

TEACHERS ACTIVITIES



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.

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 a paragraph that is rich in description aloud to them and have them draw the picture they "see" from hearing the words.



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.

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.



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.



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



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.



Have students fold a piece of drawing paper so they have six "boxes" to work in. Supply them with a variety of art media, such as crayons, colored pencils, pastels, chalk, charcoal, Craypas, markers, and the like. Invite students to experiment with a different medium in each box. Have them focus on the use of each medium, such as the types of strokes, the pressure needed for drawing and coloring, the width of a line, the depth of color generated, the texture created, and ease of use. Discuss their preferences.



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.

Supplemental Books:

THAT'S HOW IT IS WHEN WE DRAW
by Ruth Lercher Bornstein (Clarion)

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 PICTURE THAT MOM DREW
by Kathy Mallat, photographs by Bruce McMillan (Walker)

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)

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