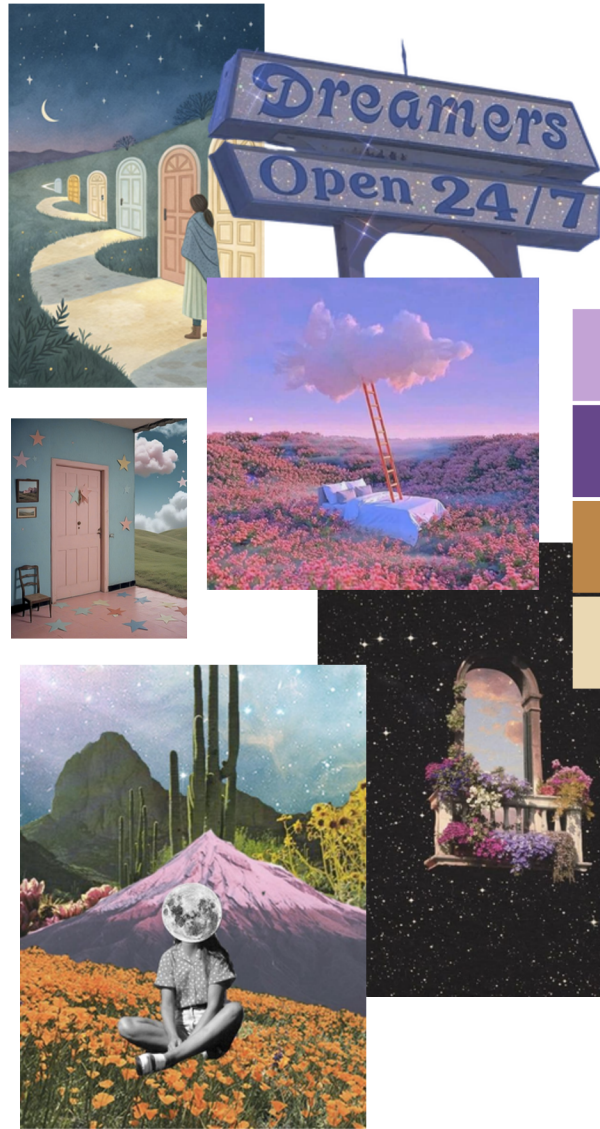




MINI CHALLENGE 2026
by Penny Dowdell

DREAMING

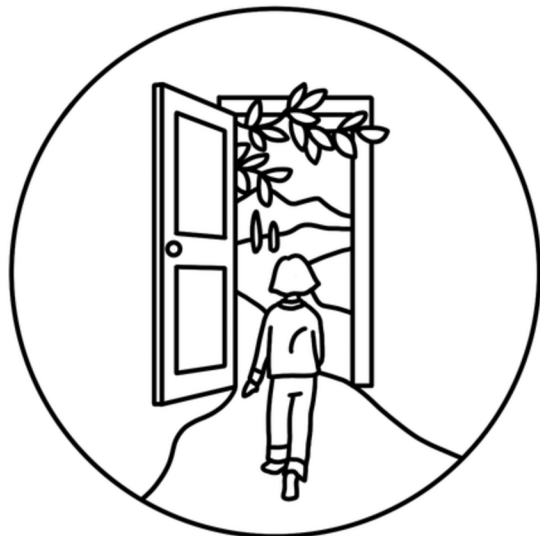
In dreams we enter new worlds, full of beauty and wonder. This mixed media design combines watercolour and thread to create a magical dream-like atmosphere.



THE PATTERN

This pattern, when printed onto A4 paper, will fit a 3" hoop.

Stitch the black lines in black perle thread, size 12.



STITCH GUIDE

Background

In my design, I've painted the background with watercolour, in an ombre purple effect. You can choose to use other colours, or even stitch the background, if you prefer!

Leaves

All satin stitch
988 & 581
Follow color guide for specific placement.

Landscape

All satin stitch
155 sky
501 mountains & trees
988 grass
996 lake

Door

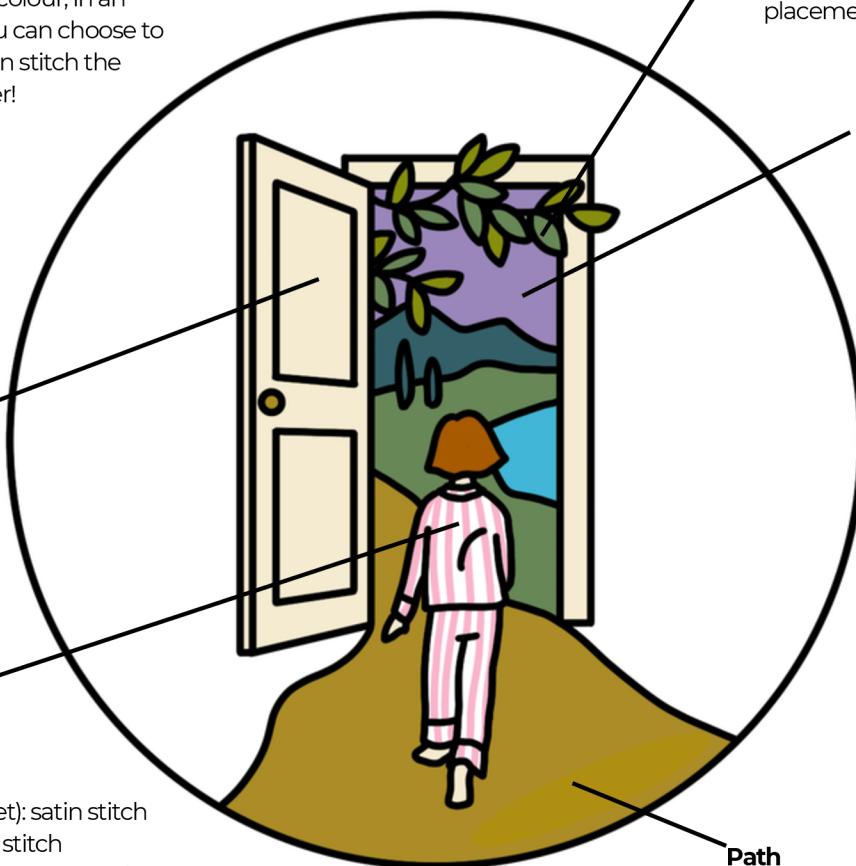
ECRU door & frame: split back stitch
832 handle: satin stitch

Dreamer

301 hair: satin stitch
ECRU skin (neck, hands, feet): satin stitch
BLANC pyjamas: split back stitch
3716 stripes: straight stitch (2 STRANDS)

Path

832 split back stitch



DMC Colour Codes:

- DMC 501 (teal)
- DMC 988 (soft green)
- DMC 581 (olive green)
- DMC 832 (brown-green)
- DMC 155 (lilac)
- DMC 996 (blue)
- DMC 301 (red-brown)
- DMC 3716 (pink)
- DMC BLANC (white)
- DMC ECRU (pale beige)

Unless otherwise stated, stitch with THREE strands of thread.

STITCH TIPS



Stitch the outline first. Then, add the watercolour paint. I've used an ombre purple effect, starting with dark purple at the bottom and getting paler at the top, and using water to blend together. Use a sharp flat brush to paint as close to the outline as possible.



Wait for the paint to completely dry before continuing. Stitch the colour, and add freehand stars/french knots to the background in white.



For the dreamer's pyjamas, first stitch the white, then add stripes of pink in straight stitches. Use only two strands of thread instead of three. Refer to the stitch guide for exact placements, or just stitch freehand.



DREAMING

I hope you enjoyed stitching this pattern!

I'd love to see your projects! Tag me @pennydowdell on Instagram, or use the hashtag #pennysabcchallenge!