



*“As he came to his favorite tree, Fletcher saw a magical sight; the tree was hung with a thousand icicles shinning silver in the early light. ‘You are more beautiful than ever,’ whispered Fletcher.”*

**Grade Level:** 1st – 3rd grade

**Time Required:** 2 45-min. class periods

**Objective:**

Students learn painting and mixed media techniques to create a magical tree.

**National Core Arts Standards**

**Creating: #1, 2, 3**

**Presenting/Producing: #5,**

**Responding: #7**

**Connecting: #10**

<http://www.nationalartsstandards.org/>

**Vocabulary:**

Mixed-Media

Sketch

Horizontal

Crayon Resist

Soupy

Bleed

**Materials:**

FC Connector Paint Box

Brushes – flat

Pencils

FC 9x12 Watercolor Paper

Tubes of silver glitter glue

[www.greatartstartshere.com](http://www.greatartstartshere.com)

[www.fabercastell.com](http://www.fabercastell.com)

**FLETCHER AND THE FALLING LEAVES, by Julia Rawlinson,  
illustrated by Tiphonie Beeke**

Fletcher and the Falling Leaves is a lovely story of a sensitive young fox's first experience with the beauty and wonder of nature and its changing seasons. In this surprisingly simple lesson plan, students will learn creative and effective techniques to create their own magical winter tree.

**1. Demonstrate** how to loosely sketch a tree onto a 9x12 piece of watercolor paper. Include plenty of horizontal branches for icicles. Keep pencil lines light. Demonstrate the crayon resist technique by using a white crayon to make random lines on the tree trunk and branches.



**3. Prepare to paint** by showing how to add plenty of water to the paint to get a "soupy" consistency. Using a flat, soft brush, paint some water over the entire background and tree. Add colors and let them spread and bleed into each other. Gently guide paint with the brush to where you want it. White crayon marks will resist paint, adding interest to the tree. While paint is wet, add small pinches of salt here and there to react with paint and get a dreamy, magical effect. Let dry.





### **Icicles:**

Demonstrate how to add icicles with silver glitter glue. Begin creating icicles at top of tree and move downward so as to not smear the wet glitter glue as you go. Create each icicle by gently squeezing the tube and slowly dragging the tip downward on the art. Taper off the end of the icicle by squeezing less. The icicles will flatten out as they dry. Student's efforts at this will probably not be perfect, but will nonetheless have a charming effect, and be very fun!