

Candlewick Press presents



A Guide for classrooms
using THE DOT by Peter H. Reynolds

I wrote and illustrated *The Dot* as a way to help children and "grown-up children" be brave enough to "make their mark."

While the book is about art, it really is about process — about ideas, creative thinking, bravery, expression, original ideas, and sharing.

I hope it will encourage and inspire you as you nurture the creative spirit in your classroom — and in yourself. In this guide you'll find a few ideas, materials, and activities that can act as a springboard to your own experience of *The Dot* in your classroom. Of course, this is just the tip of the iceberg, and I hope that, like Vashti, you'll be inspired to keep going as you explore and play with these themes. I'd love to hear from you. Feel free to drop me a note and share!

Wishing you a wonderful teaching and learning journey,

Peter H. Reynolds



Peter H. Reynolds

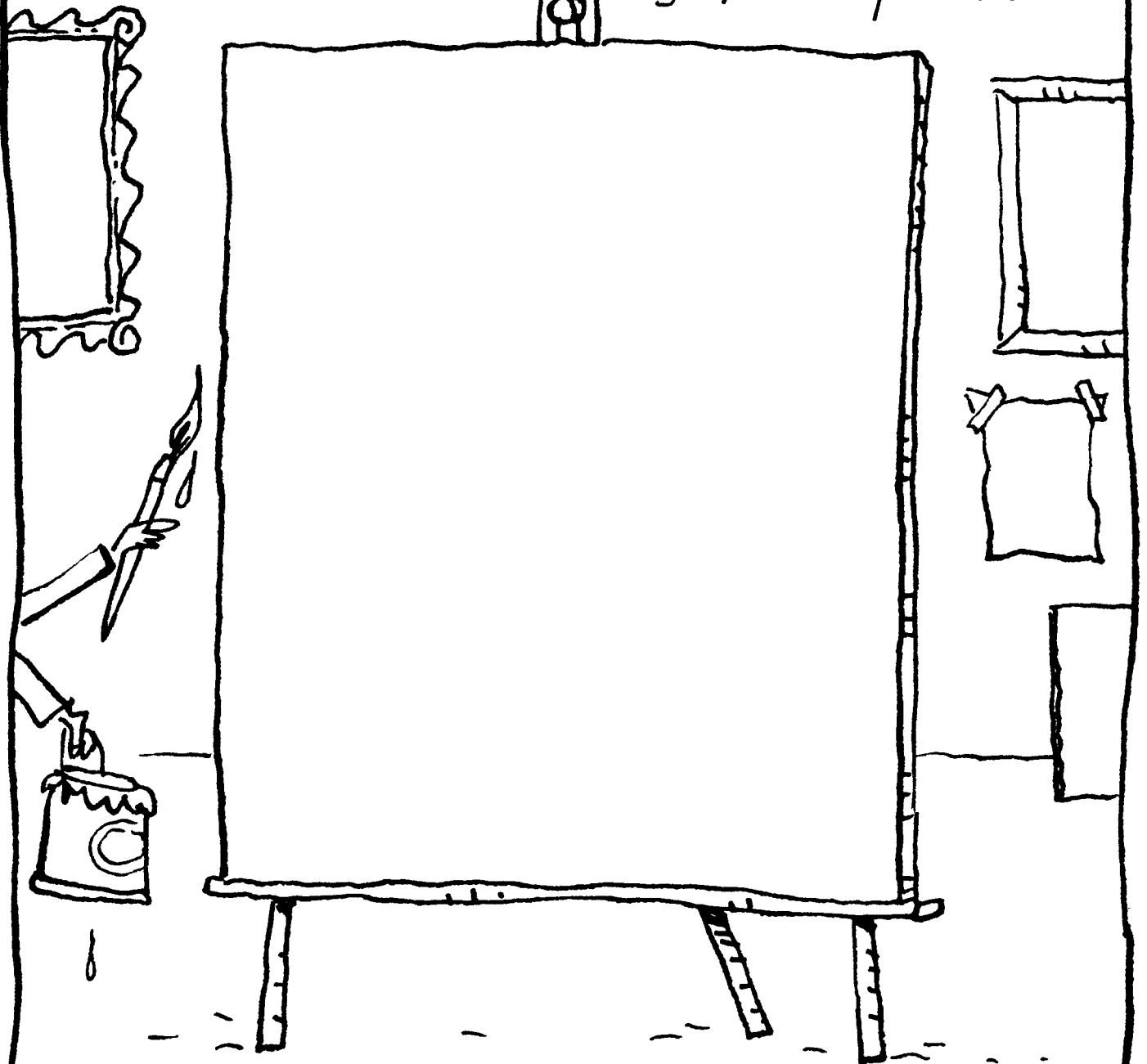
One dot
can launch the
journey.
• ↙

For more ideas go to www.peterhreynolds.com/dot



Make your mark! Make your own dot!

(Big, little, many,
few, colored,
glittered - your choice!



Be sure to sign and date your work! Peter



Classroom Ideas

This is a "rough sketch" of possible ways to introduce and follow up on *The Dot*. Feel free to adapt it to your grade level. Have fun!

- Before reading the book, have a talk with your students about how we feel when we are starting something new. (This is especially apt at the beginning of the school year.)
- How do we feel when things seem difficult to do?
- Ask how many students like to draw.
- Tell them you are going to read a story about a girl who does not think she is good at drawing and what happens to her when she goes to art class.
- Follow the reading with a discussion about the story.



Extension Ideas

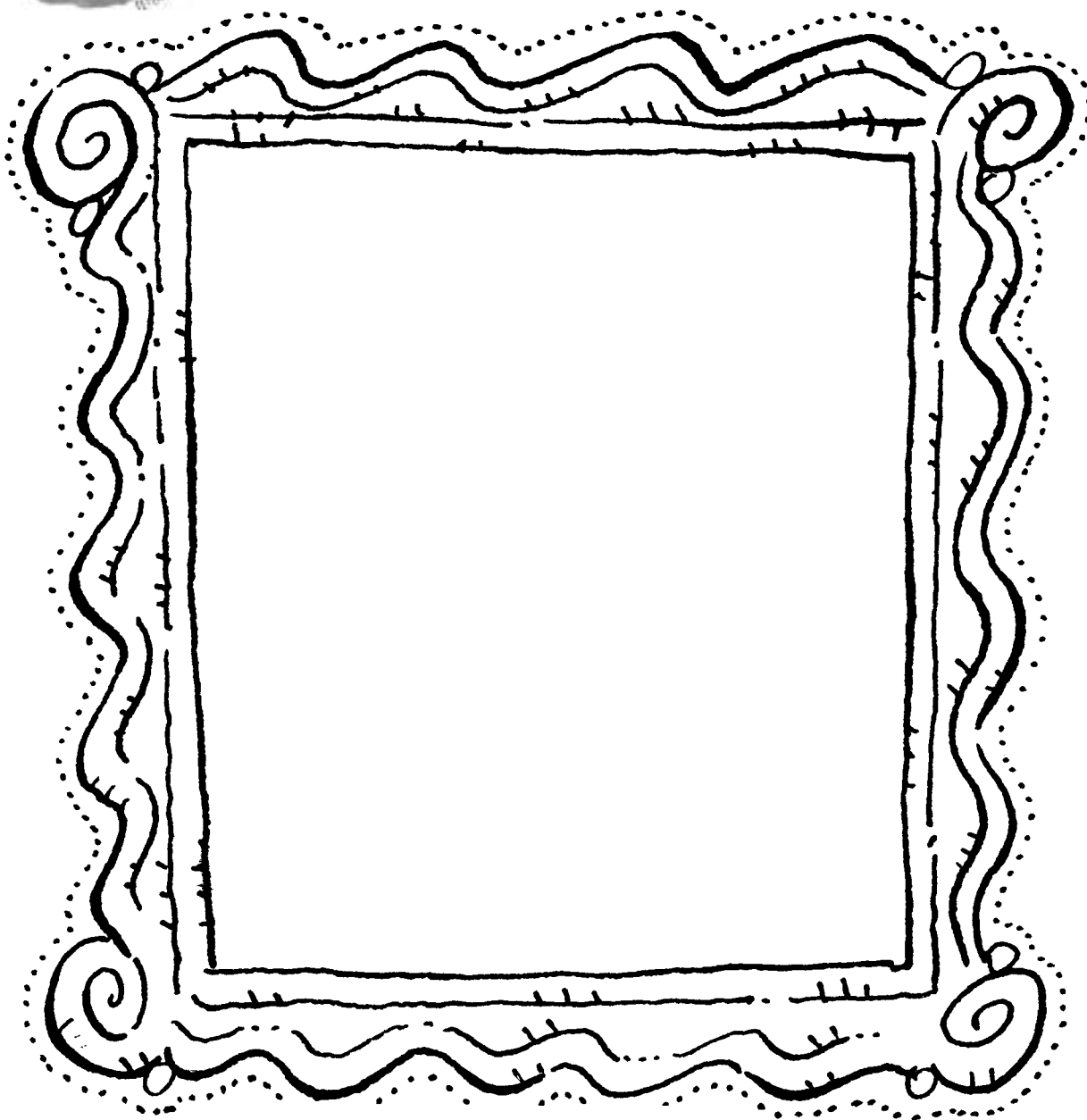
- Pass out large "dots" to your students and have them write their names on them, as well as some activities they enjoy.
- Have the students draw dots on the reproducible "easel" page provided. They can then carefully cut out their dots and paste them into the reproducible frame on the back page of this guide.
- Invite your students to choose another shape or object. Have them explore this "idea" by trying to make as many different versions of the same thing, varying size, color, or texture, using negative space, etc.
- Provide your students with blank-page journals, for them to "make a mark" in every day (a word, a picture, something funny that happened that day, a doodle, a squiggle, a dot!).

Special thanks to Bill Norris, Mary and Jean MacDonald, and Molly Duffy. For more ideas go to www.peterhreynolds.com/dot

Teachers: Photocopy this page to share with your students.



Here's a swirly frame for your creation!



Cut out the frame, add your art,
and hang it up to share.