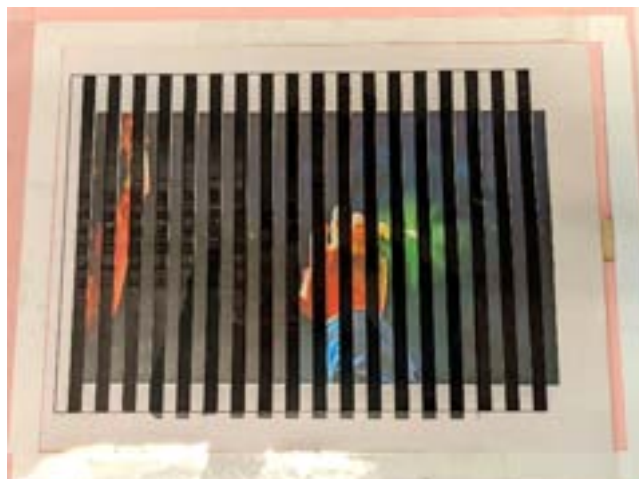


Moiré Animations

Specialized tools and materials used:	Experience level required:
Vinyl Cutter, graphics software, craft tools	beginner, knowledge of graphics software helps

Grade Level and Subject (of this example): 11

Topic/Content Standards (for this example): Literature – American dream



The Moiré technique uses a mask that only reveals slivers of an image. Using a 2D design program, students create two pieces of art that are displayed as two frames of a Moiré animation, then create a mask and a frame to animate their work. The animation is most effective when the mask moves quickly to discrete positions, so one image immediately turns into another.

In this project students create a Moiré piece about a character from the book *The Great Gatsby*. They choose images that symbolize the character and traits such as their motivation, flaws, transformation, etc.

To create the composite image they use a graphics program that has a masking tool (free version of Gravit Designer is a good choice). The teacher can provide a starter file with a standard mask or students can create their own (create a series of $\frac{1}{4}$ " rectangle bars, combine them into 1 shape with Create Compound Shape, then Modify → Path → Convert to Raw Path). When the image is "masked", every other $\frac{1}{4}$ " segment of the image is

deleted leaving a transparent region. The 2 masked images are then laid over each other, aligned, and printed or exported as an image file.



One method of making the masks is to laser print on transparency film. Another method is to cut the bars out of cardstock or paper, then laminate the mask if it is too flimsy. The cutting can be done easily with a vinyl/craft cutter or by hand with an Xacto/craft knife.

Students made choices about the images, the colors of the masks, the number of images in the composite and the mechanism for moving the mask to reveal and hide images.

Students will create their own frame for the work that features a moving mask of black stripes that block or reveal the images as it is slid to the left or right of the frame. Either the mask can move side to side, or the image can move. Both work, but moving the image may be better because it keeps your eye in the same place. There are a number of ways to create guides for the sliding piece – such as cleanly cut cardstock edges and carefully placed staples.

Suggested resources (optional)

- <https://www.sqrt.ch/museum> - Online Moiré Museum
- <https://bit.ly/k12moire> - Moire Gravit starter template

Possible Content explorations (optional)

Reading: use images that express two opposing traits of one character, or two characters in conflict. Choose images that reflect cause and effect, plot, setting, etc.

Social Studies: use images that reflect two sides of a conflict, or two branches of government, historical events, etc.