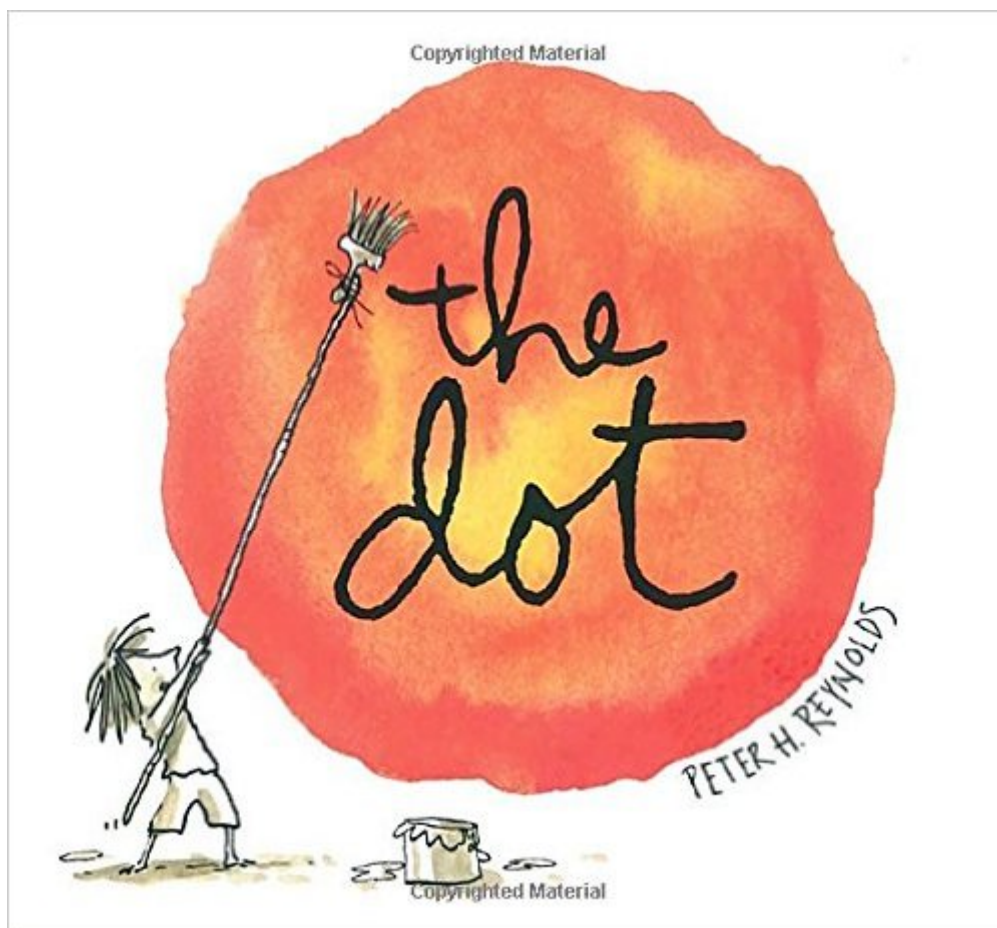


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# The Dot



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 500L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Candlewick; 1st edition (September 15, 2003)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 7.8 x 0.4 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 391 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #202 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art #1 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Asian & Asian American #1 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Drafting & Presentation

Age Range: 5 and up

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 12

## Customer Reviews

A frustrated grade school artist, Vashti sits slumped over her blank piece of paper at the end of art class. "I just CAN'T draw!" she tells her teacher. Her teacher first uses wit, then subtle yet clever encouragement to inspire her student to go beyond her insecurities and become, in the words of a younger boy who "can't" draw either, "a really great artist." Peter H. Reynolds crafts a quiet, pleasing story in *The Dot*--one that will strike a chord with children who have outgrown the self-assurance of kindergarten and begun to doubt their own greatness. His marvelous watercolor,

ink, and, yes, tea illustrations are appealing in a Quentin Blakey way, especially as Vashti begins to go wild with her dots. The delightfully open-ended conclusion will have readers of all ages contemplating how they can make their own mark in the world. Highly recommended. (Ages 5 to 9)  
--Emilie Coulter

PreSchool-Grade 4-"Just make a mark and see where it takes you." This sage advice, offered by her intuitive, intelligent teacher, sets our young heroine on a journey of self-expression, artistic experimentation, and success. First pictured as being enveloped by a blue-and-gray miasma of discouragement and dejection, Vashti seems beaten by the blank paper before her. It is her defeatist declaration, "I just CAN'T draw," that evokes her teacher's sensitive suggestion. Once the child takes that very first stab at art, winningly and economically dramatized by Reynolds's fluid pen-and-ink, watercolor, and tea image of Vashti swooping down upon that vacant paper in a burst of red-orange energy, there's no stopping her. Honoring effort and overcoming convention are the themes here. Everything about this little gem, from its unusual trim size to the author's hand-lettered text, from the dot-shaped cocoons of carefully chosen color that embrace each vignette of Vashti to her inventive negative-space masterpiece, speaks to them. Best of all, with her accomplishment comes an invaluable bonus: the ability and the willingness to encourage and embolden others. With art that seems perfectly suited to the mood and the message of the text, Reynolds inspires with a gentle and generous mantra: "Just make a mark."-Kathy Krasniewicz, Perrot Library, Greenwich, CT  
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A story of encouragement. Read this to my 4 year old granddaughter. It was fun watching her expressions on her face as she processed the information. She wanted to color , and show me "her beautiful art work"

Read this book to the kindergarten class and left with the teacher.

wonderful. a great gift for my artist bro-in-law

Great book to teach Growth Mindset!

A simple dot on a piece of paper turned a child into an inspiration for others. She in turn deploys the same method of inspiration by her art teacher, to encourage a little boy who also thinks he can't

draw. The illustrations embody the meaning of the story - simple and on a white piece of paper. This puts the focus on how something small can turn into something bigger. In the story, one dot turned into bigger dots and more artistic mediums. Fantastic, inspirational, creative, and a must-have for your child's library. Read it/Use it anytime your child feels uninspired to lift his/her creative spirits. - Candy Grant (Children's Author - Omnibus Publishing)

I use this children's book as an inspiration as we begin to teach "The Arts" in our preschool curriculum. It is a wonderful story, reminding us that indeed "one person can make a difference" in encouraging potential "artists". The message that art is totally personal, reflecting the artist, works to inspire my high school Early Childhood students who serve as student "teachers" with our preschoolers. I have also given this special book to high school graduates and proudly displayed it at the annual preschool art show. Great story for any age!

I bought this book for my children in anticipation of International Dot Day (September 15). It's exactly what I expected and at an excellent price. The colors are vibrant and the quality of the book/binding is great. I'm sure we'll have it long after the occasion. I'd definitely recommend buying this book whether you and your kids intend to make your mark on the world this year or just want a quick read with a little inspiration.

I read this story to a few of my older classes and they loved it. This book has a really great message that really strikes home for my students as self esteem and frustration getting their ideas out on paper is a constant challenge. Would recommend this story for any fellow art teachers!

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