

Art

by Patrick McDonnell

A boy named Art uses lines, squiggles, dots and doodles to create a whole new world.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Who can tell me about a time they drew a picture using dots and squiggly lines?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder what picture the boy is drawing?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in Art

- inspired: stimulated or spurred to do something
- scribbles: meaningless marks and lines
- squiggle: a small wiggly, wavy mark
- splotches: irregularly-shaped spots or blots
- blotches: irregularly-shaped spots or blots
- noodle: the human head
- conjure: to imagine or bring to mind
- doodle: a shape or picture drawn aimlessly
- billion: a very large number
- creations: something that has been made or brought into existence

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What colors did Art use to make his art? What colors would you have chosen?
- Do you think Art had fun making all of the silly marks and perfect doodles? Why do you think so?
- Have you ever heard the saying "A picture is worth a thousand words?" What do you think it means?
- Does Art's art tell a story? Describe what is happening in the picture he drew.
- Can you find each of Art's scribbles, marks and doodles in his final drawing?
- Do you like Art's art? Why or why not?
- How do you think Art felt when he woke up and saw that his mother put his art on the refrigerator?

Do

Art

Tape a long piece of white butcher paper to the wall at the children's height and allow all of the children to stand in front of it and make their own art using crayons. Encourage them to include each kind of mark Art made: zigs, zags, scribbles, squiggles, dots, splotches, blotches, curly-cues and doodles.