



SUMMER

PHOTOGRAPHY

CAMP FOR  
KIDS

*with Candice Stringham*

## SAFETY TIPS

### FOR KIDS ON THE INTERNET

**THE INTERNET** is a great place to look up stuff, play games, and share things with others. However, people using the internet may lie about who they are and how old they are in order to try to trick you. Be careful and follow some basic safety rules.

- 1** Don't give out your real last name, where you live, your phone number, your email, or your birthdate. Your name that you use on the internet shouldn't include any of this information, either. Refer to yourself in a forum or chat room by using a special username or nickname.
- 2** Don't share pictures of any landmarks near your house, like a statue in a park, street signs, or something that might show where you live. Don't share a picture that is labeled with your location (this is called geotagging and automatically done with some cameras) or has anyone's name in the filename.
- 3** Never agree to meet someone in person, and tell your family if someone asks you to do so. Don't call anyone on the phone that gives you his or her number online.
- 4** If someone is mean or says something that makes you uncomfortable, don't answer them and tell your family about it.
- 5** Don't tell people if you are alone at home, or if your family is going to be away from home. Don't give out your schedule (school, athletic practices, family's work) or school name.
- 6** Follow the rules that mom or dad (or the adult in your home) place on your computer time.

- 7** Go only to the sites that your family has approved, and tell your family if you see something that bothers or confuses you.
- 8** Don't share your password for websites. If you use a computer in a public place, like the library, make sure you sign out properly and don't let the computer save your password.
- 9** Don't buy anything online or click on advertisements. Don't download any programs, or allow them to run on your computer, even if they are free. Often, programs can mess up your computer or spy on your information.
- 10** Share what you're learning in class, and the friends you're making, with your family.

The teacher and assistants in the class will be participating in the forums, and if we see any messages that contain information that might be unsafe to give out, we will delete that information. Please discuss these tips with your parents or the adult who takes care of you. They may have other ideas on how you can protect yourself.

*We want everyone to be safe and learn good habits so we can all have fun in this class together!*



# DAY 1

## HOW TO HOLD A CAMERA



**YOU MAY BE ASKING YOURSELF** if holding the camera the right way is a big deal. I mean, all you really have to do is pick up the camera and press the button, right? But I assure you, it is!

You want to stand with your feet slightly apart. This gives you a steady base. One hand will hold the camera from underneath and one hand will hold the side of the camera and press the shutter button. This will help you keep the camera nice and steady so you can keep from getting camera shake (blurry images due to the camera moving).

It is also very important for you to hold the camera level. What do I mean by that? Well, in most photographs you take, there will be horizontal lines. Whether it's the horizon line (which means the line that is created where the earth meets the sky) or lines that are created by things like stairs or benches, you don't want these lines to be crooked, because then it feels like the photographer was impatient and took the image quickly without leveling the camera. Or the subject may look like it is going to fall.

Here is an example where the camera was not held level. In this image you can see that the horizontal lines are crooked, and it looks like the children are going to slide out of the picture!



Here the camera was held completely level. In this image the subjects look stable and secure.



# ASSIGNMENT #1

Take an image where the horizon line or horizontal lines are crooked.  
Now take an image where you level out the camera making all the horizontal lines nice and straight!

## DAY 2

# VERTICAL OR HORIZONTAL?

**THERE ARE TWO COMMON WAYS** to hold a camera in photography: vertically and horizontally.

Vertically means that you are holding the camera on its side, so that the image is tall and thin.

Horizontally means that you are holding the camera with the base facing the ground so that the image is short and wide.

It is always good to try both when you are learning about photography. Some subjects, like tall skyscrapers, will look best with vertical compositions, and some subjects, like landscapes, look best with horizontal images. But there are many, many subjects that could look good with either, like portraits (pictures of people) or still life (pictures of stuff) images. Don't be afraid to try both vertical and horizontal pictures when you are photographing a subject!

Some things to think about when you are trying to decide on taking a photograph vertically or horizontally are:

- 1** The lines in an image. Are there a lot of vertical lines, like the ones the walls of a skyscraper create, or are there a lot of horizontal lines, like where the ocean meets the sky? Looking for the lines in an image can help you decide which way to hold your camera.
- 2** If you want to emphasize the height of something then you will want to use the camera vertically.

When something is short and wide like this carousel, it makes sense to photograph it with a short and wide image horizontally.



When something is tall and thin like this horse and the pole that holds it up, then it makes sense to photograph it vertically.



VERTICAL



HERE ARE EXAMPLES OF  
A SITUATION WHERE  
BOTH VERTICAL AND  
HORIZONTAL IMAGES  
LOOK GOOD:



HORIZONTAL



# ASSIGNMENT #2

Take two photographs of the same subject, one vertically and one horizontally.

# DAY 3

## FILLING THE PHOTOGRAPH

### CLOSE VS. FAR

**DID YOU KNOW THAT** the number one mistake people make when they are learning about photography is that they take pictures much too far away from the subject? It's true! And the good news is that it's an easy mistake to fix. Today we are going to learn about getting closer to our subjects and filling the frame.

**Before we get started, let's talk about what "filling the frame" means.** In photography, the part of the camera that you look through to create an image is called a viewfinder. For some of you that means looking through the little box at the top of your camera, but for most of you it just means looking at everything on the screen on the back of your camera or iPhone/iPod. Everything you see in that viewfinder or screen is what will be in your final image. In photography, we commonly call that the frame.

*Filling the frame means getting close to the subject and filling up the whole/or a lot of the frame with it!*

There are two ways to get closer to a subject. One is simply to walk closer! Sometimes this is a great solution (or the only solution), but if you have a zoom lens on your camera, zooming in can be even better! Why? Because wide-angle lenses up close can make subjects look like they are stretched out. But when you zoom in with the lens to fill the photograph with the subject, the subject looks normal.



Here is a picture that is taken from too far away! The subject is so small, and there is a lot of extra space around him.



Here is a picture that is closer. You can see the subject better and there is much less empty space.

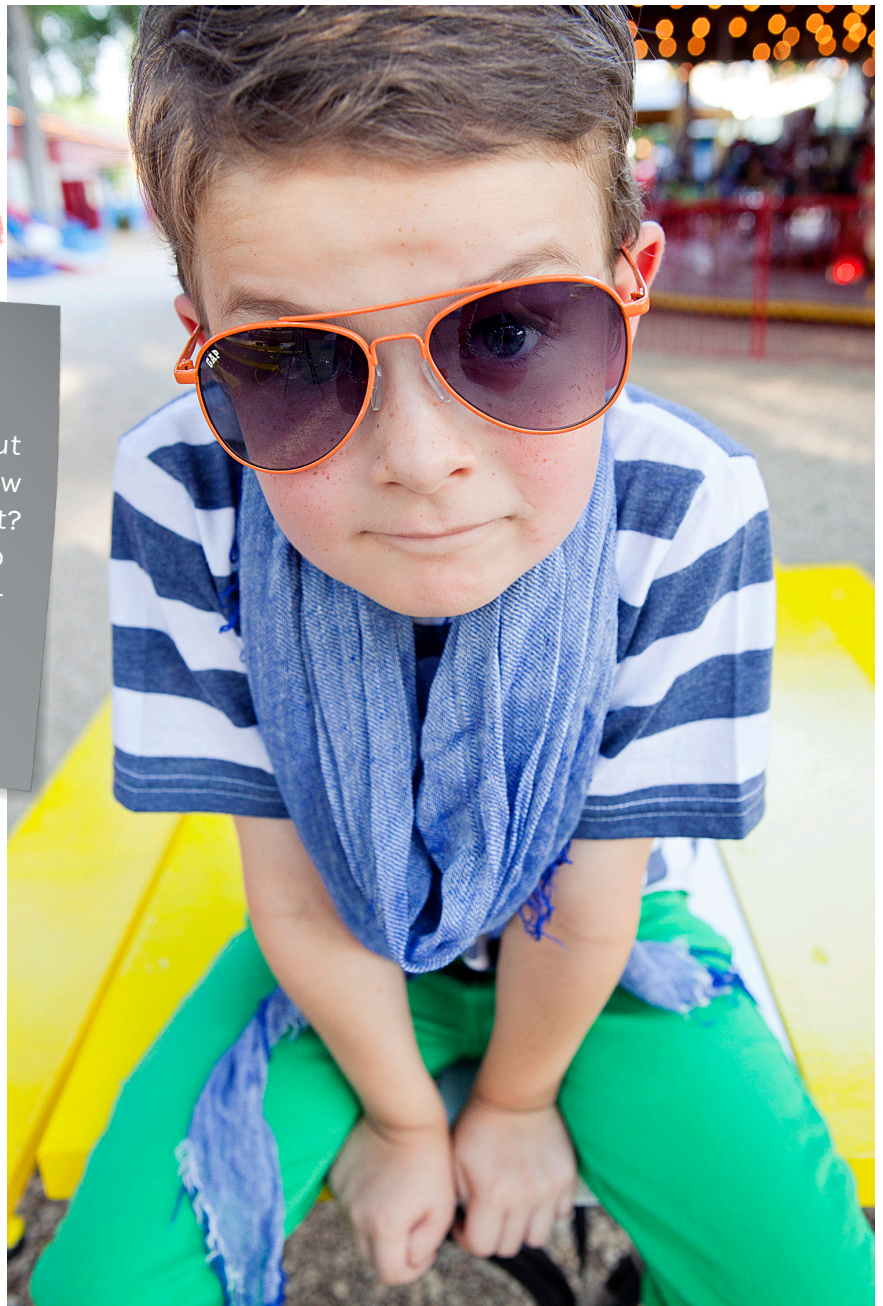




Here is a picture where  
the lens is zoomed in!  
You can see that it is  
even closer so you look  
right at the subject.



Here is a picture where the photographer moved closer but used a wide-angle lens. See how the subject looks stretched out? Because his head is closest to the camera it looks really big--almost like a cartoon!



# ASSIGNMENT #3

Take three photographs starting with one from far away. Then move closer with your feet and take a picture. Then stand back again and move closer with your zoom lens if you have one on your camera.

# DAY 4

## FOCUSING AND ELIMINATING DISTRACTIONS

### FOCUSING

One of the most important things to know if you want a good picture is that you need the thing you're shooting (your subject) to be sharp and in focus.

### YOU HAVE THE POWER!

Did you know that you can make people look wherever you want in an image first? Look at this picture. What's the first thing you look at? Is it the boy? When I took this picture, I wanted you to notice the boy more than anything else in the photo. So, to make that happen, I made the boy in focus.



Now look at this photograph, do you look at the boy first or the fence?



I'm guessing you answered the fence! Remember whatever is sharpest in a photograph is what the human eye will look at first! So it's very important to make sure your subject is in focus. Here is how to do that:

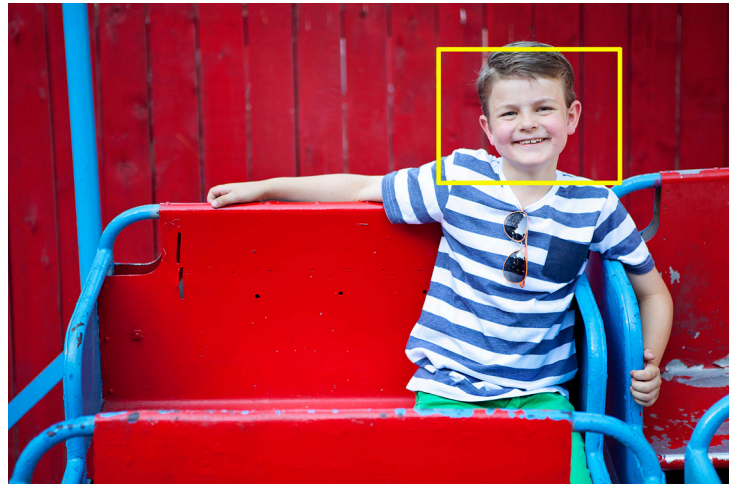
### **POINT-AND-SHOOT CAMERAS:**

Look into your camera's viewfinder or the screen on the back. Do you notice any squares or dots? Those are called auto focus points, and they help you tell the camera what to focus on. Move the camera so that an auto focus point goes right over the part of the subject that you want to be in focus. Now, while keeping the auto focus point there, push down the button, but only half way. You'll notice the picture getting blurry, then sharp. This is your camera trying to help you make your subject sharp and in focus. If it didn't work the first time, try it again. Once you have your subject nice and sharp, push the button all the way down to capture your sharp and focused picture!

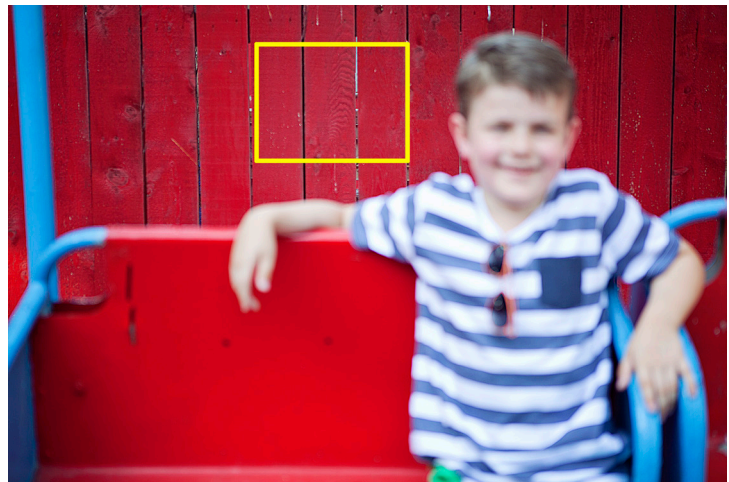
### **iPHONES, iPADS, IPODS, AND OTHER DEVICES WITH CAMERAS:**

Simply touch the part of the screen where the subject is that you'd like to be in focus. A box will appear. Whatever is in that box will be made sharp. The picture will zoom in and out, but after a brief second, the adjustment will be made. If it didn't focus on the right thing, don't worry; just try it again.

Here the auto focus point was over the subject:



Here the auto focus point was on the fence:



Here is another example. In this image the auto focus point is on the subject so she is nice and sharp.



Here the focus is on the area in front of the subject, so the metal wall is in focus:



## ELIMINATING DISTRACTIONS

Sometimes, there are things in the back of the picture that make the subject look funny. For example, if you take a picture of someone standing at an intersection, if you're not careful, you could accidentally make it look like a stop sign is coming out of your subject's head. Sometimes tree branches behind your subject make them look like they have antlers or antennas. There are two easy ways to fix this:

- 1 Move your subject over, or...
- 2 Move yourself!

Here is an example where the background was very distracting. It looks like there is a pipe coming out of his head!



It can be fun to do silly things like this, but if you want to include the building in the background without it looking like it is growing out of his head, all you have to do is move him!



Here I just moved him a few feet in a different direction. I still have the building behind him, but now it is just a nice part of the background.



# ASSIGNMENT #4

Take several photographs, focusing on different areas of the same location.

# DAY 5

## SCAVENGER HUNT: IN THE SUMMERTIME

**EACH WEEK ON FRIDAY** you will get a fun scavenger hunt that you can work on all weekend long! You can take pictures of the whole list or pick a few items that sound interesting to you.

Be creative! For example, Morning could be a photo of the sun coming in from your window, or a photo of you in the mirror brushing your teeth, or a photo of your bowl of oatmeal. There are lots of options for each prompt listed.

### PHOTOGRAPH:

- A tree
- The clouds in the sky *(Do not point your camera directly at the sun!)*
- Your yard
- Something red
- Your favorite summer time activity
- Something happy
- Your favorite park *(but avoid signs or any obvious landmarks)*
- Someone jumping
- Something with words
- Morning
- Something quiet
- A flower

## BONUS SECTION

# CAMERA MODES

**FOR THOSE OF YOU** who have point-and-shoot cameras, you may have picture modes that can better help you while you are taking photographs without having to change other more complicated settings.

These picture modes are usually listed by icons (little drawings).



### **PORTRAIT MODE** *Icon of a girl*

This mode is great for portraits (photographs of a person). It works best when you are photographing one person and you want the background of the photograph blurred out so that you look right at the person.





## **SPORTS MODE**

*Icon of a person running*

Sports mode works best when you are photographing moving subjects. Let's say you are taking pictures of a person swinging on a swing or running on the playground. How about someone jumping on a trampoline? Sometimes it won't even be a person moving, but an object that is moving, like a car driving by or a ride at an amusement park. Sports mode will help the camera choose the best settings it can to freeze action in the photograph.





## **MACRO MODE**

*Icon of a flower*

Sometimes you may want to get really close to a smaller object like a flower or your favorite food. The macro mode is best for this because it helps the camera to know to focus up close.





**LANDSCAPE MODE** *Icon of mountains*

When you are photographing landscapes (which means photographs of scenery like trees, mountains and lakes), or a city skyline, you will want the whole image in focus. This mode helps the camera to choose settings to do that.



# MATCHING VOCABULARY GAME

Match the vocabulary term to the definition--just like the game *Memory*!

**ZOOM**

Set your lens to frame a smaller or larger area so it looks like you are closer or farther away.

**VERTICAL**

**HORIZONTAL**

Holding the camera level to the ground so that the image is short and wide.

Holding the camera up on its side so that the image is tall and narrow.

**“FILLING IN  
THE FRAME”**

Making a subject  
large in the view  
finder or your image  
so there isn't much  
background showing.

**VIEWFINDER**

**ELIMINATING**

Taking something  
away.

The area of your  
camera that you look  
through.

**WIDE ANGLE**

Covering a larger  
area with your lens,  
so it looks like you  
are farther away  
from what you are  
photographing.

**DISTRACTION**

Things that take away attention from where you want the attention to be.

**TELEPHOTO**

Covering a smaller area with your lens, so it looks like you are closer to what you are photographing.

**FOCUS**

Making an object sharp and crisp to look at.

**LANDSCAPE**

The box that lights up in your viewfinder to show you where the camera is focusing.

**AUTO FOCUS POINT**

A photograph of a land.

**PORTRAIT**

A photograph of a  
person.

**CAMERA SHAKE**

Causing a blurry  
image when there  
isn't enough light,  
and it is hard to hold  
the camera steady.

# WEEK TWO DAY 1

## DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW

### BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Most people pick up a camera and only take photographs at their own eye-level because that is the level that they see the world from. While it is good to take photographs from your own perspective, it can also be fun and create great compositions to use other perspectives. In today's lesson we are talking about taking photographs from a bird's perspective. In art we refer to that as bird's-eye view. What does that mean? Think about a bird. Where does it spend most of its time? In the sky. So it would see the world from above.

Using a bird's-eye view means photographing things from above.

Here is an image taken at the same height as the subject. He is small, so I'm on the ground at his eye level. It's a cute image, but it does have some distracting brightly-colored items in the background.



Here is an image taken from a bird's-eye view looking down at the subject just seconds after the first image was taken. See how just moving above your subject can create a very different look and simplify the background?



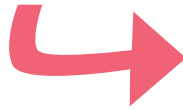
Bird's-eye view isn't just good for an interesting angle. It can also be used well when there are distracting elements in the background and you can't move the subject. If you shoot from above, all you will have in the background is the ground below it.



Here is another example of bird's-eye view working as the best perspective. I took this image with my cell phone! See how when I take the image from the baby's eye level, his arm blocks his face, and there is a lot in the background to distract?



But when I move above and use a bird's-eye view, I can see the subject's face better, and the background is nice and clear!



### WORM'S-EYE VIEW

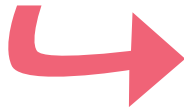
This is the opposite view of bird's-eye view. Instead of standing above the subject and shooting the image down on it, this time you will get low on the ground and shoot up at it.

Where does a worm live? It lives on the ground, so its view of the world is from below, looking up!

Here is an example of another image taken at the subject's eye level.



Here the image is taken from a worm's-eye view.



A worm's-eye view is also good for eliminating distractions, as you can get your subject against a simple blue sky. It is also good for making things look very large or tall. Even a mushroom growing in the grass can look huge if you can shoot from under it.



Here is another example of how completely different shooting a space with worm's-eye and bird's-eye view can be.

Here are two subjects watching T.V. from a worm's-eye view of the subjects. I simply sat on the ground in front of our coffee table and took the photo looking up at them.



Here I stood upstairs on a balcony and took the photo looking down at them in the room. The subjects didn't have to move, but just because I did, I got two very different-feeling images! Try it! It's fun!



# ASSIGNMENT #1

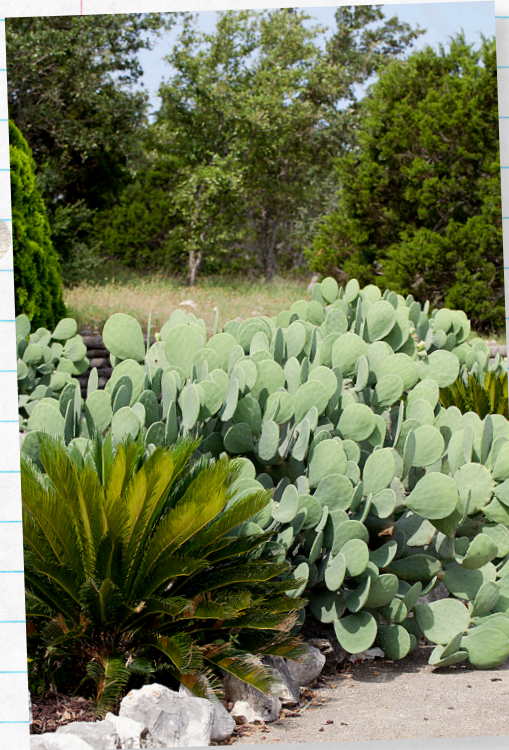
Take a photo from a bird's-eye view and another from a worm's-eye view.

WEEK TWO  
DAY 2

# MACRO

**MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY MEANS** the camera is very close to the subject so it looks really big in the picture. You can see all sorts of details on small things that you may not notice when you are looking at it from your usual point of view.

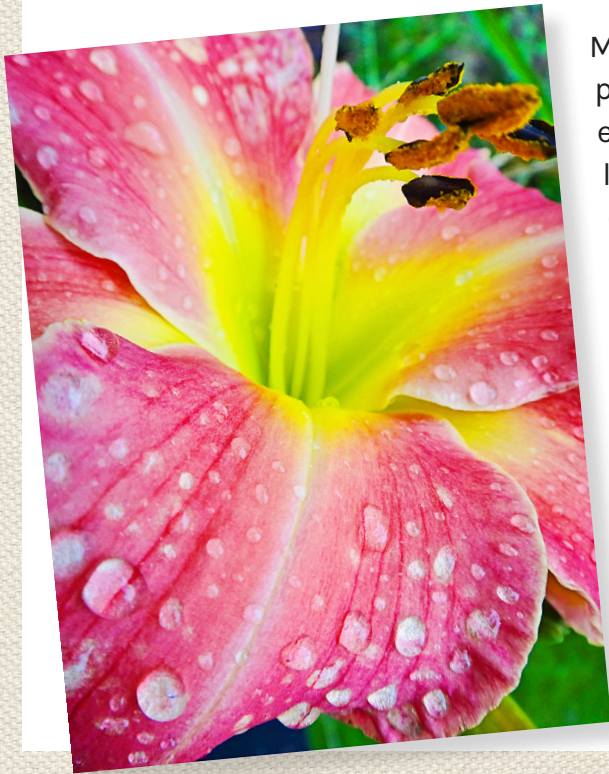
From far away this cactus may not be very interesting, but when you get up nice and close you can see the cool texture and shapes it creates. It's an interesting image!



Here is a close photograph of a thistle. It's not the prettiest flower, but when you see the detail up close, it's really cool!



Pocket-sized cameras are usually really good for macro photography because they usually focus really close and can keep almost everything sharp. It is actually easier to use get sharp macro shots with a little camera than a big, fancy camera!



Macro photography is easier with a lot of light, especially when the camera is so close to the subject that blocks the light from falling on it. So go outside to find subjects.



Here is a photography secret. Flowers look extra fresh with dew on them, but you don't have to get up early to take a photo like this. To get a dewy look, just grab a spray bottle with water in it and gently spray your flowers before you take a photo.

Put your camera on the macro icon, which looks like a flower, if your camera has different modes. Try focusing on a subject with the camera half an inch away from your subject. If the camera can't focus that close, move back another half inch, and keep moving back until your camera can focus. With a little practice, you will know how close you can get with your camera and start there next time.

Practice holding your camera really still. Since the subject is going to be enlarged in your picture, you can see the blur if your camera wiggles even a little bit when you take the picture.

Examples of things that you could photograph up close are flowers, bugs (but stay away from those that sting), dew drops on leaves, coins, jewelry, toys, portraits, or anything that has interesting details.

My son loves Skylanders, so I took a close-up shot of him playing with them. I had to ask him to hold still and move really close to a window so that I could take the photo without it being blurry.



In this image, our teacher's assistant Nancy used a point-and-shoot camera. She got down on the ground and photographed this daisy up close.



I think my boys have the most beautiful eyes! (They hate it when I call them beautiful.) So I took a close-up photograph of one of them. You could try photographing just a part of a person, maybe his ear, his hands, or his toes! Note that I had to take this photograph outside to get enough light to take the photograph without it being blurry!



You may be surprised at what you discover when you look at the world up close with your camera!

# ASSIGNMENT #2

Take a picture of something up close.

WEEK TWO  
DAY 3  
FRAMING

**WHEN WE ARE COMPOSING** an image, we always want to think of ways that we can help the viewer to know what is most important in the image to us as the photographers. Just as people frame artwork and photographs that are important to them in their homes, we can frame our subjects within the image using objects found at the location where we are photographing.

You can use all sorts of things. A few examples are gates, doors, windows, and arches. A frame doesn't have to completely surround your subject, either. You can use a bridge or branches of a tree to create a partial frame.

Here I used the arches in Central Park to help frame my subject.



Here I used the letter O to frame the baby because his name is Ollie.



Framing isn't just for composing portraits. In this image I used trees and plants to frame a castle I took a photograph of.





In these images I used an old tire and a giant pipe to frame my subjects.

See how all of these objects frame the subject so they really stand out? Look around you and you will find lots of different ways to frame your subjects!

# ASSIGNMENT #3

Take a picture, using a natural frame in your environment. Place your subject in the frame.

## WEEK TWO DAY 4

### CENTER, OFF-CENTER, & RULE OF THIRDS

#### **CENTER:**

Placing the subject directly in the center of your image is the most common composition for a new photographer.

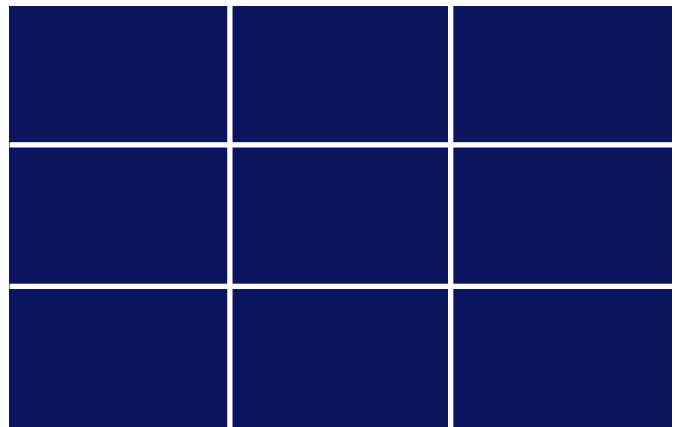
But it is not very interesting, and it often means that there is a lot of empty space on the sides of the image. If you are going to center a subject, make sure there is something else interesting about the composition or setting.



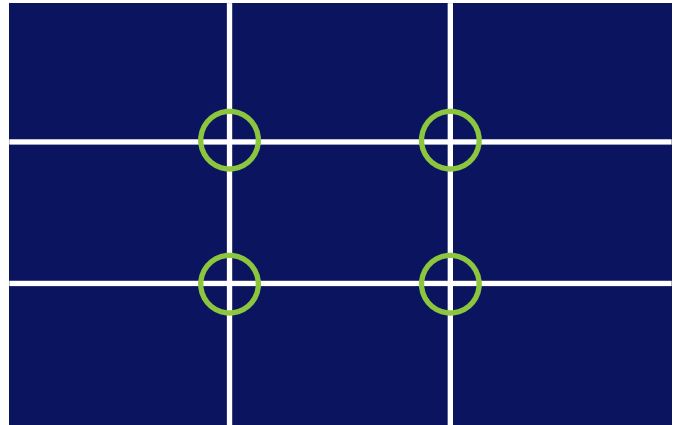
**OFF-CENTER:** Did you know that you can make an image heavy or light? Well, you can! You can place weight in an image by where you place the subject and what space you leave empty. In photography we call an image right-weighted when the subject is placed on the right (and an image where the subject is placed on the left, we call left-weighted). It can really make an interesting composition when you place the subject off-center.



**RULE OF THIRDS:** One of the rules to help you decide where to place a subject if you don't want him to be in the center but you still want the picture to feel balanced is called the Rule of Thirds. It's easy to remember when you are out shooting because all you have to think of is Tic-tac-toe. Divide your viewfinder or screen just like you would with Tic-tac-toe.



Only with the Rule of Thirds, instead of placing x's or o's in the spaces, put your subject on the points where the lines cross. These are called power points.



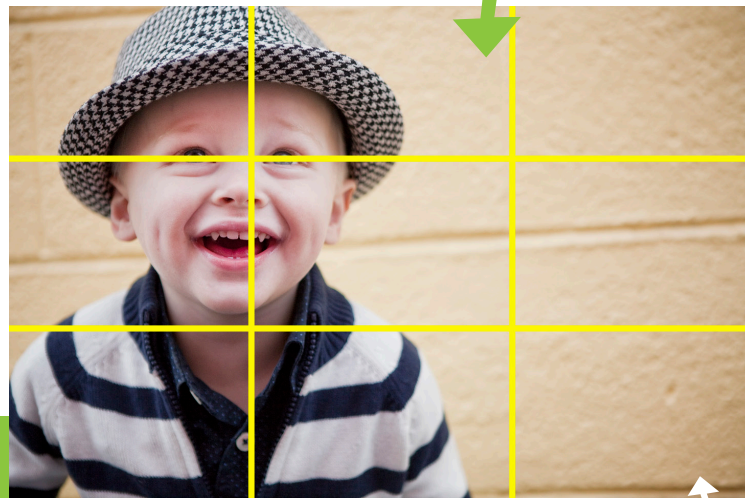
Using the Rule of Thirds can really help create interesting but well-balanced compositions, and it helps to place the subject with the power of the image!



Here the subject is placed in the center.



Here I used the third lines.



As you can see, I placed the subject on the top left power point, and it looks really good!



Here is another example with the subject in the center and then with the subject on the third.



This also works for landscapes. It's good to place the horizon line (where the sky meets the land) on a third line instead of right in the middle!

# ASSIGNMENT #4

Take photographs of the same subject in the center, left-weighted, right-weighted, and on a third line or power point!

# DAY 5

## SCAVENGER HUNT 2:

### THE WORLD AROUND ME

**IT'S FRIDAY!** Here is your scavenger hunt for the weekend! You can take pictures of the whole list or pick a few items that sound interesting to you. Be sure and use all the composition techniques you learned about this week!

Pick one from each list. For example, you could pick photographing your pet with bird's-eye view. Or photograph your siblings with Rule of Thirds. You will use some of the composition rules more than once. Choose whatever works best for you. Have fun!

#### PHOTOGRAPH:

- Your parents
- Your best friend
- Your siblings
- Your pet
- Your room
- A collection
- "Love"
- Something that starts with the letter "h"
- Something blue
- Your favorite space to be in

#### COMPOSITION RULES:

- Bird's-eye view
- Worm's-eye view
- Framing
- Center
- Left-weighted
- Right-weighted
- Rule of Thirds

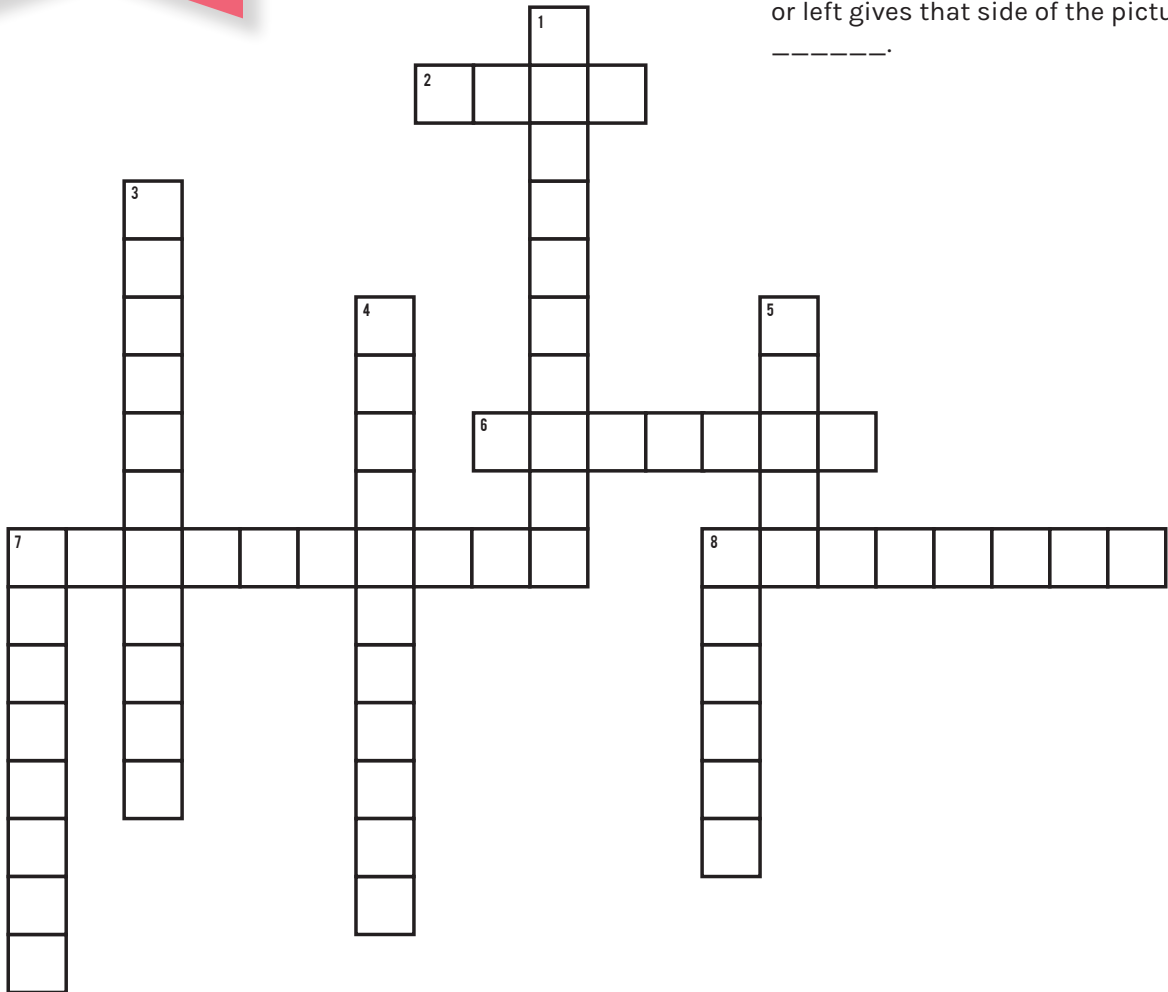
# WEEK TWO VOCABULARY QUESTIONS

## ACROSS

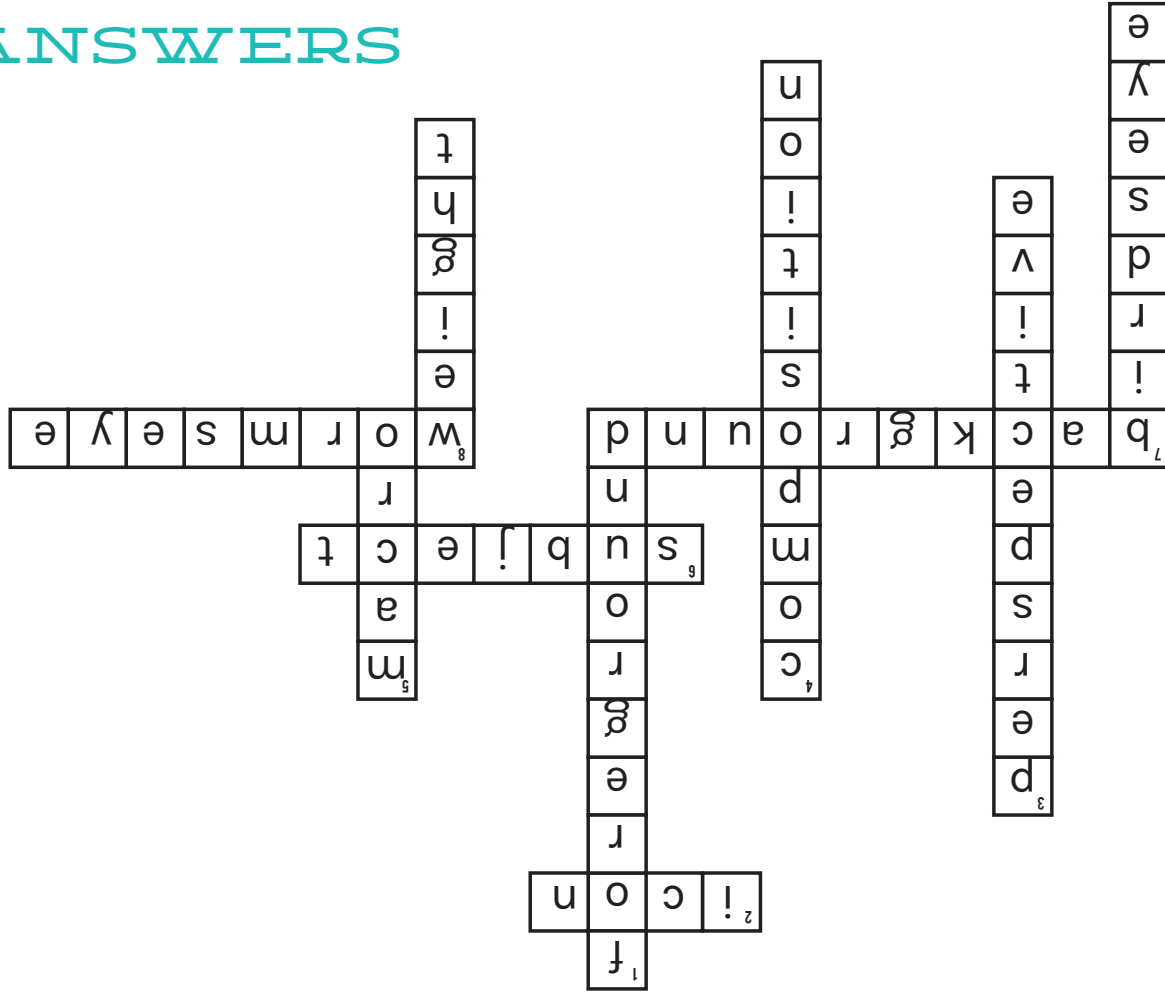
- Picture used as a symbol
- The most important item or person in an image
- The area behind the important item or person
- A view from below

## DOWN

- The area in front of the important item or person
- A point of view
- Interesting arrangement of things in the picture
- Up-close photography
- A view from above
- Putting something to the right or left gives that side of the picture



# ANSWERS



**DOWN**  
 1. foreground  
 3. perspective  
 4. composition  
 5. macro  
 7. birdseye  
 8. weight

**ACROSS**  
 2. icon  
 6. subject  
 7. background  
 8. wormseye

## WEEK THREE DAY 1

# DIRECTIONS OF LIGHT

**MOST PEOPLE THINK OF LIGHT** as just being there all around them, but did you know that light has a direction? Now that we have talked about using our cameras and composition, it's important to learn about how to look at light!

As a photographer, you have to be a light detective! You need to search for good light wherever you are to light your subjects and get great photographs. To do that, you need to know about the different directions of light and what they will do to a subject.

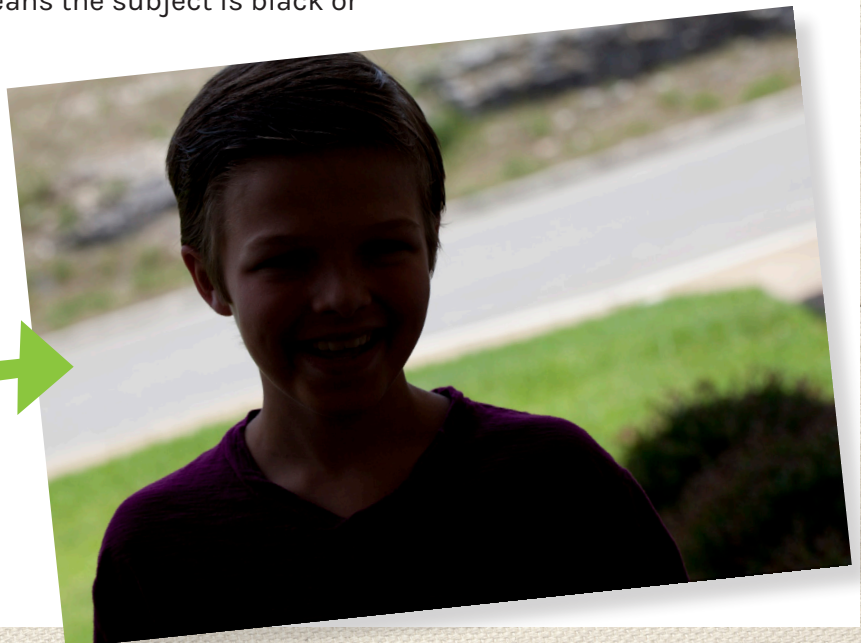
**1 OVERHEAD LIGHT:** this type of light is to be avoided if at all possible. When the light comes from directly overhead, it creates funny highlights (light areas) and shadows on the face. It is usually harsh and adds a lot of contrast. It doesn't look good on any subject.



**2 FRONT LIGHT:** this means that the direction of light is coming from straight in front of the subject. It can often be very flattering because it creates no shadows on the subject and lights him evenly. However, if the light is too bright, it can make the subject squint at the camera.



**3 BACK LIGHT:** this is when the light is behind the subject. It can be a good solution to lighting a subject when it's bright outside, but it can also trick the camera and silhouette the subject (that means the subject is black or dark, and the background looks normal), which can be fun. If you want to see the subject, you will probably need to turn on your flash to balance out the light.



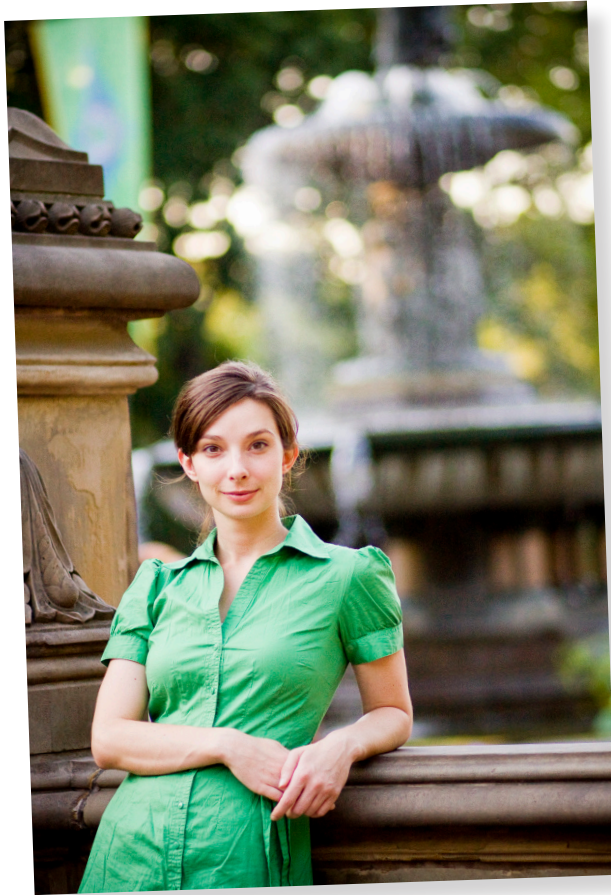
**4 SIDE LIGHT:** this is when the light is coming from the side of the subject. It can be really nice because it can add a lot of depth to the photograph by giving you highlights and shadows. It's great for photographing landscapes and objects.



**5 UP LIGHT:** this is when the light is coming from below the subject. Think of sitting around a campfire and telling ghost stories. What do you do? You grab a flashlight and hold it under your chin, right? This light isn't generally used in everyday portrait photography, but it can be fun to try out when you want a dramatic or scary look.

The best times of day to take pictures outside of any subject, whether it is a person, a place, or a thing, are sunrise and sunset! That is because the sun is low to the ground so it's much easier to get good front, back, and side light without getting harsh overhead lighting. In the world of photography we call it the Golden Hour because the light during the hour before sunset isn't so bright that the subjects have to squint, and it has a nice warm color.

Here are a few images using the light you find at sunset.



How do you decide how best to photograph a subject?

You can't move a landscape to get better light, so try to pick a time of day that is early or late so you can get that pretty sunrise or sunset light.

If you are photographing an object, walk all the way around it, look at the shadows and the highlights, and shoot it from the angle it looks best.

If you are photographing a person, try this exercise--take your subject's hands and slowly turn in a circle with him like you would if you were playing Ring-around-the-rosie. Watch his face the entire time you turn in a circle. When you see that his face is lit evenly (meaning there are no harsh shadows), stop him! That is where you should take the photo.

Remember in the video, if the subject was turned in the wrong direction, he had harsh light on his face creating funny shadows.



But if we turned him the opposite direction away from the sun, then he had more even lighting on his face.

Stay tuned for tomorrow's lesson on how to look for good light in the middle of the day with only bright harsh sunlight!

# ASSIGNMENT #1

Take a subject outside in the morning or late afternoon and turn him around until you get nice even light. Take the photo!

WEEK THREE  
DAY 2

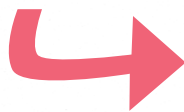
THE BEAUTY  
OF OPEN  
SHADE

**SOMETIMES YOU ARE OUT** and about taking photographs, and it will be the middle of the day with only harsh midday sun available. So what do you do? We showed you in the video that you can turn your subject as best you can away from the sun and use your flash to fill in any shadows but that isn't the best solution. The best solution is to look for open shade!

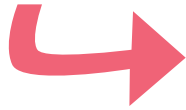
What does open shade mean? And how do you use it?

It means any shade that is covered from the top but lets light in from the sides! Look for things like porches, gazebos, big trees (just make sure there isn't spotty light on the ground because those spots will also show on your subject!) and anything that is creating nice shade.

Here I used the shade of a carousel. The carousel worked because it is covered on top but it is open on the sides, which lets light in.



Here I used the shade of a large tree.



In the first image you can see that the people standing out in the sun and under the spotty area of the shade have really harsh light and shadows on them. Look at the poster in the background under the shade. The next image is of a subject standing in front of that poster. See how much better the lighting is on her face? It's nice and even.



When I took these photographs, it was around 1:00 in the afternoon so it was really bright, and the sunlight was very harsh. See how the overhead sun creates really harsh shadows on the baby's face?



The only thing I changed in the next image was to move the baby a few feet away into the shade. See what a big difference it makes? The lighting on his face is nice and soft and there are no harsh shadows on him.



After you have found an area with some nice shade, place your subject only one or two feet into the shade. If you put them too deep into the shade, the light isn't as pretty. By placing them on the edge of the bright sunlight, you can create front light if you have them look out at the direction the sun is coming from, or very nice, soft side light by turning them slightly left or right from the sun. It is very hard to try backlighting when your subject is in the shade, so don't do that for now!

Here is the photo with the harsh light from the video again.

Here is the photo when the subject stood in the open shade with front light. See how there are no shadows on his face? It's even light across his whole face.



Here is a photo when the subject stood in open shade and turned to the side so that there is side lighting. See how part of the face is brighter on one side and the other side is slightly darker or shaded?



See what a big difference it makes!

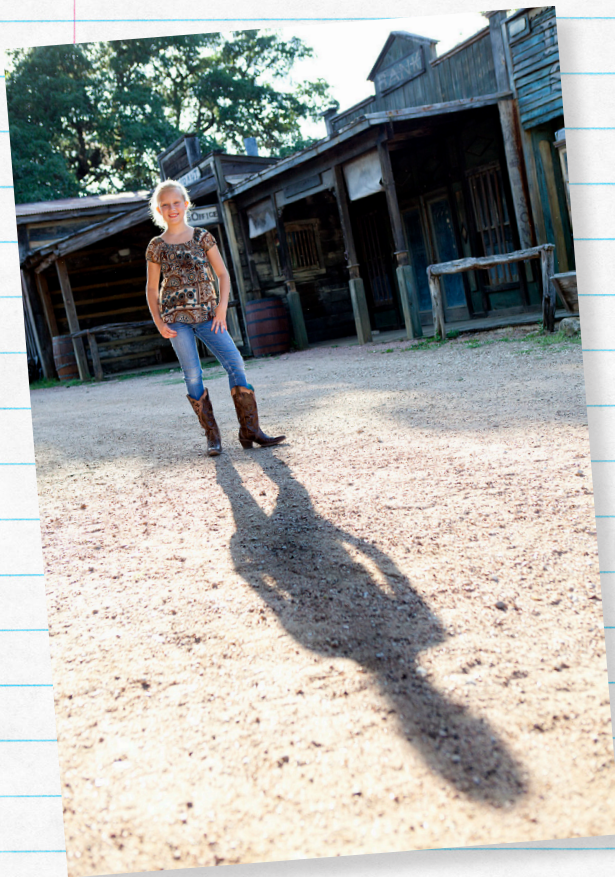
## ASSIGNMENT #2

Find some shade. Place your subject only a foot or two into the shade, making sure he is covered by the shade and no bright light is on him. Then try taking two photos--one where he is looking out toward the light for front lighting, and one where he is sideways to the light for side light.

WEEK THREE  
DAY 3

## SHADOWS & ABSTRACTS

**SOMETIMES IT CAN BE REALLY FUN** Sometimes it can be really fun to use the shadows the light creates as the image itself, or to use them as an important part of the composition. In the middle of the day, when the sun is high overhead, the shadows on your subjects will be short and squat. However, if you are taking pictures in the early morning or late afternoon, when the sun is low, the shadows will be long and dramatic.



I took this photograph at the end of the day just as the sun was setting. See how long the subject's shadow is?



I also took this image with a bird's-eye view of my cute nephew right at sunset. His shadow adds a lot to the image.



The shadow can be a nice sharp silhouette of your subject, or it can just form interesting patterns that don't really identify your subject, but look cool on their own.



Here is a really cool photograph that our T.A. Nancy took of a playground, and the shadows that the equipment created!

When you take a picture of something in a way that the viewer doesn't immediately know what the subject is, you are creating an abstract. Abstracts usually have interesting colors, patterns or textures that make us want to keep looking at them. It can be fun to make the viewer guess what the subject of the picture was!

Nancy took this photograph of milk drops on a tray. It takes you a second to figure out what it is.



# ASSIGNMENT #3

Look for great shadows to photograph or take an abstract photo!

# WEEK THREE VOCABULARY QUESTIONS

## WORD SEARCH

R	F	V	X	T	O	I	Q	Y	X	Q	V	J	F	X	L	R	S	W	C
S	M	W	E	Q	Z	M	D	C	Z	B	G	L	H	R	B	Q	X	W	U
I	B	K	O	I	D	U	T	S	A	U	G	Q	U	Y	E	H	A	J	D
D	V	B	L	C	A	O	V	E	R	H	E	A	D	L	I	G	H	T	W
E	K	G	Y	N	U	Y	B	Y	H	R	B	J	R	U	E	W	G	Q	R
L	U	O	X	Y	V	H	T	I	O	D	U	U	Q	Z	Y	Y	S	R	R
I	E	B	S	M	Q	O	G	C	P	N	W	O	O	S	U	Y	P	Q	S
G	W	J	R	E	M	H	C	O	E	S	M	M	H	O	Y	M	B	S	W
H	N	B	T	O	L	U	P	H	I	U	O	U	M	N	G	K	I	C	O
T	F	I	H	I	K	U	K	M	H	J	X	T	G	B	E	L	M	G	D
J	B	M	G	D	P	A	T	D	M	A	H	H	P	T	H	D	I	W	A
C	Y	H	I	F	T	S	B	W	O	G	H	Q	Z	O	G	F	L	W	H
Y	T	O	L	N	Y	K	O	S	I	Q	G	Y	U	W	J	P	V	O	S
S	D	A	H	W	I	B	H	L	T	T	Y	E	I	S	B	V	U	K	G
F	S	M	S	Y	V	S	T	J	B	R	T	M	M	S	T	B	Q	C	T
H	B	W	R	I	V	F	M	Z	O	T	A	S	K	H	X	A	I	N	H
I	F	E	A	C	O	L	Q	W	E	B	B	C	M	N	I	W	N	H	I
D	C	I	H	S	V	A	A	C	F	C	U	L	T	Y	V	W	D	W	Q
O	R	O	P	E	N	S	H	A	D	E	R	Y	O	T	G	B	B	F	T
K	J	Y	E	T	H	G	I	L	T	N	O	R	F	V	Y	Q	H	R	I

**GOLDEN HOUR** The hour before sunset or after sunrise when the light is beautiful for photography.

**OVERHEAD LIGHT** Light that comes from above the subject.

**FRONT LIGHT** Light that comes from in front of the subject so that there are no shadows on the subject.

**SIDE LIGHT** Light that comes from the side of the subject so that the subject has a light side and a side with shadows.

**OPEN SHADE** Shade that is created by blocking the light from above the subject but letting light in on the side.

**ABSTRACT** An image in which the subject isn't recognizable.

**HIGHLIGHTS** The bright areas of a subject. Shadows - The dark areas of a subject.

**POP-UP FLASH** The little flash/light that pops up on a camera when there isn't enough natural light.

**STUDIO** The space an artist or photographer works in.

**SOFT LIGHT** Light coming from many directions so shadows have blurry edges.

**HARSH LIGHT** Light coming from one main direction so shadows have sharp edges.

**SILHOUETTE** The shape or outline of a subject without the details.

WEEK THREE  
DAY 4

## WINDOW LIGHT

**IT CAN BE REALLY HARD TO TAKE** nicely-lit photographs inside because there isn't as much light as when you are outside, so your flash usually turns on. Sadly, the little pop-up flash on cameras does not create very good light! Sometimes when it's really dark, it's the only option, but if you are taking pictures inside during the day, and you have windows nearby, try taking pictures close to the window! Just as when you are outside, you have to look for a location with good light! So walk around the room or your house and find a window with soft light.

How do you find a window with soft light?

If you look at the floor and see a bright patch next to the window that is a sharp rectangle shape of the window or bright lines from blinds, then the window is getting harsh light! But if you look at a window and just see light with no sharp edges, then you have a good window to use! It will change at different times of day depending on where the sun is at in the sky.

Place your subject on the side of the window (if you want side light), or a few feet in front of the window facing the window itself (if you want front light). Turn off your flash and then take the picture!

Here is a photograph taken with the subject turned sideways, next to a window so he has side light on his face. See how the right side of his face is bright from the light coming in through the window and the left side of his face is shaded because it's turned away from the window?



Here is a photograph where the baby is facing the window so he has front light on his face. See how the light is even across his face and there are no shadows?



If the picture turns out blurry, then that means that there wasn't enough light! Look for somewhere brighter!



This is what it looks like when there isn't enough light coming through the window so your camera shakes while it is taking the photograph. You can either move closer to the window to get more light on the subject, or if your subject is something that doesn't move--like this cupcake--you can put your camera on a tripod or set it on something stable like a table or chair while you take the image.



# ASSIGNMENT #4

Take a photo using window light! You can set up your own studio (a special room for taking pictures) like I did in the bonus video, or you can just place your subject near a window!

DAY 5  
SCAVENGER  
HUNT 3:  
ALL ABOUT  
ME

**THIS WEEK** you are going to photograph all your favorites! Remember to look for fantastic light while you are doing it!

**PHOTOGRAPH:**

- Something you do every day
- Your favorite toy or item
- Your favorite food
- Your favorite drink
- Your favorite outfit
- Your favorite pastime
- Something in your favorite color
- Your reflection
- Something "silly"
- Answer the question "What means the most to me?" with a photo
- If your favorite song had a photo to go with it what would it be?