

This is Ms. Susan from the Shorewood Public Library. This week we will have a project that is what we call, an optical illusion. Sometimes, your brain tells your eyes what to see, rather than your eyes telling your brain what is really in front of you. Optical illusions simply trick your brain into seeing things which may or may not be real. They are perfectly normal tricks that anyone would see because our brains are trained to see shortcuts, or see colors before lines. See what happens if you draw two hands, but only use curved lines on one hand. This could be really tricky!



1-Draw your hand onto a piece of paper. If you are making this project with someone else, you can have them trace both of your hands on the paper. Using a ruler or something with a straight edge, draw lines across the paper, but **do not** draw inside the hand. You may want to start with pencil, so you can erase if needed. The more lines, the more colors you will be able to add. Repeating the same colors of three or more, will improve the 3-D effect. Color inside the straight lines only, with a rainbow of colors. Or trace over the lines with a color. Remember, do not color inside the hand print, yet. This project does take patience and the straighter the lines, the better the picture. This is one time you will have to “color inside the lines”. So color a few and come back again to color a few more, if needed.

2- After all of the straight lines have been colored, you can tackle the hand. Here, you will draw the same line pattern, but inside the hand you will make a wave or curved line across the hand or finger to match up with the straight lines you have already colored.



Match the color to the same color of the straight line pattern. When you are finished with all the colors, the hand will appear to be above the paper or look 3-D and not just flat, on the paper. Is the hand quicker than the eye? You can also try other shapes, a heart or a car.

Remember, what you see is not always what you see! Or is it?

Ms. Susan