Cycle 2, Week 3 – Book of Kells Upside-Down Drawing
Ages 10-11

Materials:

- Print-out of lion drawing (see page 2)
- Print-outs of dotted line paper, 1 per student (see page 3)
- Pencils
- Colored pencils
- 9”x12” folder or envelope
- Tape or putty

1. Have your envelope with the image inside taped up in the whiteboard. Talk about the concept of drawing an image upside-down and why it is a helpful learning tool.

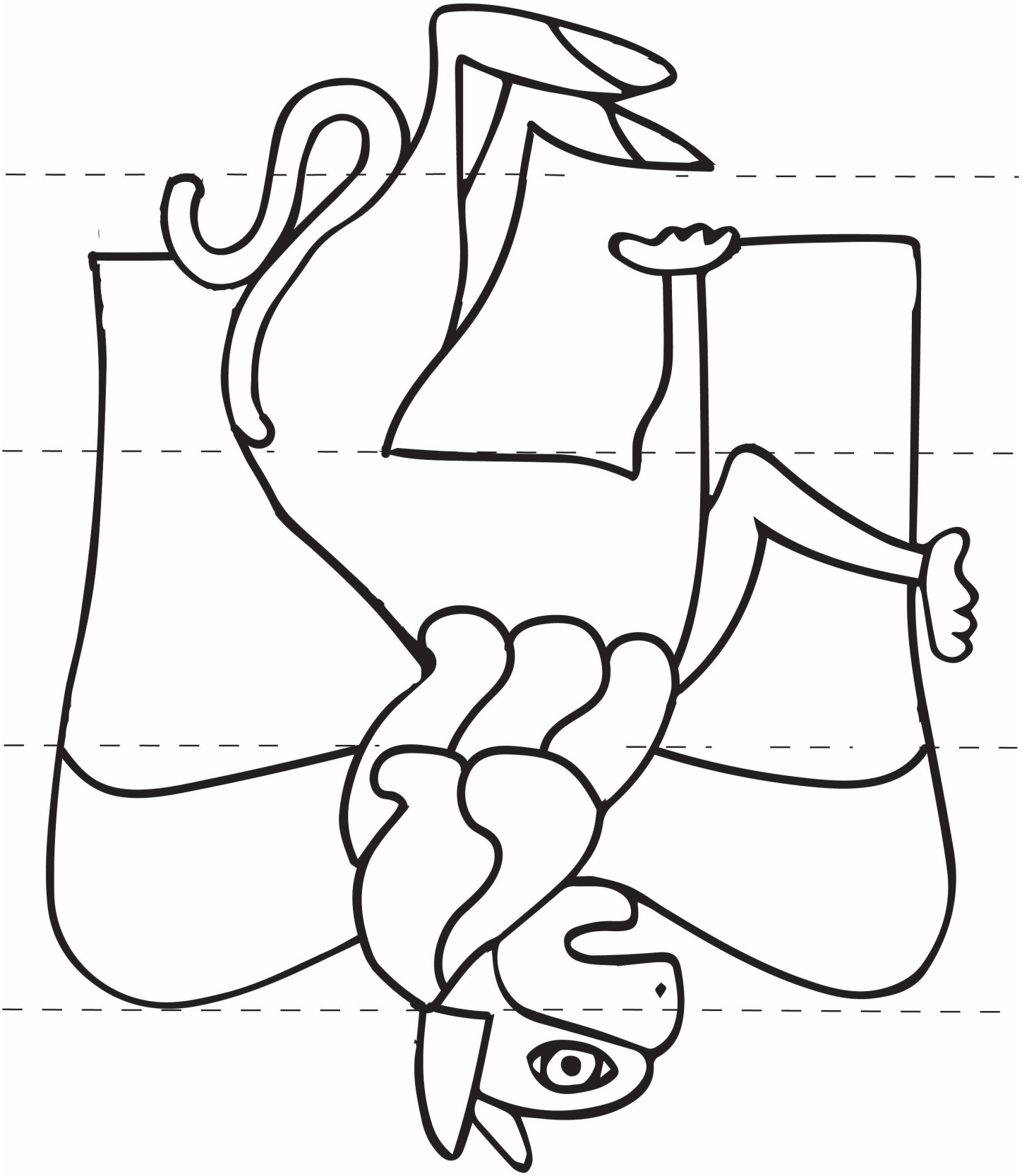
2. Pull out the image to the first dotted line and use tape or putty to hold it in place.

3. Ask students about the lines and shapes they see. Begin to draw the image on your whiteboard slowly. Talk about the lines and shapes, stopping to ask students what you should draw next as you go. Have students follow along on their own paper, studying the image as they draw.

4. Continue to pull up sections and repeat step 3 until the drawing is complete. It can be fun to have students guess what the drawing is as each section is completed.

5. If time, students may begin to color the drawing or add designs.

History

The Book of Kells is a famous medieval illuminated manuscript and acclaimed to be one of the most beautiful books ever written. It takes its name from the village of Kells, in northwest Ireland. It is thought to have been produced around 800 AD. The Book of Kells contains the four Gospels in Latin based on the Vulgate text which St Jerome completed in 384 AD. The book is written on vellum (prepared calfskin) and includes lavish decoration and ornamentation. Abstract decoration and images of animals, plants, and humans aim to glorify Jesus’ life and message, and keep his attributes and symbols constantly in the eye of the reader.

Resources: (http://www.wclibrary.info/kells) (https://www.tcd.ie/Library/manuscripts/book-of-kells.php)