1. Calligraphy or Lettering (You can write out this list!)
2. Animal portraits
3. Night Sky
4. Holiday Wreath, Menorah, or Christmas Tree (or other holiday theme).
5. Create an abstract background with two or three light colors, and draw over it with black ink. (You can also use white if you wish.)
6. Collect a number of fall leaves, arrange and sketch them.
7. Page(s) of random objects (Great for days when you're on the run.) Try to create a unified page composition as you add sketches! Extra credit: Do some contour drawings.
8. Tape or draw identical rectangles on your page. Explore the identical composition with different colors or techniques (Ex: ink and wash, cross hatching, pointillism, change colors, etc.)
9. From the Masters: Value or Notan sketches from some Master paintings or drawings.
10. Draw a portrait with abstract designs for the hair.
11. Iridescence
12. A page of different tree shapes, or drawn with different techniques.
13. Overlapping portraits or figures.
14. Label a sketch, designing the lettering to go with the sketch. (Examples: Stripe-filled lettering for a zebra sketch, or lettering that conforms to the shape of an object.)
15. Practice a page of small figures from a distance (like you'd pop into scenes in city sketches).
16. Paint/Gesso a page black or a dark color, or use dark paper glued into your book. Sketch with white/light ink.
17. Birds and/or Blooms
18. Black waterproof ink plus one color
19. Manikin(s) in a scene, or overlapping on a page spread
20. Old, twisted tree from reference or imagination
21. Glue a page with text or graphical content into your sketchbook. Use it as
a background, drawing over the top of it.
22. Using only one warm color, and one cool color, do a page of sketches on a theme.
23. Do a page or two or three of gesture sketches. Line of
Action and Quickposes are good sites to work from if you don't have a live model or a pet!
24. Poker Hand of objects, such as Three of a Kind, Four of a Kind, Flush, Full House, Two Pairs
25. Hands or feet
26. Using a single reference image, create a series of thumbnail sketches with different compositions. (Extra credit: Choose compositions from Edgar Payne's 15 composition types, and label them.)
27. Something you are grateful for.
28. Waterfall
29. Cloud thumbnail sketches in horizontal and vertical formats
30. Dancers/ballerinas, gymnasts, or musicians
31. Birds with ink and wash
32. Sketch the same subject from different angles. Get to know it!
33. Curl pieces of ribbon or strips of paper and draw them.
34. Draw a page of small animals, each with a single, simplified, graceful line. Pick your favorite, load a pen or brush with ink, and do it larger.
35. Page of mushrooms/fungi
36. Divide the page up. Draw textural close-ups, such as tree bark, pineapple, animal fir, wood grain, feathers, sea foam, hair, etc.
37. Design a holiday greeting card
38. Silhouettes -- can be figures, portraits, animals, objects
39. Combine two Master paintings or drawings into one.
40. Doodle with abstract forms or patterns.
41. Do a self-critique of a page you've done. Redo it, and critique again.
42. Whichever prompt you enjoyed the most, find a different way to do it again.
