Be the Machine

An unplugged AI Dream Remix | Grade 7 Art

Name: _____ My code: _____ Class: _____

No computers in this project. You and a partner take turns **being the AI**. You'll learn how AI really works, and how to use it well, with paper, dice and scissors.

1. SKETCH IT	2. PROMPT IT	3. BE THE MACHINE	4. REMIX IT
I invent an impossible thing and draw it fast.	I turn my sketch into a written prompt card.	My partner, the human AI, draws from my words only. Then we swap.	I make a final Surrealist drawing that keeps my idea.

How a real AI makes a picture

A real AI…	In our class…
learns from **training data**: millions of pictures people made	The human AI may only use pictures from the **training bin** (magazines and art cards)
follows a **prompt** and can't read your mind	The human AI sees **only your prompt card**, never your sketch, and can't ask questions
uses **randomness**, so the same prompt gives different pictures	The human AI **rolls a die** to pick a style
fills gaps with what it has seen most often, which can lead to **stereotypes**	We look for what the human AI **assumed**
gets better results when you **revise** the prompt	We do **two rounds** and improve the prompt

Meet the remixers: Dada, Surrealism and hip-hop

Dada (1916): World War One was the first war fought with machine guns, poison gas, tanks and warplanes. Artists in Zurich saw what new technology could do in the wrong hands, and they fought back with nonsense and broke every rule. Tristan Tzara made poems from words pulled out of a bag by chance. Marcel Duchamp said **choosing** an everyday object could be art. **Surrealism (1924)** turned away from cold machine logic toward dreams. Salvador Dalí and René Magritte painted impossible things so carefully they looked real. **Max Ernst** was part of both. He cut up old printed pictures and glued them into dream scenes, a lot like an AI mixing its training data. Your final piece will be a Surrealist drawing. **Hip-hop (1973):** in the Bronx, New York, DJ Kool Herc looped the best drum break from old records so people could dance longer. Producers began **sampling**: borrowing short pieces of old songs, changing them, and crediting the original artists. Today, AI is the new technology, and artists are asking the same questions about borrowing again.

Need help? Ask! You can have instructions read to you, record your answers, use smaller paper, or write notes in your first language.

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Step 1: Sketch It (Lesson 2)

Start with chance. Pick **Option A** or **Option B**, then sketch an impossible thing fast and label its parts with arrows.

Option A, the Dada Hat: cut up these words, put each column in a bag and pull one from each.

Something from nature	A body part or object	Something strange happens
a flower a tree an apple an octopus a snake	an eye a hand a sneaker a clock a key	it melts it floats it is giant or tiny it grows out of something it is made of something else

Option B, my own list: write 4 words in each column, cut them up and pull by chance. Or trade lists with a partner.

Something from nature	A body part or object	Something strange happens

I pulled: _____ + _____ + _____

Step 2: Prompt It (Lesson 2)

Write your prompt card. A real AI only knows what you tell it, so use the **prompt recipe**. **Never** put your name, school, face or real places in a prompt, here or with a real AI.

Prompt recipe	Ask yourself	Example
Subject	What is the main thing?	a giant hand with an eye in the palm
Action	What is it doing?	reaching out of the ground
Place	Where is it?	in a desert at night
Details	What else must be there?	a green snake wrapped around the wrist
Mood and light	How should it feel?	spooky, with blue moonlight

Step 3: Be the Machine (Lessons 3–4)

Rules for the human AI

1. Draw from the **words only**. You may not see the sketch or ask questions.
2. Roll the die to pick your style (chart below).
3. You may cut and glue pictures from the **training bin**. Write down every source you use, the way producers credit every sample.
4. You have **15 minutes**. Do your honest best: no jokes at your partner's expense.

Die	Style	Die	Style	Die	Style
1	Realistic	3	Soft and dreamy	5	Dark and dramatic
2	Cartoon	4	Collage	6	Bright and bold

Round 1: my prompt card

Code: _____ _____

_____

Compare my sketch with my partner's version

Question	My answer
What did the human AI **keep** from my idea?	
What did it **leave out** or get wrong?	
What did it **assume** that I never said? Where did that idea come from?	
Which words in my prompt were **unclear**?	

Round 2: my improved prompt card

Fix the unclear words, add missing details and try again with a new roll of the die.

Code: _____ _____

_____

What got better in Round 2? What still surprised me?

Step 4: Plan My Surrealist Drawing (Lesson 5)

The Remix Rule

KEEP my idea. It is the main subject.
BORROW 1 idea from my partner's human-AI version and redraw it my way, with credit, like a sample.
BRING BACK 1 thing the human AI missed.
ADD 1 Surrealist move.

My Surrealist move (pick one)

Move	Like…	What I do
Melting	Dalí	Something hard (a clock, a key, a building) droops and melts
Floating	Magritte	Objects hang in the air or hide a face
Wrong size	Magritte	An everyday object is giant, or something huge is tiny
Long shadows	de Chirico	Empty space and long, dramatic shadows down a deep perspective
Frottage	Ernst	Lay my drawing paper on wood or leaves and rub pencil over it for a surprise texture

I keep my idea of: _____

I borrow from my partner: _____ Partner's code: _____

I bring back: _____

My move: Melting / Floating / Wrong size / Long shadows / Frottage (circle one)

Step 5: My Final Surrealist Drawing (Lessons 6–7)

On 12" x 18" drawing paper, plan lightly in pencil, then colour with colour pencils. Draw carefully so the impossible looks real, like Dalí and Magritte.

[ ] My impossible idea is the **main subject**
[ ] A **horizon line** and **one-point perspective**: a road, path or floor going back to one vanishing point
[ ] **Value:** I shaded light and dark so things look 3-D
[ ] I borrowed 1 idea from my partner's version and brought back 1 thing it missed
[ ] My **Surrealist move**
[ ] **Unity:** 3 key colours repeated across the page
[ ] The whole page is coloured, blended and 100% hand-drawn by me

Step 6: Exhibition and Liner Notes (Lesson 8)

Display in a row: **sketch** → **prompt cards** → **human-AI versions** → **final drawing**. Give your drawing a title. Then write your **Liner Notes** in 4 to 6 sentences. On an album, liner notes list every sample and who made it; yours do the same for your art.

My title: _____

- Where did my idea come from, and what did I leave to chance?
- What did I sample from my partner's version, and how did I flip it to make it mine?
- How did my prompt change from Round 1 to Round 2, and why?
- What will I do differently when I use a real AI one day?

AI skills I practised

Skill	I did it when…	Self-check
Write a clear prompt (subject, action, place, details, mood)	Step 2	[ ]
Keep private information out of prompts	Steps 2 and 3	[ ]
Check what an AI kept, missed and assumed	Step 3	[ ]
Revise a prompt to get a better result	Round 2	[ ]
Give credit for what I borrow	Steps 3 and 6	[ ]

How my work will be marked

Step	What my teacher looks for	Marks
Sketch and prompt	An impossible idea, labelled; a clear, safe prompt using the recipe	2,000
Be the Machine	Fair human-AI drawings with sources listed; sharp comparison notes; a better Round 2 prompt	2,000
Final drawing	My idea leads; perspective and value; a borrowed idea redrawn my way; my Surrealist move; unity; finished	4,000
Explain it	A title and Liner Notes that credit my partner and explain my choices	2,000
	Total	**10,000**

Level 4 = 80–100% | Level 3 = 70–79% | Level 2 = 60–69% | Level 1 = 50–59%

Quick Check: Before

Name: _____ Date: _____

Not marked. Guess if you're not sure. You'll do this again at the end.

Circle the best answer

1. Surrealist art looks like… a) a photo b) a dream or impossible world c) a map

2. A **prompt** is… a) the words you give an AI b) a type of paint c) a famous artist

3. AI learns to make pictures from… a) its own dreams b) one photo c) **training data**: millions of pictures people made

4. Why can the same prompt give different pictures? a) the AI is broken b) AI uses randomness, a bit like rolling a die c) someone changed the words

5. A strong prompt includes… a) only one word b) my name and school c) subject, place, style and mood

6. Tristan Tzara made poems by… a) pulling cut-up words from a bag by chance b) rhyming carefully c) copying famous poems

7. In one-point perspective, lines going back meet at… a) the edge of the page b) the vanishing point c) the top corner

Who is the artist when AI makes a picture? Why?

How sure am I? (1 = not yet, 4 = I could teach it)

I can…	Circle one
say what Dada is	1 2 3 4
explain how AI learns from training data	1 2 3 4
write a clear prompt	1 2 3 4
spot what an AI version misses or assumes	1 2 3 4
draw in one-point perspective	1 2 3 4
give credit when I borrow	1 2 3 4

Quick Check: After

Name: _____ Date: _____

Not marked. When you finish, compare with your first try.

Circle the best answer

1. Surrealist art looks like… a) a photo b) a dream or impossible world c) a map

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What changed most for me:

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