. Students took part in drawing exercises from Betty Edward's book, *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain*, such as upside down drawing and blind contour drawing. For the Big Picture Project, most students chose to create contour line drawings with high contrast.
- The drawings were done in pencil first, and then go over their lines with black ink. Students were instructed to use bold lines. Some students chose to do shading with pencil.
- If I was to take this further, I would teach the ink techniques that I teach during Inktober (drawing challenge during the month of October). Students learn how to do shading with stippling, scumbling, cross-hatching and hatching. Students can do the ink techniques with a black sharpie/micron pen or India ink. A good introductory video on ink techniques is - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIV6iO1RzQ8&t=554s>
- This lesson would also be good for English/ELL teachers or even teachers in other subject areas. They can focus on the students writing their personal story and connecting imagery to it. Contour line drawings are quite accessible for learners of all ages and drawing abilities.
- For this lesson, I chose not edit the students stories for grammar and spelling because the focus was connecting their story to imagery.
- Lastly, I scanned the images on the printer, which made the images quite clear.

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Here are some of the drawings and stories shared by Erica's students



Drawing by **Karp Ivanyan**

Country: **Kazakhstan**

The Story behind my drawing:

I have an uncle living in Canada, after I arrived here, firstly I went to his apartments. There he had a beautiful, funny dog, named Snoopy. He was 8 months old, I fall in love with him. Every day I was walking, playing and sleeping with him. I didn't want to come back to the school. It was my first term studying in Canada, so I tried my best, studying all the time. After 2 months of studying, I decided to come to my uncle on weekdays. I understood that his dog has already forgotten me, however, when I came in, puppy ran up and jumped on me, licking all over my face. It was an incredible felling of being loved and missed by the dog.

My connection to #Vancouver or what Vancouver evokes to me:

I love the beautiful landscapes in Canada. The mountains on the North Shore are gorgeous.



Drawing by **Melvin Shan**

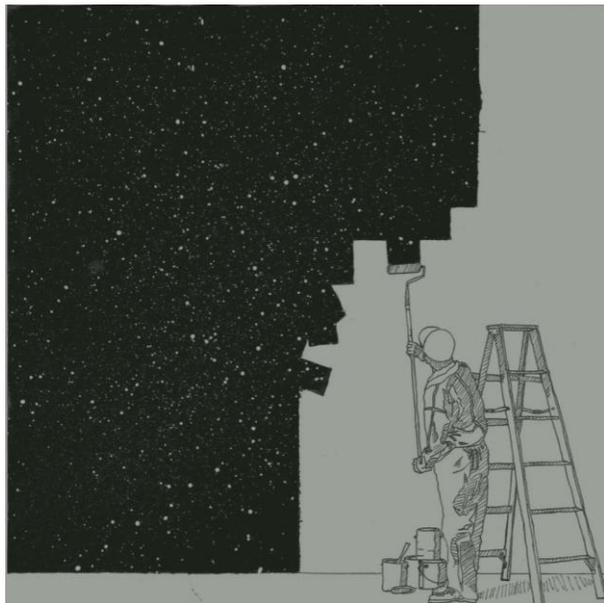
Country: **Canada**

The Story behind my drawing:

Soccer is my favorite sport, because it teaches me don't give up, last year I fall the midterm this mean I would stay the level so I was very sad, also my parents were angry too. Then I saw my friends are watching the quarter final of Champions League game: Barcelona vs Paris Saint-Germain, in the first game Paris Saint-Germain beat Barcelona 4-0 and Everyone thought Barcelona couldn't reverse Paris in second game because this was an impossible task. Of course, I thought so and I thought this is as hard as pass the grade. The incredible thing happened in the second game is Barcelona beat Paris 6-1 they did it, it is amazing, I was completely shocked for that then I completely fell in love with football and Barcelona. I was also encouraged by this incident to begin serious study.

My connection to #Vancouver or what Vancouver evokes to me:

I like the culture in Vancouver. I like the ethnic restaurant. I have a few favourite Chinese restaurants I like to go to.



Drawing by **Mashu Higa**

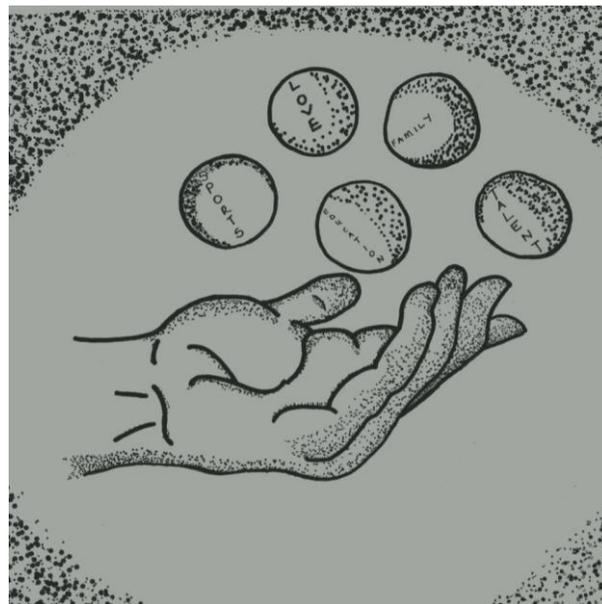
Country: **Japan**

The Story behind my drawing:

According to create a picture for the project, I came up an idea to draw my internal change to live in different society. The concept of my picture is my turning point of life to live in diversity place. I expressed the diversity as space, and drew objects that symbolize the society and environment around me. In the picture, I am the person who is painting with roller to expand the world, and it express as my passage of life which I experienced in Canada. Also, I came up this idea from a mural project I did in my school.

My connection to #Vancouver or what Vancouver evokes to me:

I like the diversity in Vancouver. There are many people from different countries, and I go to a school with students from all over the world.



Drawing by **Onyinye Chikezie**

Country: **Nigeria**

The Story behind my drawing:

I did this piece because, well for one thing I'm not very good at drawing people and it was hard to picture what I wanted to do. After a few days of thinking and a short conversation with my siblings I looked around in my life and saw how opportune I was, to be living in Canada getting an education. The idea of a giving hand came to mind, it represents; time- from my parents, love- from friends and family, education- parents, family. This piece really means a lot to me and hope by putting it into this Big Picture Project, it shows people that being privileged to live such a life should not be taking for granted.

My connection to #Vancouver or what Vancouver evokes to me:

Vancouver is a land of talents. I've seen so many people do incredible things such as sports, visual art and dance.



Drawing by **James Nguyen**

Country: **Vietnam**

The Story behind my drawing:

When I was a little kid, about 4 years old, I had received a roly-poly from my mother for my birthday. Although it's not expensive, I love it. This is the most meaningful gift that I have, and it is also the first gift that my mother gave to me. I still keep this gift until today. It made of plastic, with colorful colors such as light red, white. The shape of the roly-poly was so funny. It is fat and looks like a circle round. It has a big belly. The little head is round, attached to the body is not fixed and it also has no limbs at all. I love it not only because it is beautiful, but it also contains my mother's love for me. Whenever I touch it, it swayed and gave me a big smile. Looking at it I thought it was the attention she gave to me. The tumbler never falls, even if it lay down in the posture, it still stands up quickly. During my five months of schooling, this gift has become my close friend. Every time I'm sad or happy I will share with it.

My connection to #Vancouver or what Vancouver evokes to me:

Vancouver makes me feel happy and comfortable because of the weather. The weather is never too hot or too cold.



Drawing by **Young Ji**

Country: **Canada**

The Story behind my drawing:

This picture is a boy who wear Bape Camo hoodie, ankle-tied pant, and a pair of Yezzy 750 Boost Grey Brown Gum. There are some shoe boxes beside the boy. the boy in the picture is represents a sneaker's life. Wearing something dope also having lots of shoes he has bought. The shoes always be Nike, Adidas, and Air Jordan. This is the hype beast. A Hype Beast is a kid that collect clothing, shoes, and accessories for the sole purpose of impressing others. Although the individual may not have a dime to their name they like to front like they are making far more than everybody else.

My connection to #Vancouver or what Vancouver evokes to me:

I study in Vancouver, and I like the environment here. The people are also very nice.



Drawing by **Chialu Chou**

Country: **Taiwan**

The Story behind my drawing:

I am from Taiwan and this is a drawing of the place where I grew up. I have been living there for 14 years until I decided to come to Canada to study alone. I miss my hometown very much and I am looking forward to winter break so that I can go back for a short visit. In the drawing, the building in the middle of the picture is an apartment where I used to live my family. It is the first building that has being built in my city so it is also the place that holds the most memories.

My connection to #Vancouver or what Vancouver evokes to me:

Vancouver is a really nice place for studying abroad. It is a lovely place.



Drawing by **Yunxin Jiang**

Country: **China**

The Story behind my drawing:

In the picture, there is a character of a Chinese opera star. The woman is wearing the traditional clothes and holding a Chinese fan. Their name is Jingju, and it has 200 years history. It is a traditional culture and art in China. My grandparents are fans of Jingju, so I listened Chinese opera when I was 3 years old. The reason that I draw this picture is it is a tradition for me, I will never forget where I come from and who am I, and I will never forget my grandparents. I will inherit and promote Chinese culture.

My connection to #Vancouver or what Vancouver evokes to me:

I study at a high school in Vancouver. I like the environment here. The air is fresh and clean.



Drawing by **Anastasiia Frolova**

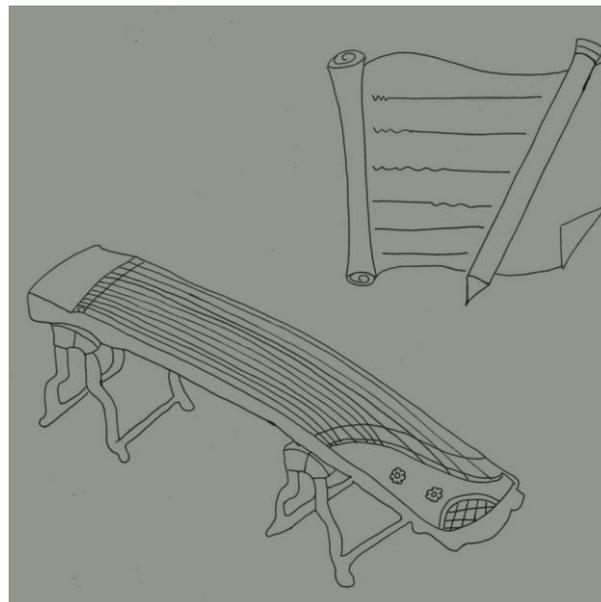
Country: **Russia**

The Story behind my drawing:

In my artwork, I decided to show one of my favorite places, Tofino. For the first time, I went there during the Thanksgiving long weekend with my family. It took us a long time to get there, but when we arrived, our hearts stopped. We could not realize that landscape we saw was real. My family rented a small villa for two days from which had a perfect view on the private beach. In the morning, we prepared breakfast, set on the terrace, and enjoyed the sunrise drinking hot coffee. The sound of waves, singing birds, and murmur of the forest made completed the harmonic atmosphere. That was the perfect morning with the family in the most beautiful place.

My connection to #Vancouver or what Vancouver evokes to me:

I love the nature in Vancouver. In Vancouver, there is a variety of people from different countries. I also love to watch the sunset on English Bay.



Drawing by **Yutong Zuo**

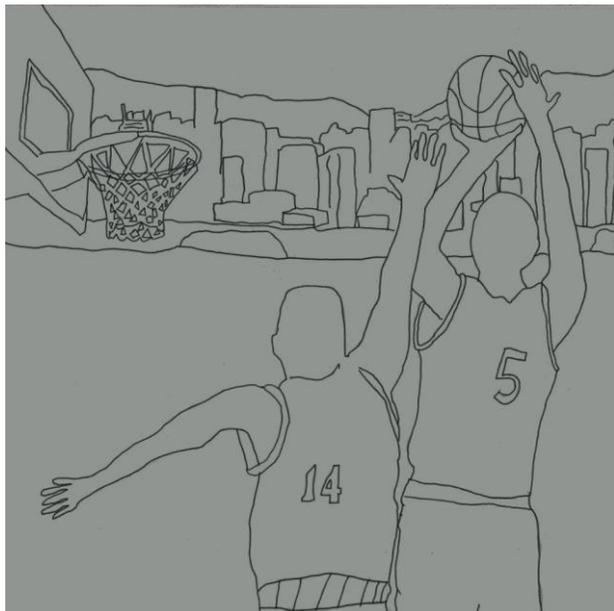
Country: **China**

The Story behind my drawing:

I drew a guzheng and a paper with a pencil. I have played guzheng for 7 years, and I can play it very well. Since I was 7 years old, my mother lets me to learn how to play guzheng. At first, I specifically refused to play the guzheng, but when I could play a whale song, I felt so happy that I can play guzheng. I draw a paper with a pencil because I like to draw or write somethings. It is so fun, and I like to use this way to describe me. Guzheng is my best instrument and I like to write or draw something.

My connection to #Vancouver or what Vancouver evokes to me:

I like the environment. The nature is very beautiful.



Drawing by **Gento Sekiguchi**

Country: **Japan**

The Story behind my drawing:

I like to play basketball and I have been played basketball for three years. Basketball become my part of life. I had played basketball since I was living in Japan. Also, today I still play basketball. When I came to Canada I did not have any friend and I did not speak English at all. However, I saw some guys were playing basketball and I asked them to play together. Then I played with them. While we were playing we did not talk but I thought we were getting know each other. We became friend. I like basketball because it is exciting, and it help me to make new friends.

My connection to #Vancouver or what Vancouver evokes to me:

I love the view in Vancouver from North Vancouver to Vancouver. The mountains are so beautiful.



Drawing by **Mohammad Amin Zeidabadinezhad**

Country: **Iran**

The Story behind my drawing:

Hi, My picture is about teamwork and unity. Well, if you look at the picture, you can see Halloween costumes. In the picture is when me and my other friend came together to put on Halloween costumes and took a photo. That made me feel very surprised because I had never had someone ask me to come with us take a photo. That's was an awesome photo that I will remember for the rest of my life. Oh, let me tell you which costume which character is. On the left is the first one which is a dead bride, second one on the left is the Joker, first one on the right is Jack and second one on the right is the black witch. I called it the Joker team, and that's cool.

My connection to #Vancouver or what Vancouver evokes to me:

Vancouver has good weather. It is rainy and never too hot or cold.