

## That the color “GRAY” is not a color! PART 1

So in the DARK — there is not enough light, so items appear grayish, or black. Our eyes can only see a “limited range of colors” in the DARK.

If you mix equal amounts of the primary colors Red, Yellow, Blue in LIGHT - it is WHITE

But if you mix equal amounts of these primary colors in PAINT it makes a BLACK color Remember that “color” comes from LIGHT.

We “see” colors from Light. Light is made up of a range of wavelengths When we say something has “color” it means that the light of a particular range of wavelengths is reflected more strongly than the light of other wavelengths.

Most objects reflect light, but some absorb the light and do not reflect the color This “color” is what is reflected BACK to our EYES!

Red Shirt > the dye molecules in the fabric have absorbed ALL the wavelengths of Light (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet). The Red-light wavelengths is the only light that is reflected from the shirt to our eyes. Remember - we “see” the color that is reflected BACK to our eyes.

WHITE == is when the object reflects ALL the wavelengths.

BLACK === is when it absorbs ALL the wavelengths, so no wavelengths are reflected.

When there is not enough LIGHT — or DIM LIGHT — We see nothing, no wavelengths of any color is reflected, or not enough color is reflected back to our eyes so we call it “BLACK” ...or “GRAY” .... In limited light.

Things do not have color by themselves - only when Light hits them, we see colors.

To remember which are considered as “colors” > think the “RAINBOW: “The Light Spectrum wavelengths are fractured in the sky to show all of the colors. (NO white, NO black, NO gray in a rainbow!)

Artists who painted in 1700 - 800 used natural bugs, sand, rocks, eggs to create “paint” and colors by grind down the powder to a pigment. They did not have

“Black paint” ....so they had to blend, mix and develop the colors that they saw in their environment.

**GRAY, US spelling, GREY UK spelling.** Gray is a color BETWEEN black and white. It is not reflecting enough color for WHITE or BLACK. It means “dullness” or “gloom.” It is NEUTRAL. Therefore — if you have a GRAY color in the subject of your painting, remember that it will not brighten your colors, but dull them. You may need to add another color to the GRAY. (Like blue, orange, red, etc.) to balance the other colors in your painting!