

**Artist's Best Friend****Ages 5–12**

Many people have special bonds with their animals. In this painting, a woman sits at a table with her beloved dog at her side. Who do you think is the focus of this painting, the woman or the dog? Let's draw a portrait that focuses on your favorite animal or imaginary creature.

**Materials:**

Pencil, white paper (8.5x11), crayons/  
markers/colored pencils

**Instructions:**

**Step 1:** Find your subject matter—identify your favorite animal or creature. Observe your animal sitting still, find photos to guide you, or use your imagination!

**Step 2:** Think about what you want to capture in your portrait. What are your animal's best features? Is it the ears, eyes, or nose? What colors or patterns do you see? Does your animal have a favorite pose or position? Does it like to sit somewhere special?

**Step 3:** Use a pencil to sketch your animal and its background setting on the sheet of paper.

**Step 4:** Color in your drawing with crayons, markers, or colored pencils.



Pierre Bonnard.  
*Woman with  
Dog, or Woman  
and Dog at  
Table, 1908*

