

Although this painting looks simple at first glance, the artist has given us a great deal of information to read with our eyes. This whimsical painting portrays a girl dancing in the rain and can be used to show that many exciting things are made out of lines, shapes, and colors.



Paul Klee (German, 1879–1940, b. Switzerland).

*Dancing Girl*, 1940.

Oil on cloth.

Gift of George B. Young.



## Singing in the Rain



- What does this painting show? Is this a boy or a girl? Where is the person? What is the weather? What is the person doing? What is the person's mood?
- We can see a girl with a ponytail holding an umbrella. She appears to be dancing with her head tossed to the side, outstretched arms and legs, and swinging skirt. On the left, five black strokes surrounded by green paint make up the trunk and branches of a tree.
- Have students discuss their personal experiences of being outside in the rain. Do they like it or dislike it? Have students write about and illustrate their experiences.

Illinois State Goals: 4, 25, 26

## Types of Lines



- Ask students to identify the types of lines in the painting. Do they see straight and curved lines? What about lines that go back and forth? Up and down?
- As students identify types of lines, have them make these lines with their bodies.
- Lying on the floor, have students make a dancing pose like the girl and make a tree with their body. Ask them how it feels to be in these poses. What lines are their bodies making?
- To help students realize that lines are everywhere, have students make a list of the different types of lines they can identify around the house. Have students sketch an object that contains each of the following lines: straight, curved, wavy, and zigzag.
- Give each student a piece of black paper and an assortment of yarn and string of various lengths and textures. What types of line "drawings" can they make?

Illinois State Goals: 4, 9, 19, 25, 26

## Alphabet Animals



- Letters of the alphabet are also made up of lines. Can students see any letters in this painting?
- Help the alphabet come to life by making creatures out of the letters of the alphabet.

Illinois State Goals: 1, 25, 26

Lines,  
Shapes,  
Colors



What are you doing in the rain?

