

Creativity Prompt

To see a World

Leaves, grass, and the little things

Description

Use leaf rubbings to notice the beautiful details in nature and discover art that is inspired by those details.

Time to complete

5 to 10 minutes

Materials

Pencil and paper

Instructions

Find one or more of the following: a leaf, a blade of grass, a flower petal, a piece of bark, a pebble.

Once you have your object, place it on a flat surface, put a piece of paper over it and using a pencil at an angle, rub the pencil over the object to trace it onto the paper. Different kinds of paper will have different effects—feel free to experiment! What do you notice? Are there small details you didn't see at first glance? Did your rubbing reveal the object's texture on your paper? What else jumped out at you?

Reflecting on the small details, examine a piece of art, the texture and color of sounds in a song, the specific choice of a word in a poem, or the smallest movement of a dancer. All these small details have a way of expanding your world!

Something small can actually be something very big!

Take the opening of William Blake's poem "Auguries of Innocence" for instance:

To see a World in a Grain of Sand
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour

English composer Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) set this poem to music in his set of songs called "[Songs and Proverbs of William Blake](#)."

Find a place to hang your leaf rubbing somewhere you can see as a daily reminder that you can find the beauty in the smallest of things around you.

Optional Add-On

Read the full “[Auguries of Innocence](#)”.

Sharing Suggestions

Share your description (and maybe song!) with a friend or family member. You can also share with Opera Omaha on social media in the comments on Facebook, or tagging @OperaOmaha in your Instagram story.