

IMAGINE, ILLUSTRATE, AND ILLUMINATE



ILLUMINATED LETTERS were used when writing about events in historic books to make the information more visually interesting for the reader. The first letter on the page was decorated using animals, plants, or mythological creatures that were shaped to fit around or within the letter itself. Sometimes, gold leaf was added to reflect light or make the letter look as if it was glowing.

Image Courtesy of University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries

ILLUMINATED LETTERS are known as one of the earliest forms of illustration.

An **ILLUSTRATION** is a picture in a book that helps us tell a story.

ILLUSTRATORS are visual artists that use images to create stories. Yuyi Morales tells stories about her Mexican heritage and culture with mixed media illustrations.



Notice how these **ILLUMINATED LETTERS** were inspired by this Yuyi Morales **ILLUSTRATION**.

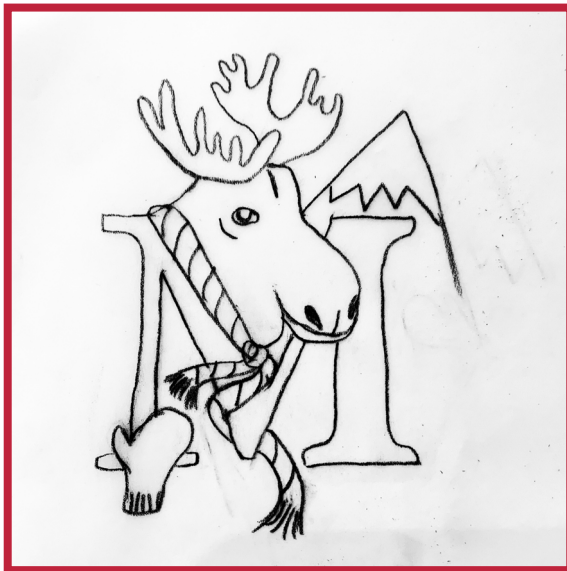
ILLUMINATE YOUR IDEAS

1. Using the provided letter or letters, brainstorm a list of people, places, things, or feelings that begin with that letter. For example, the letter "P" might make you think of a pig, popsicle, and pop. Refer to your list of words as inspiration for your own illustrated letter.

2. Incorporating 2-3 of the items from your list, sketch over the top of the provided letter(s) to design an illustrated letter.

3. Once you have a composition that you are happy with, trace your design onto the transparent vellum paper. Add decorative motifs, like scrolls, leaves, or flowers.

4. Finish your creation with colored pencil and illuminate areas of your design with a metallic brush pen.



HINT: Try tracing the provided motifs onto your vellum.

NEED INSPIRATION? Pick a Yuyi Morales book from the galleries to inspire your illuminated letter like the examples on the front of this sheet.



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ARTWORK
WITH US!



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