



Discussion Guide for

REGINA'S BIG MISTAKE

Author:

Marissa Moss

Publisher:

Houghton Mifflin

THEME:

Even though something we create may not turn out the way we originally thought (or hoped) it would, it can still be something we are proud of, if we persist and don't worry~about making mistakes.

PROGRAM SUMMARY:

Regina is so afraid of making a mistake on her art project that she won't even pick up a crayon to get started. Regina's Big Mistake, written by Marissa Moss, explores some of the ways that artists express themselves through their work, and takes a look at the creative process.

Segments highlight a variety of art forms and the hidden artist in everyone.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Have students relate personal experiences of times when something didn't go as planned, but turned out all right in the end.

Discuss what it means to be an "artist. Include in the discussion, different types of artists and the different types of materials that artists use in creating their art.

Reproducing the pictures they see in their heads was a concern of Regina in the story and of LeVar in the program. Discuss what it means to "see pictures in your head."

Ask students for a definition of "creativity." Discuss ways that creativity is part of many different aspects of life.

CURRICULUM EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

Using a book that the students have not yet heard, read aloud to them a paragraph that is rich in description, and have them draw the picture they "see" from hearing the words.

Invite an artist into the classroom to talk about her/his work and give a demonstration.

Read a poem aloud to the students and have them paint what it describes or how it makes them feel.

Provide an opportunity for students to discuss different styles of art. Visit an art gallery, if possible, or use art prints and picture book art. Invite students to discuss what they see, what they like, what the work of art reminds them of etc.

In the program, LeVar enjoys working with clay. Have students make clay objects.

Discuss with students how authors and illustrators of children's books seldom collaborate on a book or even know each other. Have students write a story that they will make into a book. After the stories have been edited and printed or typed on the pages, pair each student author with an illustrator from the class. The illustrators then have only the words from which to work in drawing ~ the pictures for the story. After the books are finished, discuss how the illustrations may or may not have been what the author had in mind for the story.

Give the students a topic for a piece of crayon art, similar to Mrs. Li's direction to Regina's class to draw a jungle. Choose a topic that will inspire different interpretations, such as "ocean," "city," "country," "forest," and the like. Instruct the students to draw the picture they see in their heads when they think of that word. When the drawings are completed, display them and discuss how people see different things even when they have the same topic.

There have been many times in history when "mistakes" have turned into very useful inventions. Have students research some of these valuable mistakes. Two books by Charlotte Foltz Jones will give them many ideas: Mistakes That Worked (Doubleday) and Accidents May Happen (Doubleday). In order for students to share their findings, have them demonstrate or dramatize how the "mistake" occurred.

RELATED READING RAINBOW PROGRAMS:

- Appelemando's Dreams
- Legend of the Indian Paintbrush
- Liang and the Magic Paintbrush
- Piggy in the Puddle

RELATED THEMES:

- art appreciation
- self-confidence
- individuality creativity

About The Author:

Marissa Moss entertained her brothers and sisters when they were young with the stories and pictures she created. She has a degree in art history and once taught art to elementary school children. She now writes and illustrates full time from her home in Berkeley, California, which she shares with her husband and son.



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BOOKS REVIEWED BY CHILDREN:

THE ART LESSON by Tomie dePaola (Putnam)

I AM AN ARTIST by Pat Lowery Collins, illus. by Robin Brickman (Millbrook Press)

THE LITTLE PAINTER OF SABANA GRANDE by Patricia Maloney Markun, illus. by Robert Casilla (Simon & Schuster)

SUPPLEMENTARY BOOKLIST:

THE PAINTER by Peter Catalanotto (Orchard)

NO GOOD IN ART by Miriam Cohen, illus. by Lillian Hoban (Greenwillow)

MATTHEW'S DREAM by Leo Lionni (Knopf)

THE YOUNG ARTIST by Thomas Locker (Dial)
JOHN'S

PICTURE by Elizabeth MacDonald, illus. by Dave McTaggart (Viking)

THE FANTASTIC DRAWINGS OF DANIELLE by Barbara McClintock (Houghton Mifflin)

THE MAGICAL DRAWINGS OF MOONEY B. FINCH by David McPhail (Doubleday)
ALL I SEE by Cynthia Rylant, illus. by Peter Catalanotto (Orchard)
EMMA'S RUG by Allen Say (Houghton Mifflin)
BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING by Amy Schwartz (HarperCollins)

Programs Details

Length:

30 minutes

Subject Areas:

Education

Audience Levels:

Ages 6 - 11

Order Number:

5-4521SG

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