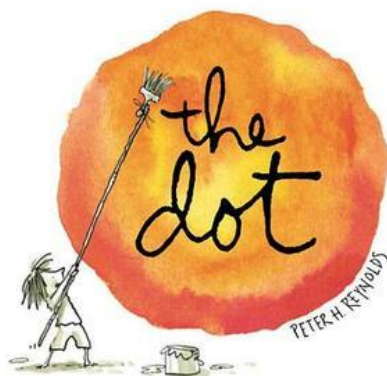




The Dot

Peter H. Reynolds

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With a simple, witty story and free-spirited illustrations, Peter H. Reynolds entices even the stubbornly uncreative among us to make a mark -- and follow where it takes us.

Her teacher smiled. "Just make a mark and see where it takes you."

Art class is over, but Vashti is sitting glued to her chair in front of a blank piece of paper. The words of her teacher are a gentle invitation to express herself. But Vashti can't draw - she's no artist. To prove her point, Vashti jabs at a blank sheet of paper to make an unremarkable and angry mark. "There!" she says.

That one little dot marks the beginning of Vashti's journey of surprise and self-discovery. That special moment is the core of Peter H. Reynolds's delicate fable about the creative spirit in all of us.

The Dot Details

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Author : Peter H. Reynolds

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Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Art



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From Reader Review The Dot for online ebook

Rashanda Ravenel says

This book is helpful in initiating creativity of a student who may need some help getting inspired. It encourages peer interaction and social skills. It is a testimony to children learning differently and being inspired in different ways. It makes me think on how important it is to build from children's current level by changing the teaching method to meet their needs.

Dani - Perspective of a Writer says

*Check out more **Picture book reviews** @ *Perspective of a Writer...**

Vashti doesn't believe she can draw, when her art teacher urges her to just make a dot and sign her name it changes Vashti's entire view of herself and others.

I wasn't sure I liked this story as I read it with my nephew. He'd read it before in school and was excited to read it again. We did the audio narration that was part of the ebook and as I listened I found myself quite captured. My nephew chose Vashti's art show as his drawing and it was also my favorite spread of the book. It quite captures the message of the story too...

I love that this reluctant child wasn't argued with or forced. She was persuaded and it was the subtle reactions of the adult that won her over. Creativity was the issue here not talent. She was capable just as much as any student. It is our attitude that holds us back.

The art was quite good. I enjoyed the way the illustrations were inked with color added for pop.

BOTTOM LINE: Every child needs to read this book and understand they are creative too!

You can find this review and many others on my book blog @ *Perspective of a Writer*. See my picture book reviews in a special feature called Boo's Picture Gallery...

Kirsti Call says

I'm really enjoying Peter Reynold's books! This is clever, simple and whimsical.

Ann says

Another delightful story by Reynolds, in a very similar vein as Ish (which I absolutely adored!).

Here we find a young child who "Can't draw" anything. Supposedly. But when the teacher gets our protagonist to draw a dot and then "sign it" - well, one thing leads to another and the dots become more and

more elaborate.

This is a great book to inspire creativity in kids who think they "can't" something. If the beauty of art is in the eye of the beholder, then this illustrates that so long as you're enjoying creating the art, then that is what matters.

Again, the illustrations in this book are simple but fantastic, and they perfectly complement the text.

Personally, I enjoyed Ish more, but it could have been because I read it first. I would most certainly recommend this book!

Tatiana says

Add *The Dot* to my list of favorite books! As someone who can regularly be heard denouncing any ability to draw, stay inside the lines of coloring pages, or paint something that doesn't result in a murky blob, Peter Reynolds' simple fable about personal creativity and artistic acceptance has filled me with hope.

Vashti believes she cannot draw, but when her teacher gently tells her to "just make a mark," she jabs at a blank sheet of paper and signs her name. The next week, her art teacher has framed the dot, and the action sets Vashti on a journey of artistic freedom and self-discovery that culminates in the little girl passing on her new-found creative spirit.

The Dot speaks to the choice teachers have to either crush or inspire their students in creative pursuits. I hope that when I become a teacher (and that day is getting closer and closer!) I always choose to say the right words at the right time, and not let my bad days and sure-to-be-overworked nerves hinder me from encouraging my students to reach their potential, achieve their personal best, and be happy.

So, while I still need to work on my 'teacher handwriting,' I will now keep Vashti as a constant reminder that no matter what I produce, the best thing to do is "sign it" and see where it takes me.

Renée Paule says

Wonderful and inspiring little book.

Malissa says

Read this one when it came in to the library as a return today.

At the end of class, Vashti is still sitting in her desk with a blank sheet of paper and no idea what to draw. Her teacher tells her to just make a mark and see where it takes her. So she takes a breath and makes a single dot in the center of her paper. Her teacher responds, "sign it, please." The next day the picture is framed on the teacher's wall. Inspired, Vashti becomes a fantastic artist using ... dots. At the end, a little boy approaches her with a blank sheet of paper. Vashti tells him to just make a mark and see where it takes him. He draws a hesitant squiggly line. The book ends with Vashti saying, "sign it please."

This book is why I love picture books. My review probably has as much text as the book, but it says so much about great teachers and passing on the good things others do for us. I need a teacher to buy it for this Christmas =)

Patricia says

The problem with an old teacher is she has so many experiences that connect to almost anything anywhere anytime. And The Dot reminds me of a time when I was teaching first graders, and I encouraged them to paint. I gave them each of the primary colors one color at a time. The day I gave them two was the day of discovery, like the girl in the book. But more importantly, to the chagrin of the principal, I displayed all paintings. Each little artist enjoyed the experience from the girl who drew a two-dimensional drawing of house with flower garden and, yes, the white picket fence, to the boy who just let red cover the whole paper and a little of the floor. Unlike the perceptive teacher in Reynolds' story, the principal told me not to hang it; the parents would be embarrassed. That was early in my career, and to this day I remember that as a defining moment. I KNEW I was philosophically oriented to a student-centered. If I ever see this principal, later superintendent, again...well. Back to the book.

Reynolds' simple lines, hand lettering, and water color and tea illustrations make this a charming book of primitive art. His illustration style matches the text, the story, and the theme.

The representational realistic characters remind me of the illustrations Parker did for Action Jackson. When Vashti grabs the marker and makes her dot, it is like Jackson's movements around his huge canvas. I noticed the transition from the limited dark colors at the beginning to the bright sun-colored dot to the double-page spread for the multi-colored art show at towards the end. And of course all pictures are made with dots and lines, so the introduction of the new artist experimenting with line is apropos. Reynolds' use of the white space to encircle the child helped set the tone of being alone, closed in, and unsure of herself.

The hand lettering is close enough to a child's writing that it fit the story. It was spread out enough to be readable and childlike enough to look like the child's diary or journal. The balance between text and picture telling the story led my eye through both to understand.

In addition to the art, hand lettering, and use of white space, Reynolds' appreciation, respect, and empathy for children and their potential is illustrated in this book. A must for the collector who needs a reminder of the promises and potential of children.

Nura says

Aaah... aku mau jadi guru seperti itu. Keren banget cara menyemangati muridnya. Genius. Dan suka bgt gimana Vashti akhirnya melanjutkan apa yang diajarkan gurunya.

Archit Ojha says

"Please... Sign It."

The Dot is a self-confidence story of a little girl Veshti who is upset and angry that she cannot draw anything. Her teacher helps her out and how!

Everyone who are dealing with kids who feel a bit low at any point of their lives about any field, should grab this one immediately.

Highly recommended!
Full stars!

Patrick says

This is one of those books that makes me unaccountably teary when I read it.

About kids and creativity. Highly recommended.

David Schaafsma says

Her teacher smiled. "Just make a mark and see where it takes you."

One of two great Peter Reynolds books on art lying around this house. I liked Ish better, but they make the same basic point that you have to be yourself and follow your own path to creativity. Vashti can't draw, hates it, and so at her teacher's urging, she begins with a dot, stops right there, signs it as her teacher suggests, and the teacher frames it. Vashti is suddenly dissatisfied with her dot and so tries different approaches to this, and begins to explore dot-ness.

At dot art show, a kid comes up and says, wow, you are so good, I can't draw at all. Vashti takes out a paper and says, "Here. Just make a mark."

Kathryn says

I'm not sure I liked this one quite as much as "Ish" but that could just be because I read "Ish" first and was so refreshed by the story encouraging a child's artistic freedom and creativity. Still, I will give this one five stars for the same purpose! ;-) It's amazing how art can blossom from a dot!

Miriam says

Vashti thinks she is no good at art, but an encouraging teacher helps her to enjoy herself. The teacher's approach seemed more focused on self-esteem than actual art skills, but I guess that's more the more important thing for young kids.

This was cute, and I liked the bit at the end with Vashti encouraging another child, but there are several similar books I think are better, including the same author's Ish.

Neda says

It's an amazing book & I recommend it to everybody, especially those who work with children.

It just gives courage to children & is sure to empower them & make them creative..

:)

I enjoyed it..

:)
