

# STARR FISH

*Brenda Hoddinott*

## **C-09 BEGINNER: DRAW WITH LINES**

This lesson challenges you to rely completely on your visual skills rather than verbal instructions. After all, learning to draw is all about learning to see!



Twenty-three illustrations take you through the process of enhancing your visual skills while creating a cartoon drawing of a starfish named Starr Fish. Various beginner drawing skills are utilized including sketching accurate proportions, combining lines to make shapes, and adding details with lines and circular shapes.

This lesson is divided into the following two sections:

- **LIGHTLY SKETCHING STARR IN PENCIL:** The eleven illustrations in this section, challenge you to rely completely on your visual skills rather than verbal instructions, to sketch a simple starfish by combining lines with shapes.
- **OUTLINING STARR WITH MARKERS:** The final outline of the starfish is rendered, either with medium and fine tip permanent black markers, or with a freshly sharpened 4B or 6B pencil.

Suggested supplies include white paper, HB and 4B (or 6B) graphite pencils, kneaded and vinyl erasers, a pencil sharpener, and fine and medium tip black markers. Should you choose to add color to your drawing, colored pencils or markers will come in handy.

## **13 PAGES – 23 ILLUSTRATIONS**

Recommended for beginner level artists with limited drawing skills, as well as home schooling, academic and recreational fine art educators

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## LIGHTLY SKETCHING STARR IN PENCIL

Learning to draw is all about learning to see! The eleven illustrations in this section challenge you to rely completely on your visual skills rather than verbal instructions to sketch a simple starfish by combining lines with shapes.

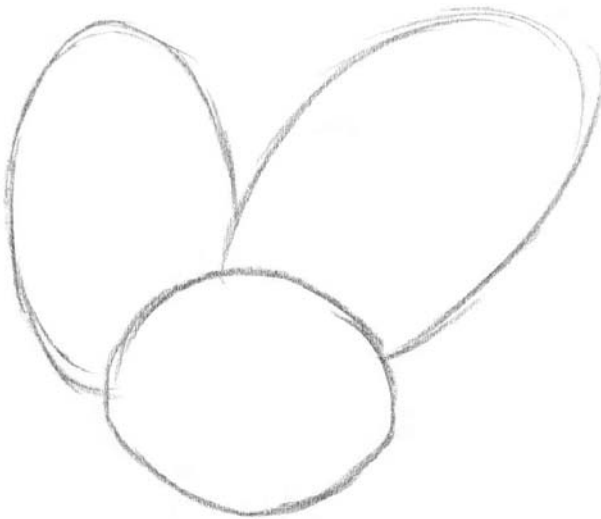
ILLUSTRATION 09-01



*Shape* refers to the outward outline of a form. Basic shapes include circles, squares and triangles. *Sketch* (noun) is a simple drawing that captures the integral aspects of a subject quickly and efficiently; (verb) refers to the process of rendering a sketch.

The initial sketch lines throughout Illustrations 09-01 to 09-11 are intended to establish accurate proportions.

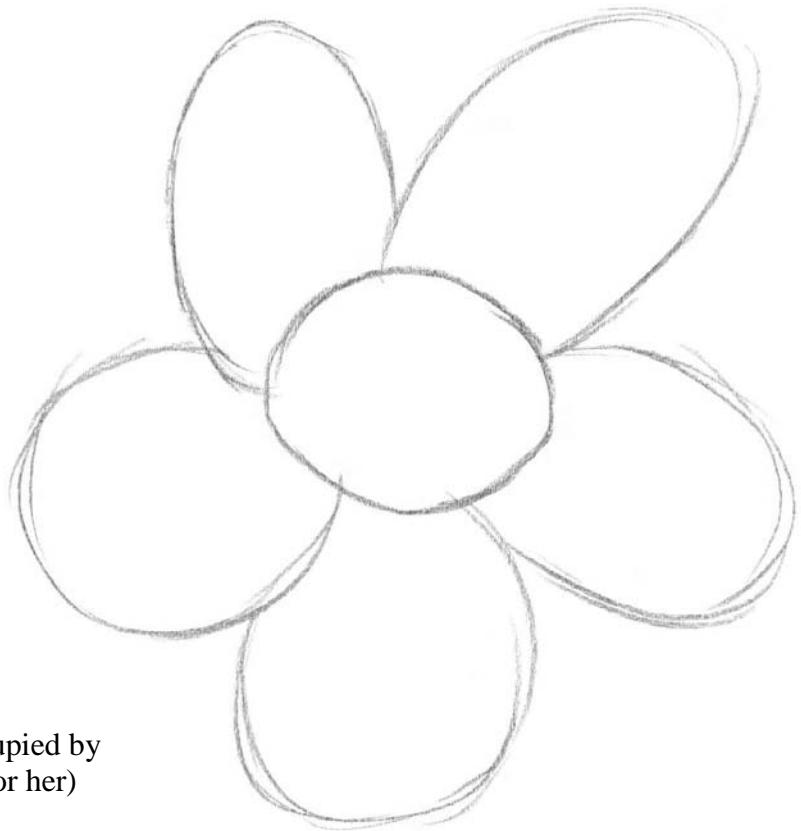
ILLUSTRATION 09-02



*Proportion* is the relationship in size of one component of a drawing to another or others.

Keep your lines very light by pressing very gently with your pencil (I used an HB).

ILLUSTRATION 09-03

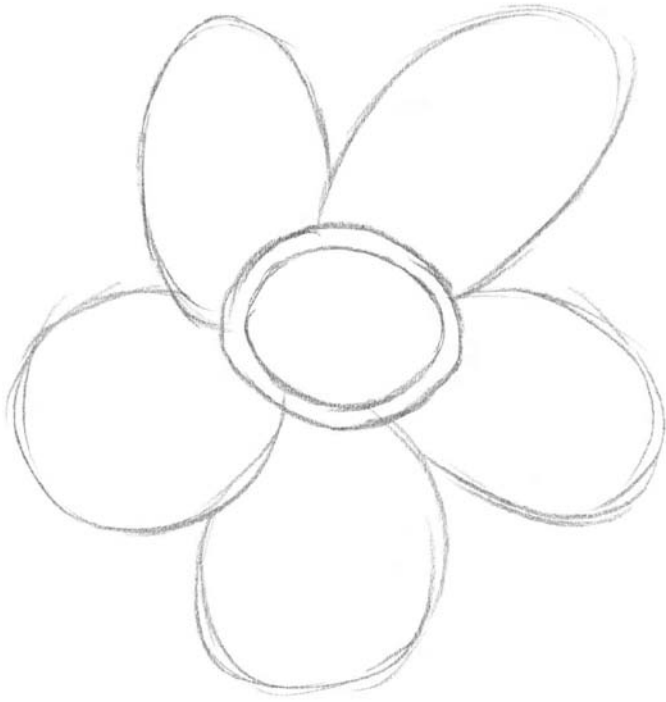


When drawing an oval or a circle, rotate your paper and look at it from different perspectives. Pay close attention to the shapes created by negative and positive spaces.

*Negative space* refers to the background around and/or behind a drawing subject such as objects, people, or animals.

*Positive space* refers to the space occupied by the drawing subject and/or its (or his or her) various parts.

ILLUSTRATION 09-04



Visually break down each section of the starfish into simple shapes and measure proportions.

Take note of the parts of the starfish that overlap others. *Overlapping* refers to a technique for creating the illusion of depth in a drawing by drawing a subject so it visually appears to be in front of another (or others).

As you sketch, constantly check the relationships of lines and spaces to one another. Note whether the sizes and proportions are accurate, and adjust as needed.

ILLUSTRATION 09-05

Don't press too hard with your pencils!

No matter how careful you are, accidents do happen, and you may need to erase sections you aren't happy with.

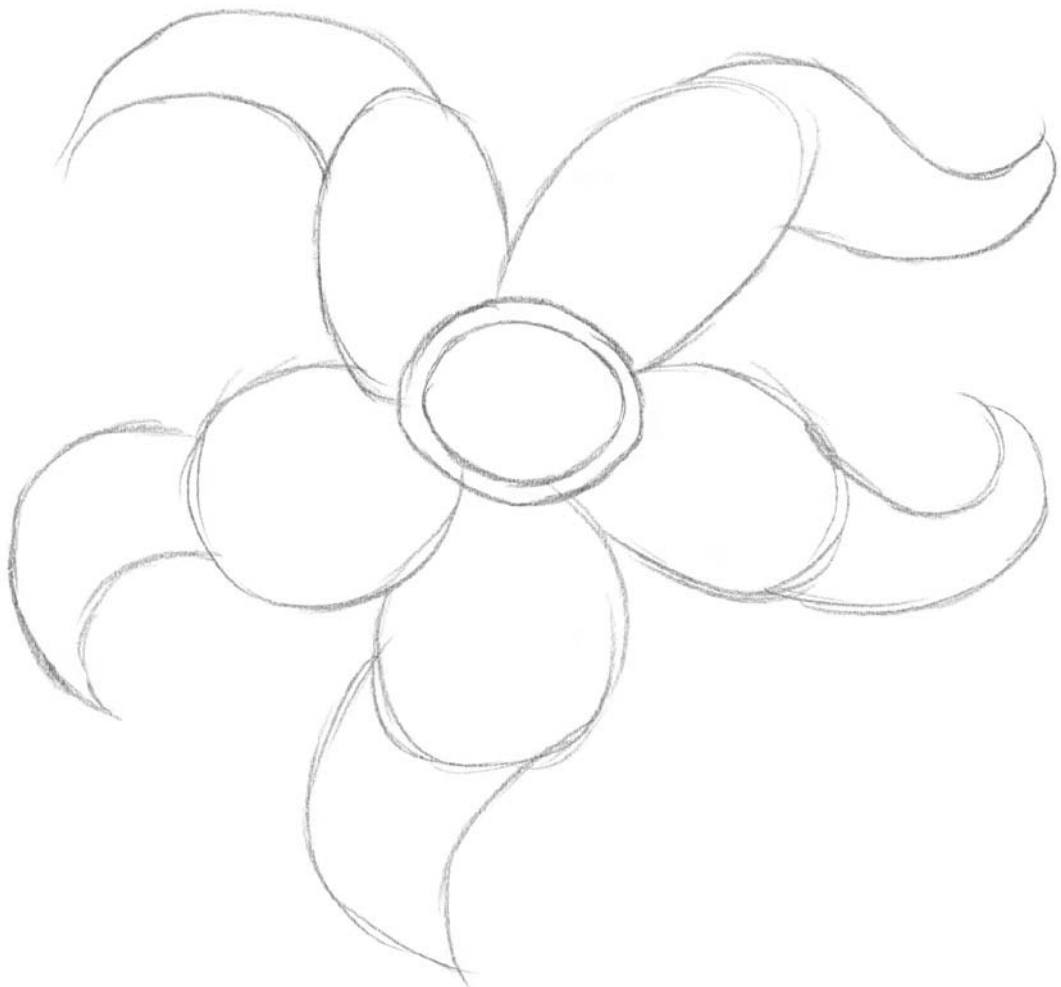
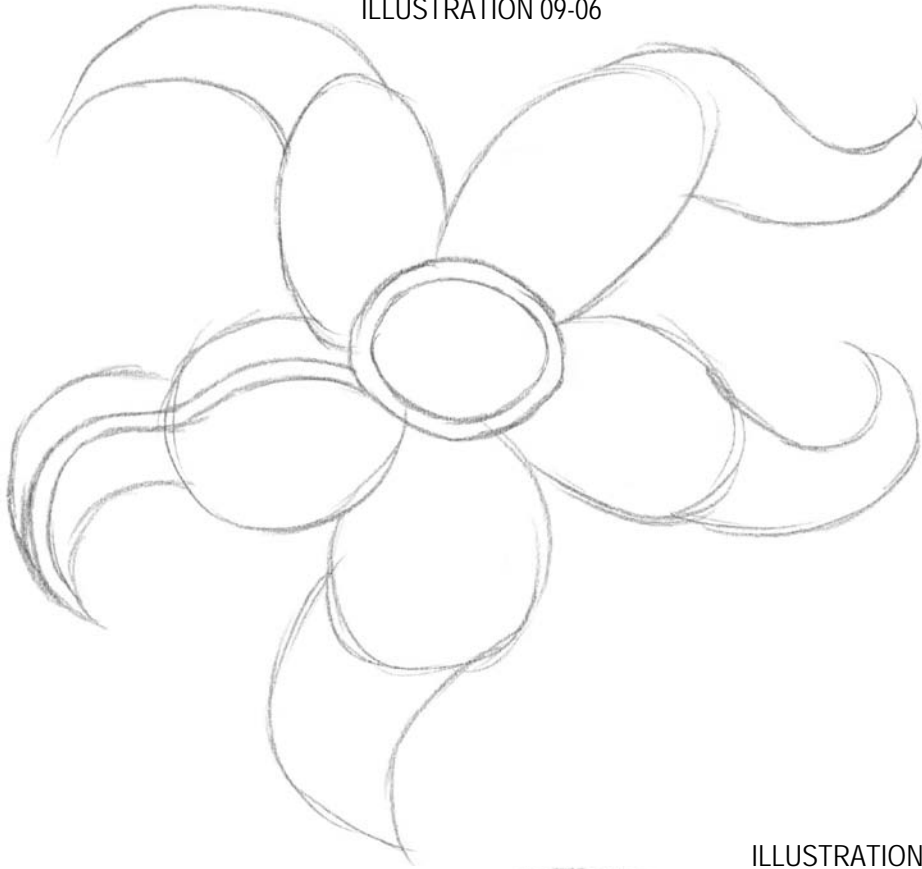


ILLUSTRATION 09-06



If you're not happy with some of the lines you draw, simply erase that section, redraw the lines, and keep on going.

ILLUSTRATION 09-07



Remember, learning to see as an artist is the very foundation of drawing.

ILLUSTRATION 09-08



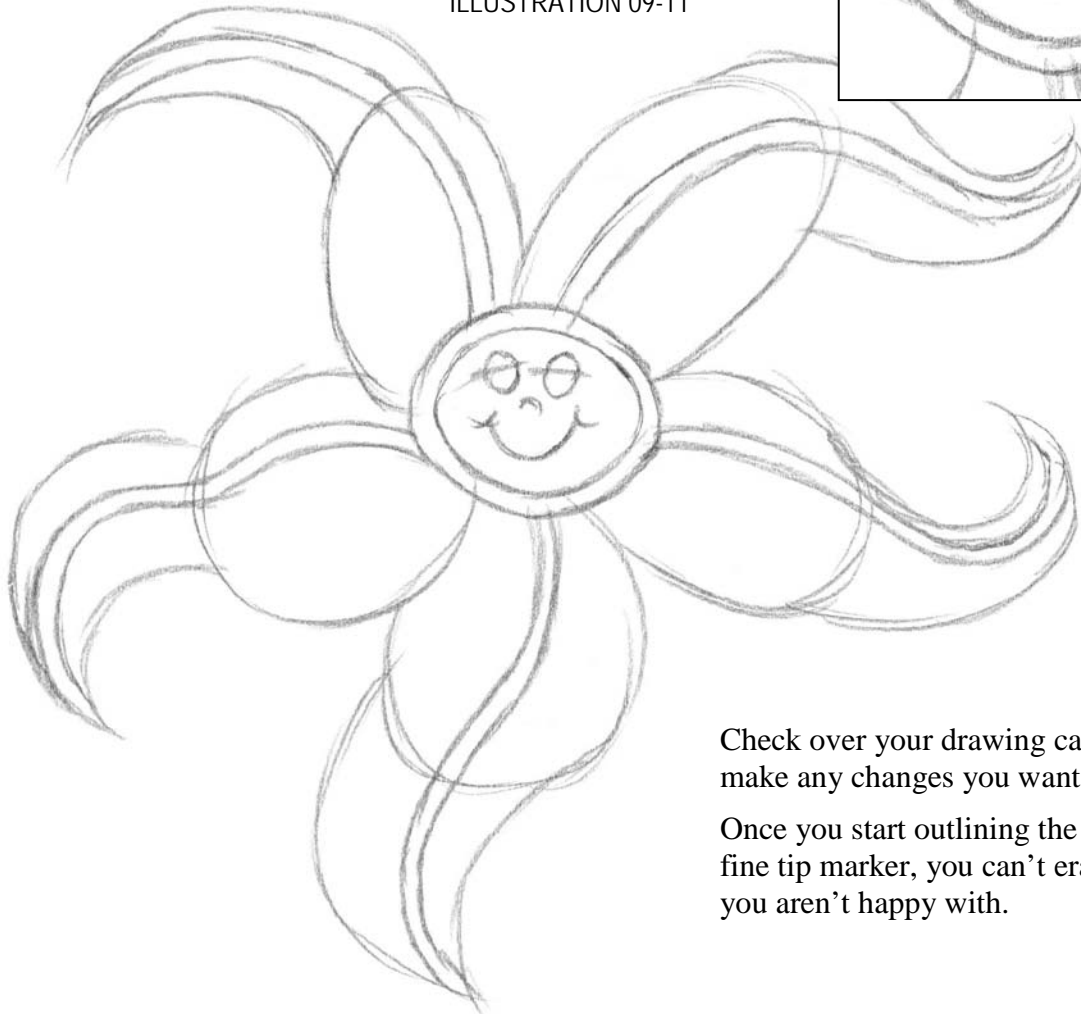
ILLUSTRATION 09-09



ILLUSTRATION 09-10



ILLUSTRATION 09-11



Check over your drawing carefully and make any changes you want.

Once you start outlining the starfish with a fine tip marker, you can't erase sections you aren't happy with.

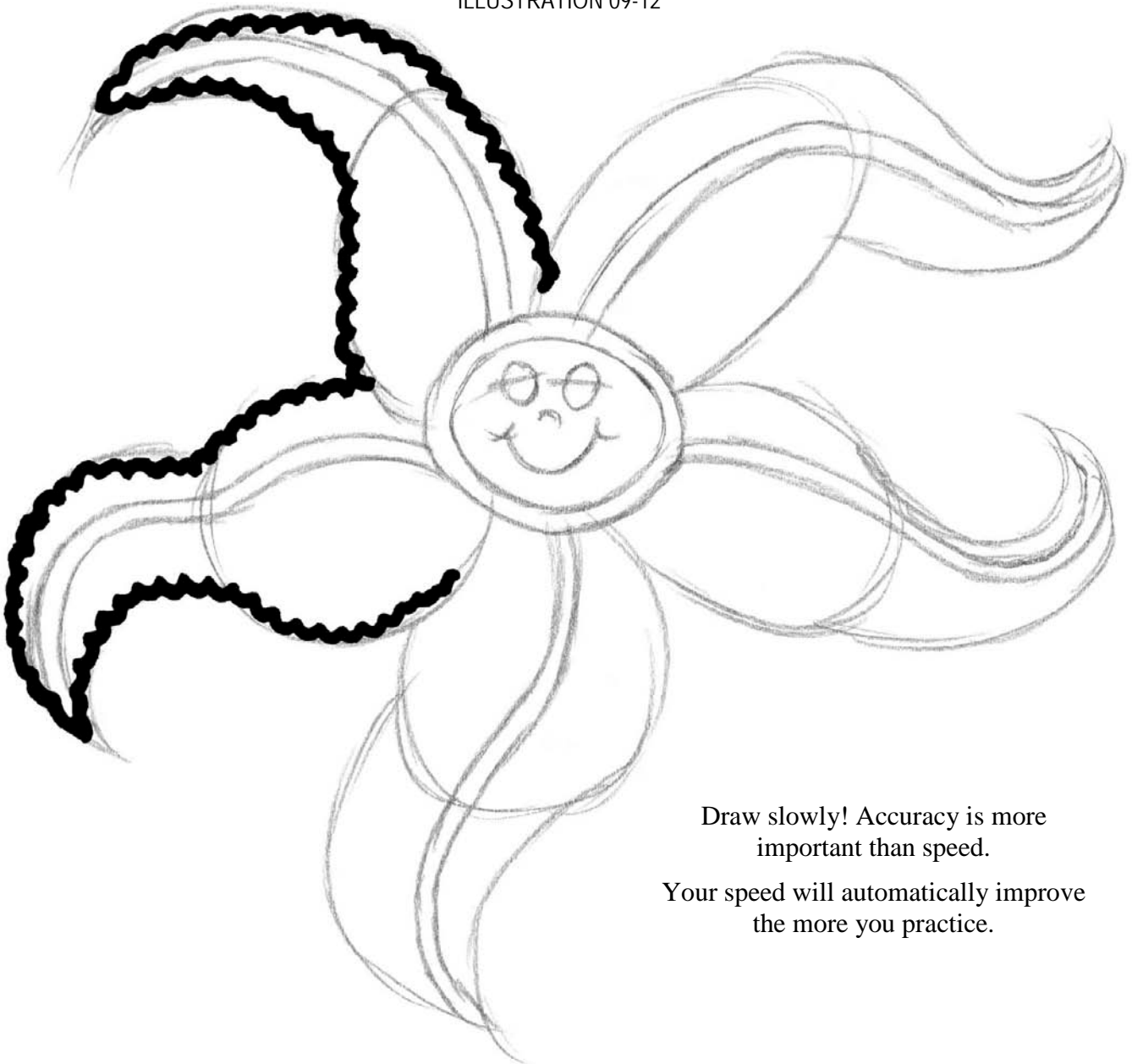
## OUTLINING STARR WITH MARKERS

In this section, the final outline of the starfish is rendered, either with medium and fine tip permanent black markers, or with a freshly sharpened 4B or 6B pencil. A medium tip permanent black marker works well for the exterior outline of the starfish. If you choose to use a dark pencil instead of markers, keep your pencil freshly sharpened so your outlines are neat.

Keep a piece of paper under your hand! All markers can be easily smudged if you don't give the ink a chance to dry well. Also, 4B and 6B pencils are very easily smudged.

Follow along with the following fifteen illustrations and take your time. Also, don't forget that you can turn your sketchbook around as you draw.

ILLUSTRATION 09-12

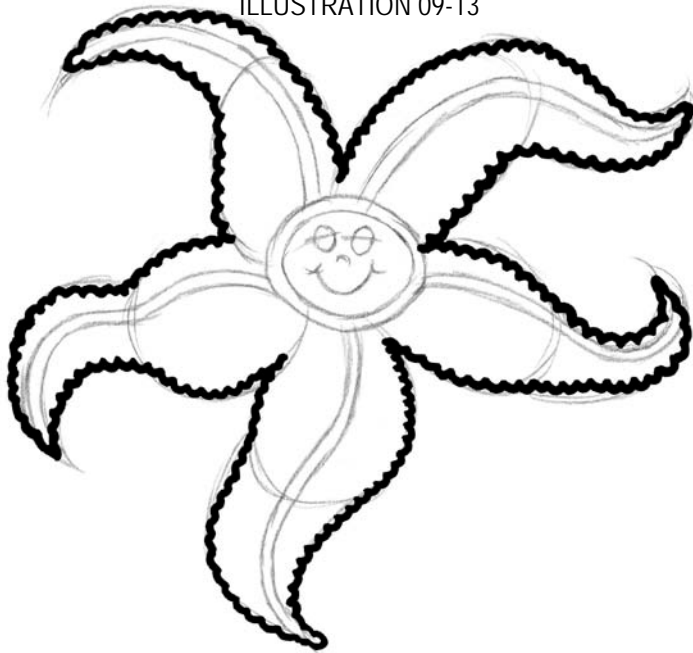


Draw slowly! Accuracy is more important than speed.

Your speed will automatically improve the more you practice.



ILLUSTRATION 09-13



A thorough visual examination of your subject is the most important ingredient for making great drawings and sketches.

Talent is the self-discovery that you possess the ability, and motivation needed to become exceptional

Your talent for drawing can be developed with hard work, patience, and dedication.

ILLUSTRATION 09-14

A fine tip permanent black marker is ideal for outlining all the inner details of the starfish.

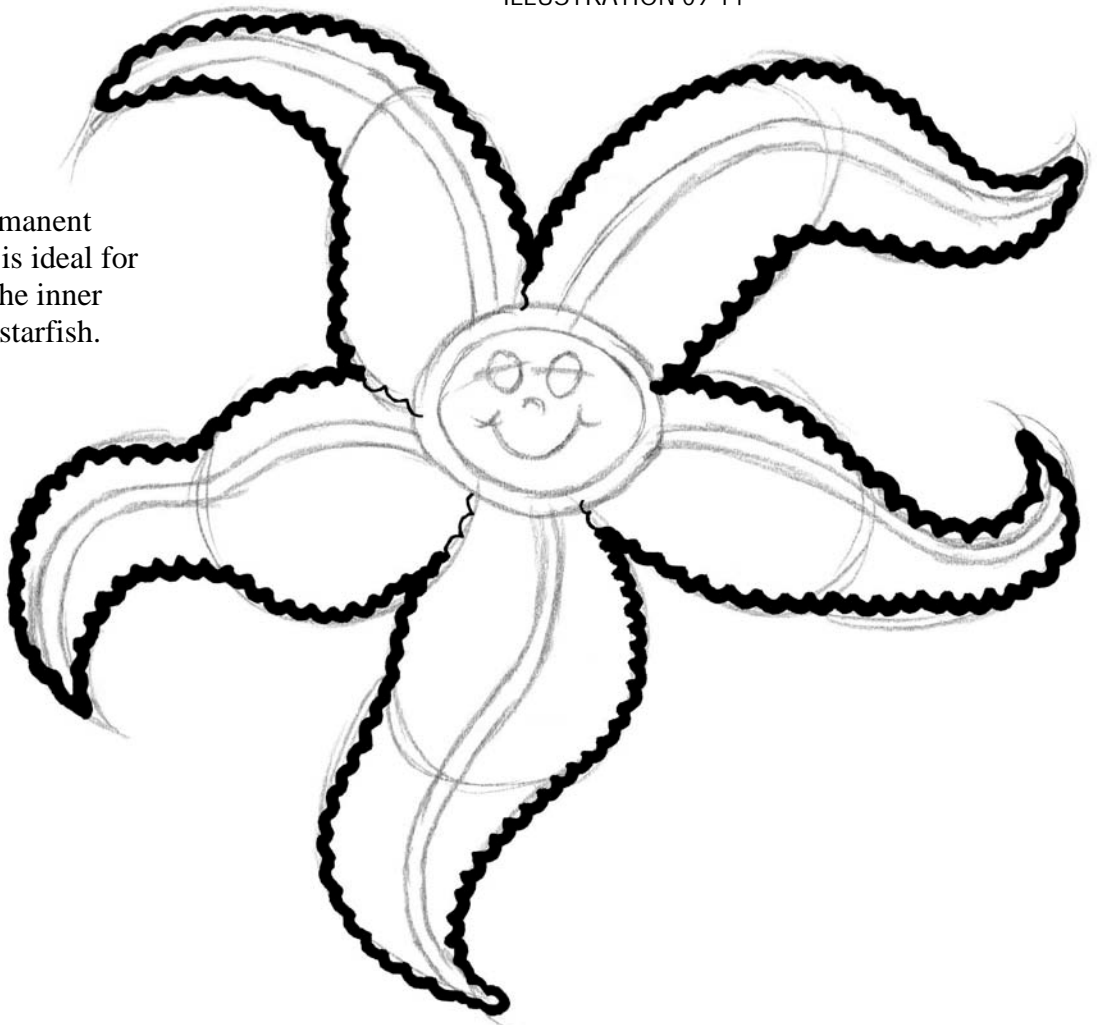


ILLUSTRATION 09-15

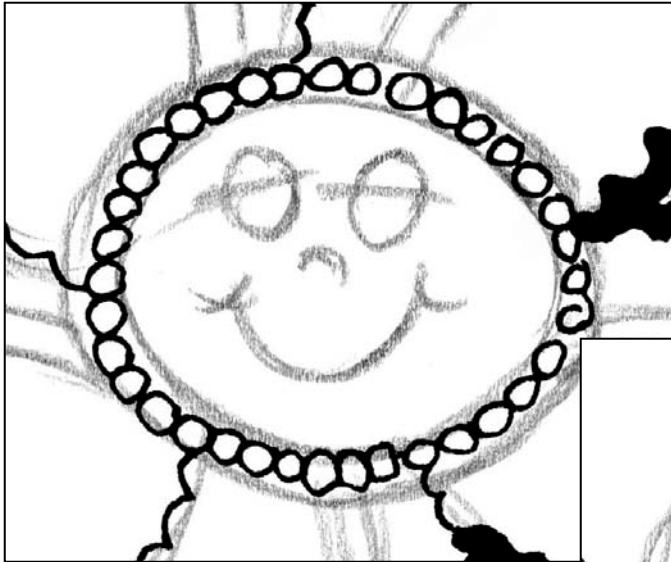


ILLUSTRATION 09-16

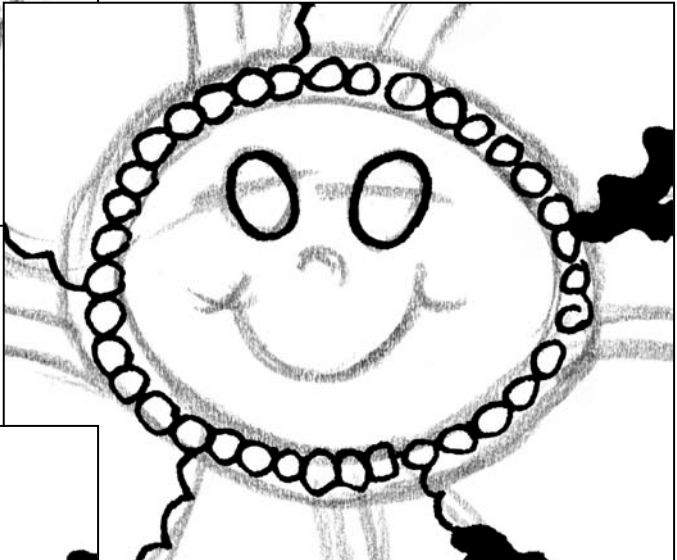


ILLUSTRATION 09-17

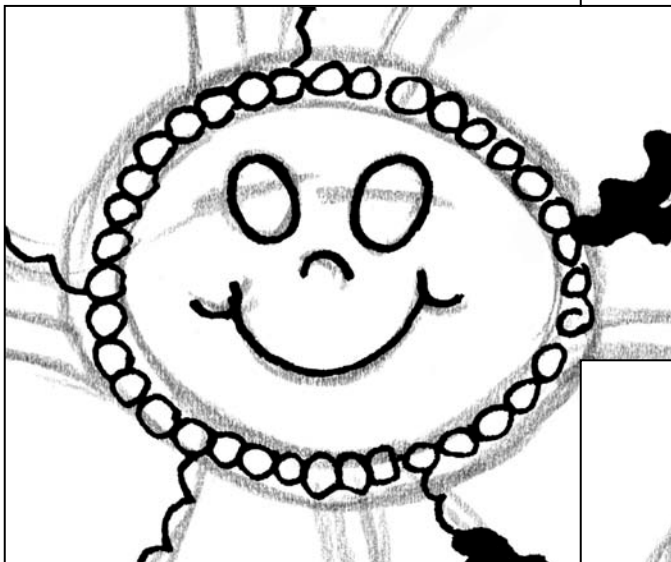


ILLUSTRATION 09-18

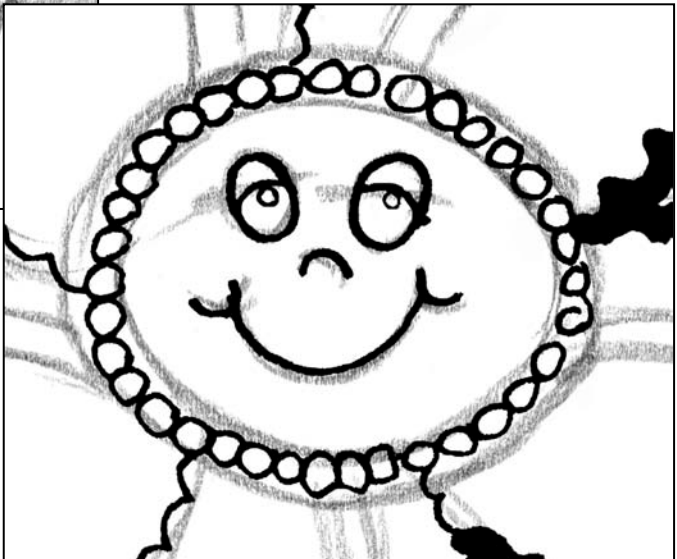




ILLUSTRATION 09-19

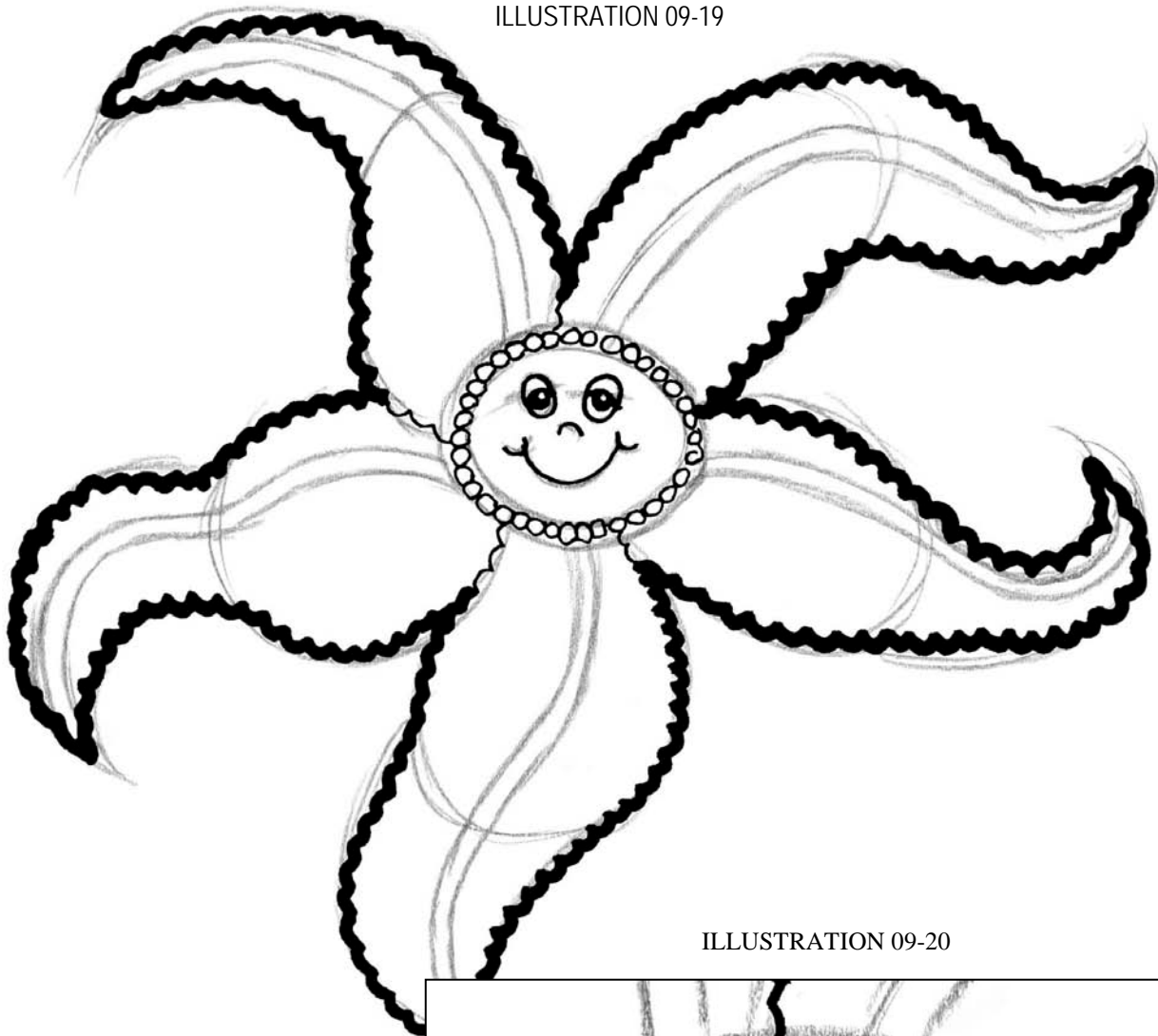
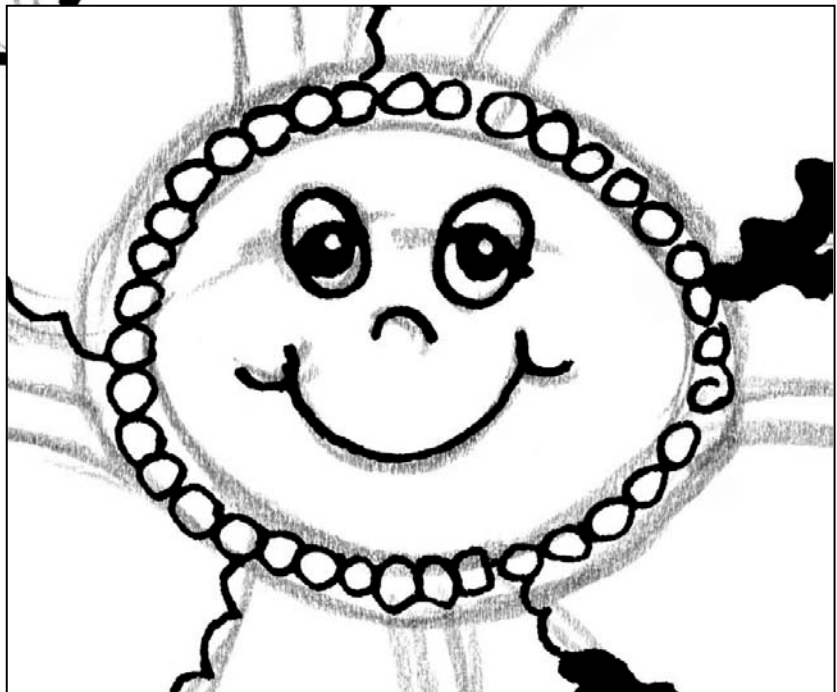


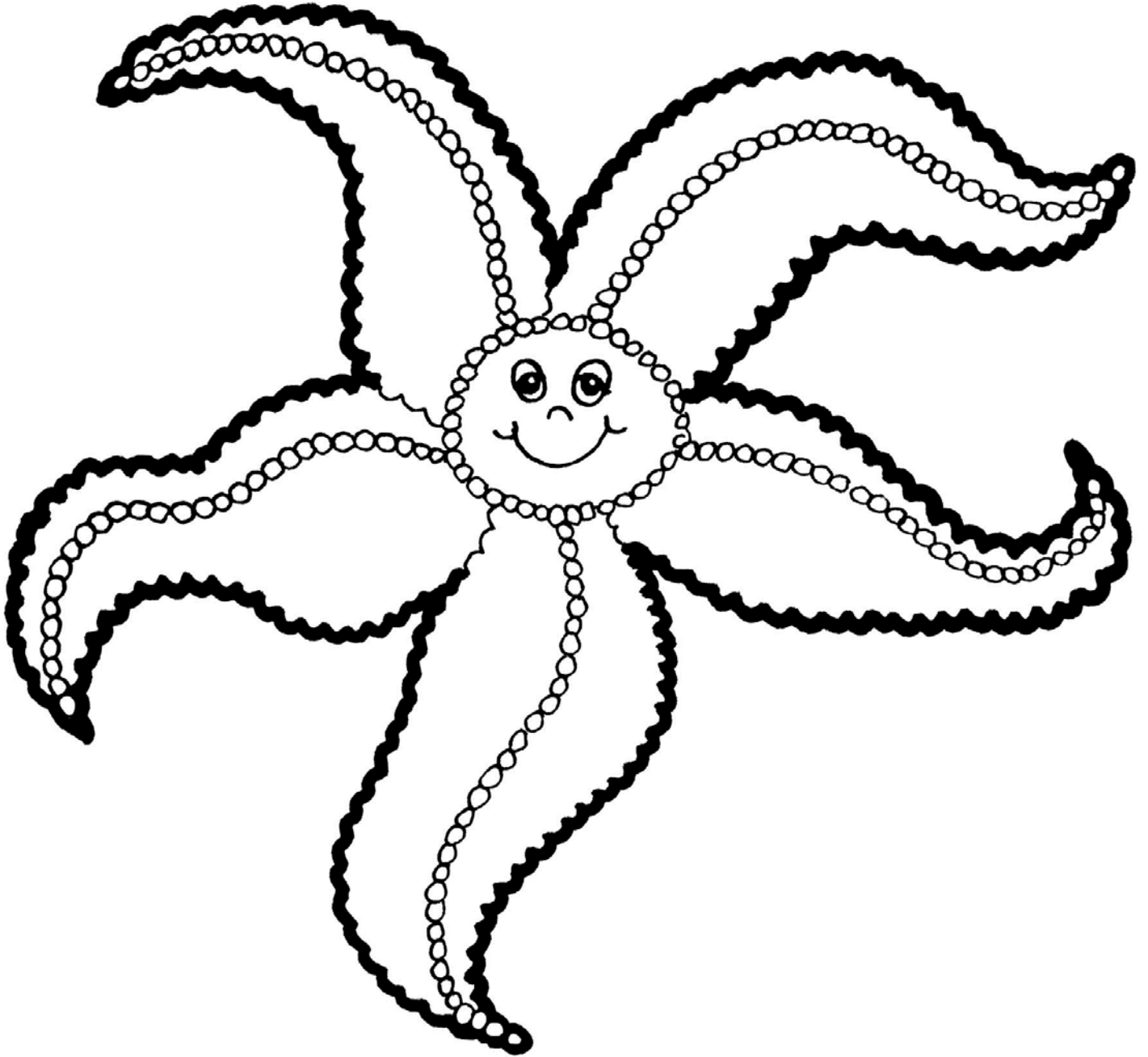
ILLUSTRATION 09-20



You need three invaluable ingredients in order to improve your drawing skills - practice, practice, and more practice!

When your ink is completely dry, very gently erase your pencil lines. Experiment with the erasing process on a piece of scrap paper before you begin.

ILLUSTRATION 09-21



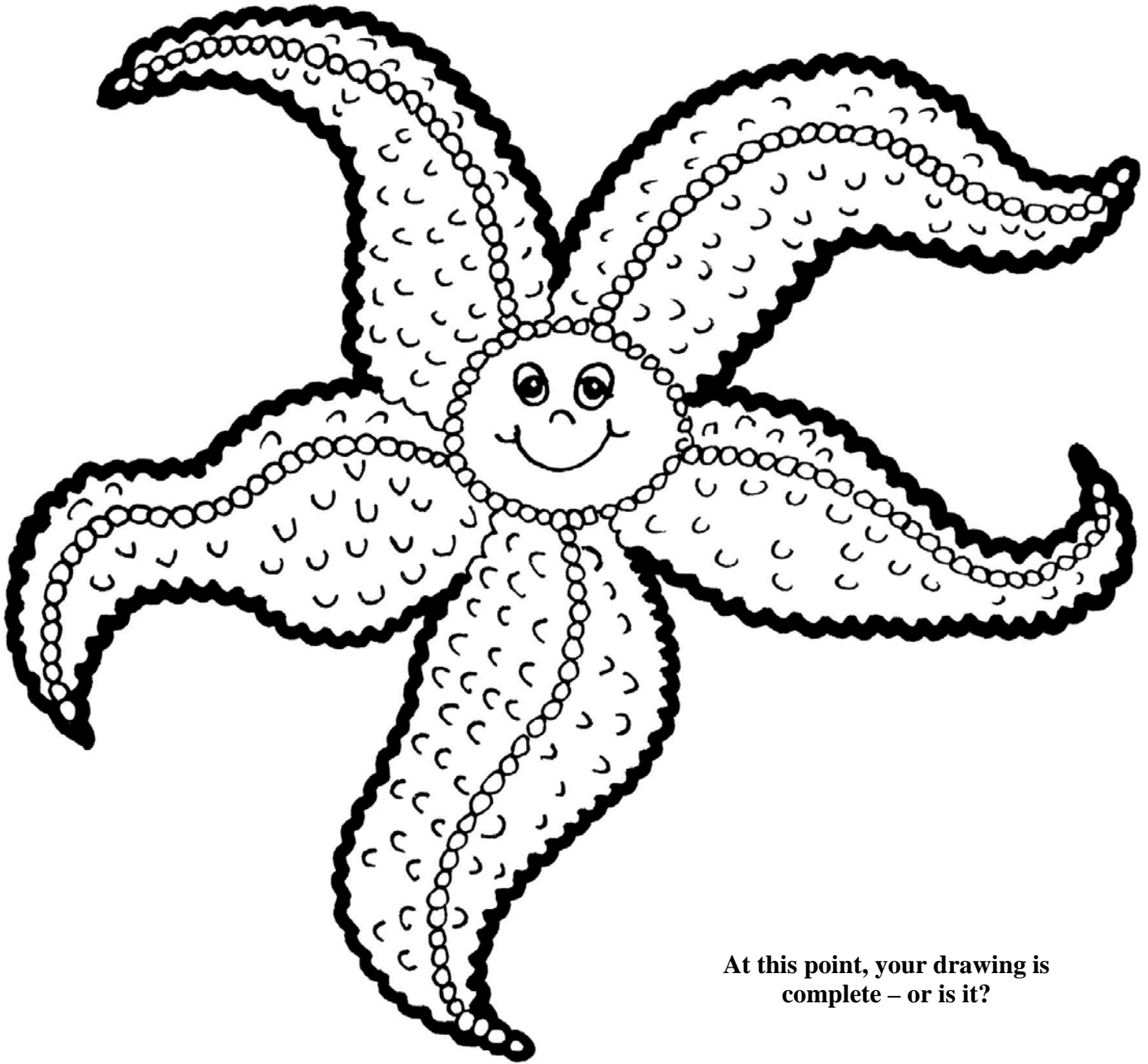
Draw in a way you really love!

Styles are neither right nor wrong... they just are.

With time, your style develops all by itself.

Drawing is an action word – you learn by doing!

ILLUSTRATION 09-22



**At this point, your drawing is complete – or is it?**

Many additional details can be added if you so wish. For example, you can scan your drawing and then add color in a computer program, such as Photoshop. Or, consider adding color with colored pencils or markers.

**If you're using markers, test them on some scrap paper first, to make sure they don't smudge the black outlines.**

ILLUSTRATION 09-23



Drawing is a journey, not a destination.

The day that you are totally happy with your drawings is  
the day you pack up your supplies and quit.

**Learning to draw is an infinite quest.**

## BRENDA HODDINOTT - BIOGRAPHY

As a self-educated teacher, visual artist, portraitist, forensic artist, and illustrator, Brenda Hoddinott utilizes diverse art media including graphite, technical pen, colored pencil, chalk pastel, charcoal, conté crayon, and oil paints.

My philosophy on teaching art is to focus primarily on the enjoyment aspects while gently introducing the technical and academic. Hence, in creating a passion for the subject matter, the quest for knowledge also becomes enjoyable.



>Brenda Hoddinott<

Born in St. John's, Newfoundland, Brenda grew up in the small town of Corner Brook. She developed strong technical competencies with a personal commitment to self directed learning, and the aid of assorted "Learn to Draw" books. During Brenda's twenty-five year career as a self-educated civilian forensic artist, numerous criminal investigation departments have employed Brenda's skills, including Royal Canadian Mounted Police and municipal police departments. In 1992, Brenda was honored with a commendation from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and in 1994, she was awarded a Certificate of Membership from "Forensic Artists International".

Her home-based art career included graphic design, and teaching recreational drawing and painting classes. As supervisor of her community's recreational art department, Brenda hired and trained teachers, and designed curriculum for several children's art programs. In 1998, Brenda chose to end her eighteen-year career as an art educator in order to devote more time to writing, drawing, painting, and developing her websites.

Drawspace <http://www.drawspace.com> incorporates her unique style and innovative approach to curriculum development. This site offers downloadable and printable drawing classes for students of all abilities from the age of eight through adult. Students of all ages, levels and abilities have praised the simple step-by-step instructional approach. This site is respected as a resource for fine art educators, home schooling programs, and educational facilities throughout the world.

## LEARN-TO-DRAW BOOKS BY BRENDA HODDINOTT

-  **Drawing for Dummies (2003):** Wiley Publishing, Inc., New, York, NY, this 336 page book is available on various websites and in major bookstores internationally.
-  **The Complete Idiot's Guide to Drawing People (2004):** Winner of the Alpha-Penguin Book of the Year Award 2004, Alpha - Pearson Education – Macmillan, Indianapolis, IN, this 360 page book is available on various websites and in major bookstores internationally.