

September– a narrative illustration using Pen and Ink

Develop a story idea for your calendar that deals with your theme. The story could be a one that has existed for years, or one you made up. It needs to be a story that is not told linearly (first this happened, then this happened), but all at once. Do not make this a comic strip, unless your theme calls for it. A comic strip would be a linear story.

The narrative illustration probably needs to be a short or quick story and probably will not be the entire story. In the case of Hansel and Grettle, you may want just the scene where the witch is trying to coax Grettle into the oven. You will probably not be able to illustrate the entire story because this is just one illustration. Perhaps your theme is gardening and you make up a story about the snail eating your plants. Your illustration would show the snail eating the plants. It can really be that simple. Many of you have already used narrative ideas in other assignments.

You need to use the Pen and Ink filter somewhere in the illustration that is obvious. Use it to create texture or to call attention to your subject. Because of the interesting look it gives, use it to bring the viewer's eye around your illustration. By repeating the technique (or filter) you could create a "road map" or path for your viewer's eye to follow.

You may want to keep your Pen and Ink effects on its own layer. The filter creates a lot of paths which are easy to accidentally pick up and move. Be careful of your file size and complexity too! You may want to save a few versions of the illustration as you go along, just in case your computer can't handle the complexity anymore. This will allow you to go back to a previous version, instead of starting over.