

Drawing exercises for free motion quilting class Taught by Shirley Sandoz

Each of the patterns on the following pages is a practice piece for you to “copy”. Do not try to trace or duplicate the pattern, just use the basic idea of the pattern to move around and “fill” a page. Change the orientation of the pattern and the direction of the connecting lines so that it is not repetitive.

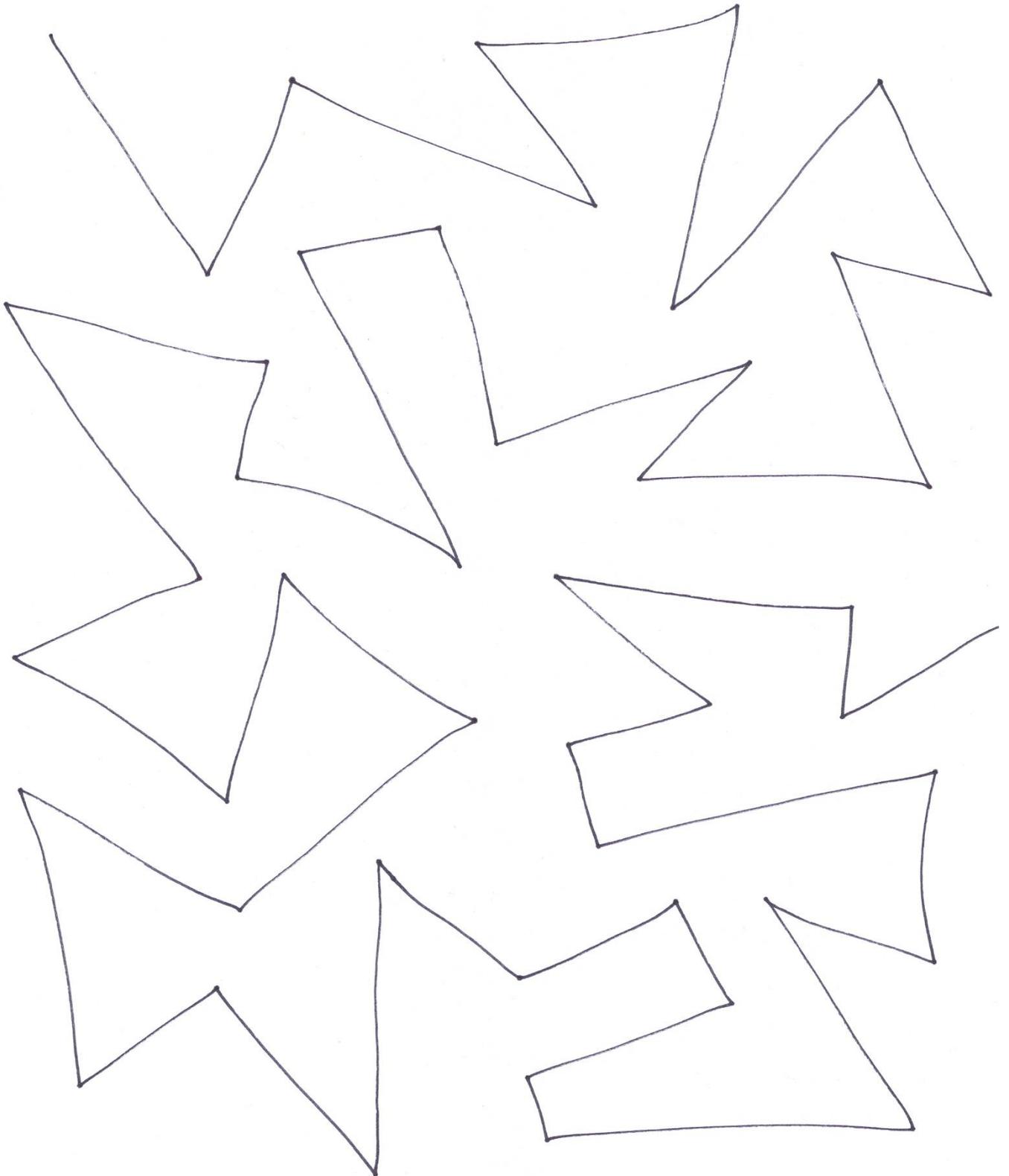
I drew each of these patterns full size on a sheet of 8 ½ x 11 paper. Each page is a one time sample; I did not go back and try to make a prettier version, which I might have done if I was developing a new pattern or a more regular pattern such as feathers or flowers. I used a Sharpie pen to draw the patterns so they would show up on the scans; for your practice pieces, a pencil will do fine.

Although I didn't time myself, I probably spent about 30 seconds on each page. When you are stitching, you will need to be relaxed and make fairly large patterns. You need to get the feel for this by practicing on paper. The more you practice on paper, the more the flow of the pattern will be stored in your muscle memory and the easier it will be to stitch the pattern.

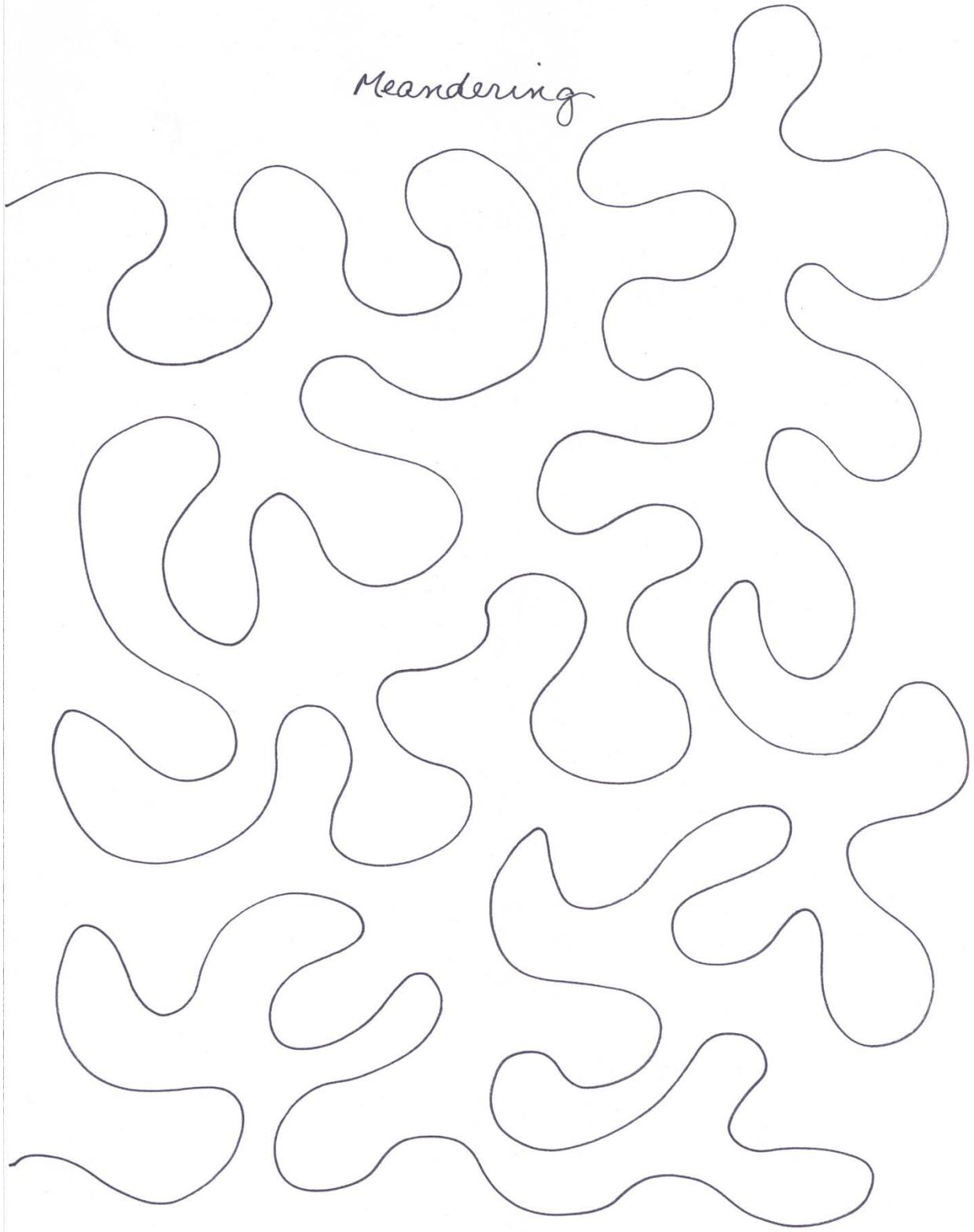
Most students start by drawing little tiny loops or leaves. Remember, you are going to quilt a whole quilt with this so you want a nice big pattern! Make a practice piece of each pattern approximating the scale shown on my drawings. In fact, the scans included here are actually a little smaller than my drawings, so make the scale bigger if you can.

If you happen to have bigger pieces of paper or newsprint, use it – the larger the paper, the less inhibited you will be by the edges. Don't worry if it takes you a long time to make the first practice piece. Keep making practice pieces until you can fill a page quickly without stopping and thinking about it.

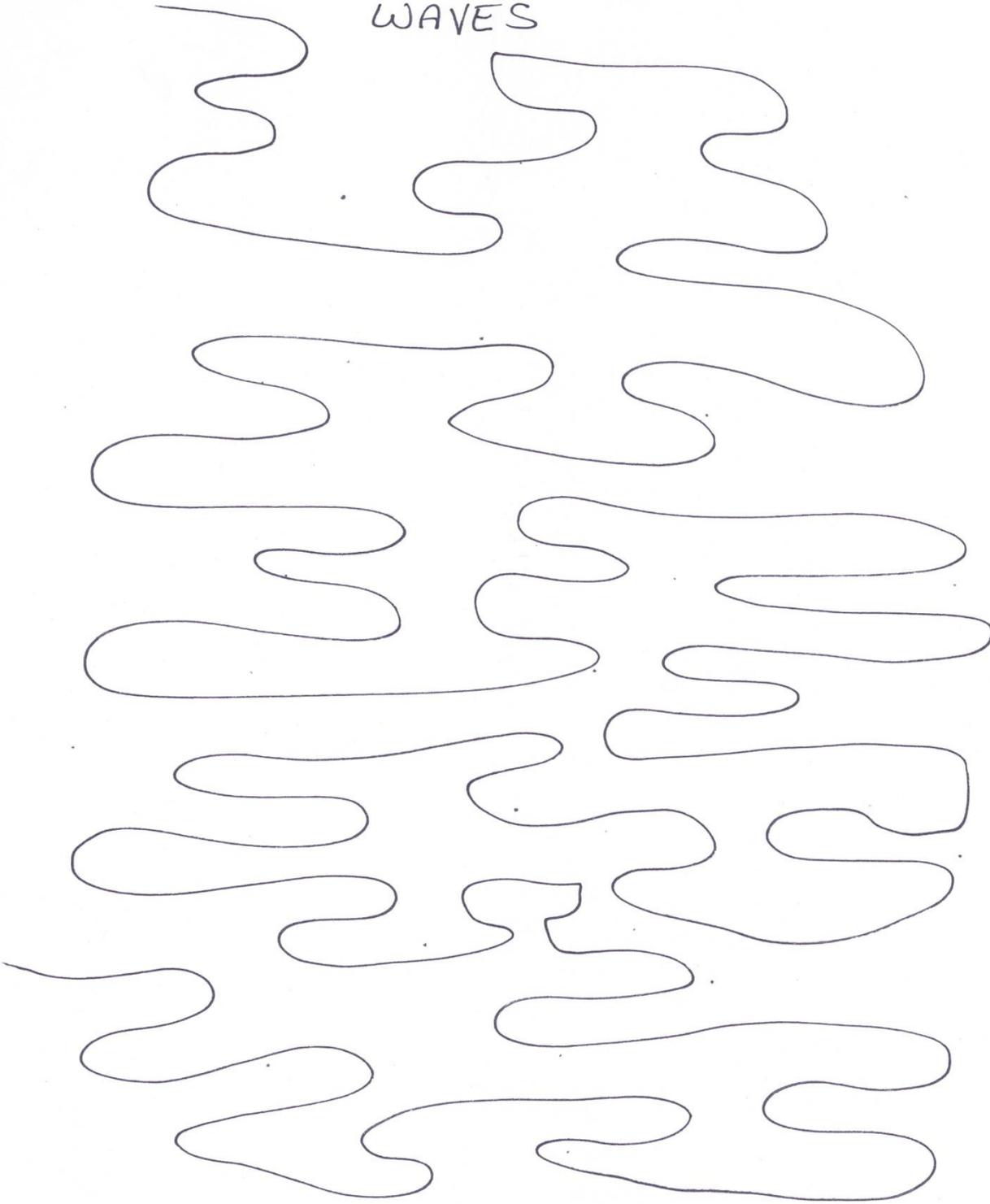
BROKEN GLASS



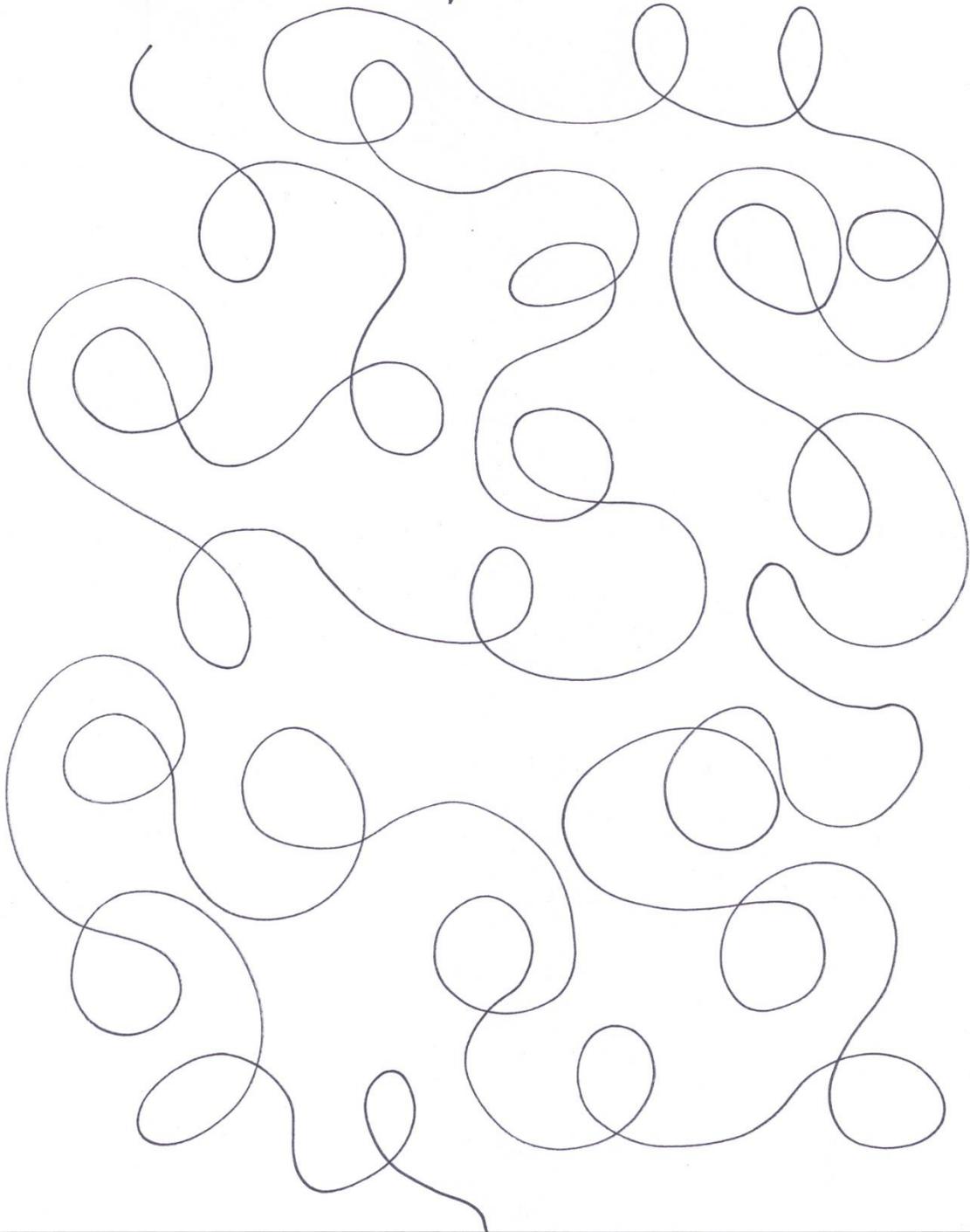
Meandering



WAVES



Loops



Leaves or Hearts

