

MAKE YOUR MARK...



# Classroom Guide



WALKER  
BOOKS

[walker.co.uk](http://walker.co.uk)

# Celebrate 15 years of *The Dot* and 10 years of International Dot Day on 15<sup>th</sup>-ish September!



It all started **TEN years ago**, when a teacher and his students in Iowa celebrated the themes of creativity and courage in Peter H. Reynolds' *The Dot* on the anniversary of the original publication.

In this inspiring, award-winning story of self-expression and creativity, Vashti thinks she can't draw. But her teacher is sure that she can. She knows that there's creative spirit in everyone and encourages Vashti to trust in her own abilities by being brave enough to "make her mark". What begins with a small dot on a piece of paper becomes a breakthrough in confidence and courage which has gone on to inspire countless children and adults around the globe.

**Now, every 15-ish September, more than 10 million teachers, librarians and children in 170 countries participate in International Dot Day** getting busy with writing, drawing, painting, or other creative outlets and sharing their Dot Day inspiration with others. What started as a story in the pages of a book is transforming teaching and learning around the world as people of all ages with just a little bit of bravery and encouragement re-discover the power and potential of creativity in all they do.

## Join the celebration!

Host a reading of *The Dot*, throw a creative dot-making event, plan a weeklong series of activities or even a year-long theme – the possibilities are endless! Get started with these simple ideas to help you celebrate creativity in your classroom or library. You can also find other great ideas by visiting the gallery on [www.thedotclub.org](http://www.thedotclub.org).

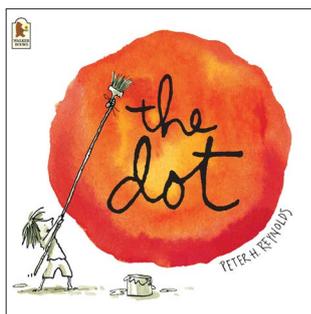
## Share your ideas with us!

We can't wait to hear about your **International Dot Day** event in your classroom or library. Keep us updated by sharing any news, photos and art with us via Twitter @WalkerBooksUK #DotDay, #Makeyourmark.

You can also register at [www.thedotclub.org](http://www.thedotclub.org) and share how you plan to celebrate **International Dot Day** with fellow creativity champions around the world!

Follow Dot Day on Twitter ([twitter.com/DotClubConnect](https://twitter.com/DotClubConnect))

- Visit the Dot Day Facebook page ([facebook.com/InternationalDotDay](https://facebook.com/InternationalDotDay))
- Use the hashtags #DotDay #Makeyourmark



9781844281695  
£6.99 • Paperback • 4 years +

## MAKE YOUR MARK ...

## A Message from Peter H. Reynolds

**The Dot** is about getting started – getting unstuck. It is also about creative teaching, exploring an idea in many ways and sharing our gifts with others.

I hope these activities will serve as a springboard for you and your creators to explore and celebrate creative self-expression – and to be brave enough to share your voices with the world. **So make your mark and see where it takes you!**

Wishing you a most creative journey,

Peter H. Reynolds 



Photo by Gretje Ferguson

**Peter H. Reynolds** is a *New York Times* best-selling illustrator who has created many acclaimed books for children. He is the author-illustrator of *Rose's Garden*, *The North Star*, *So Few of Me*, *The Smallest Gift of Christmas*, and *Playing from the Heart*, as well as the illustrator of Megan McDonald's Judy Moody and Stink series. Born in Canada, Peter H. Reynolds now lives in Dedham, Massachusetts.



walker.co.uk

# Classroom Ideas for the dot



**Celebrate International  
Dot Day on 15 September!**  
For more details,  
visit [www.thedotclub.org](http://www.thedotclub.org).

**This is a rough sketch of possible ways to introduce and follow up on  
*The Dot*. Feel free to adapt it to your class 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.
- Pass out large dots (paper circles) 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 photocopyable easel page provided. They can then carefully cut out their dots and paste them into their own swirly gold (or any colour!) frame on the next photocopyable page.
- Invite your students to choose another shape or object. Have them explore this idea by making as many different versions of the same thing, varying size, colour, 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!).

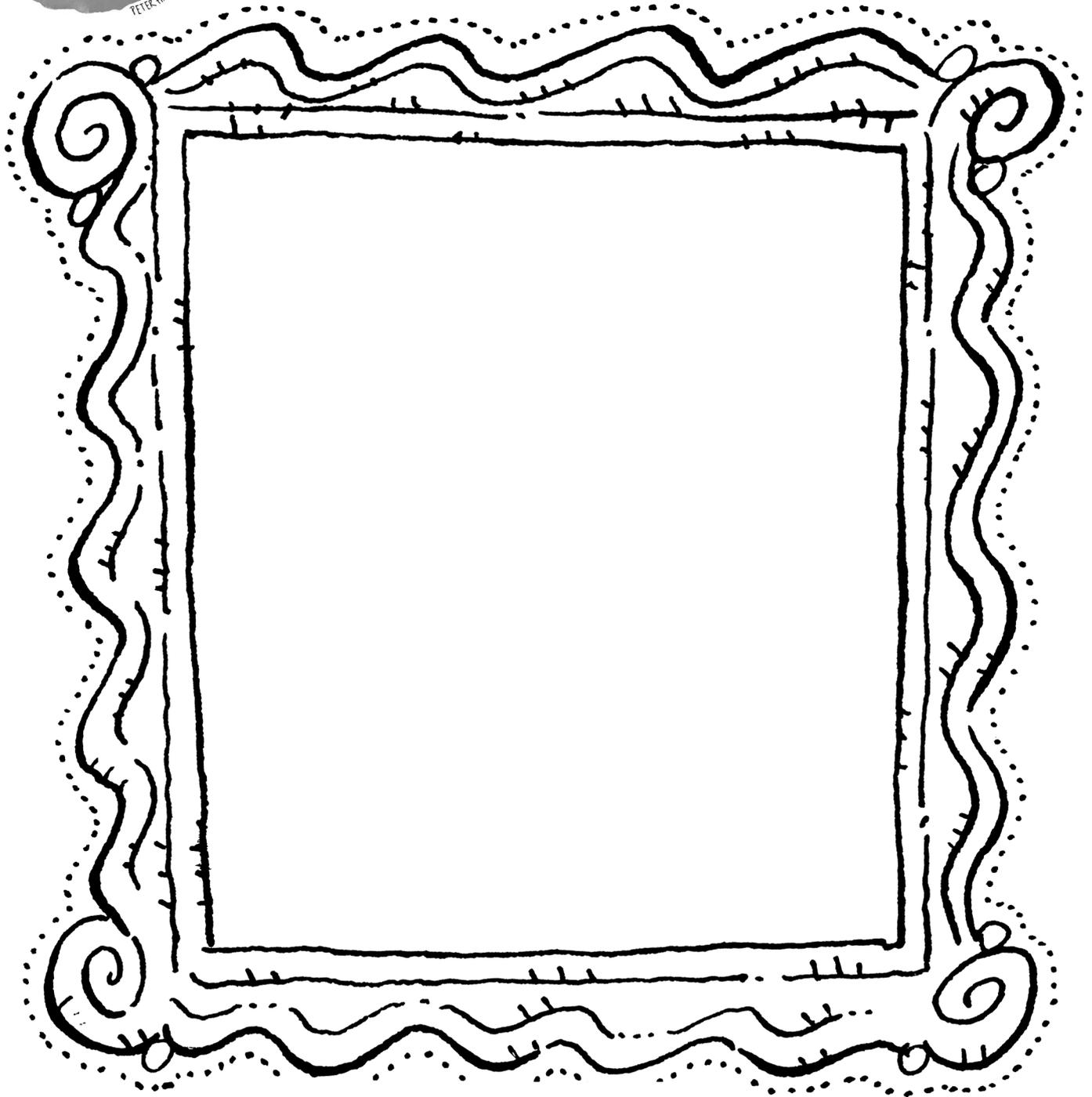
One dot  
can launch the  
journey.  
↓



WALKER  
BOOKS  
[walker.co.uk](http://walker.co.uk)



Here's a swirly frame for your creation!

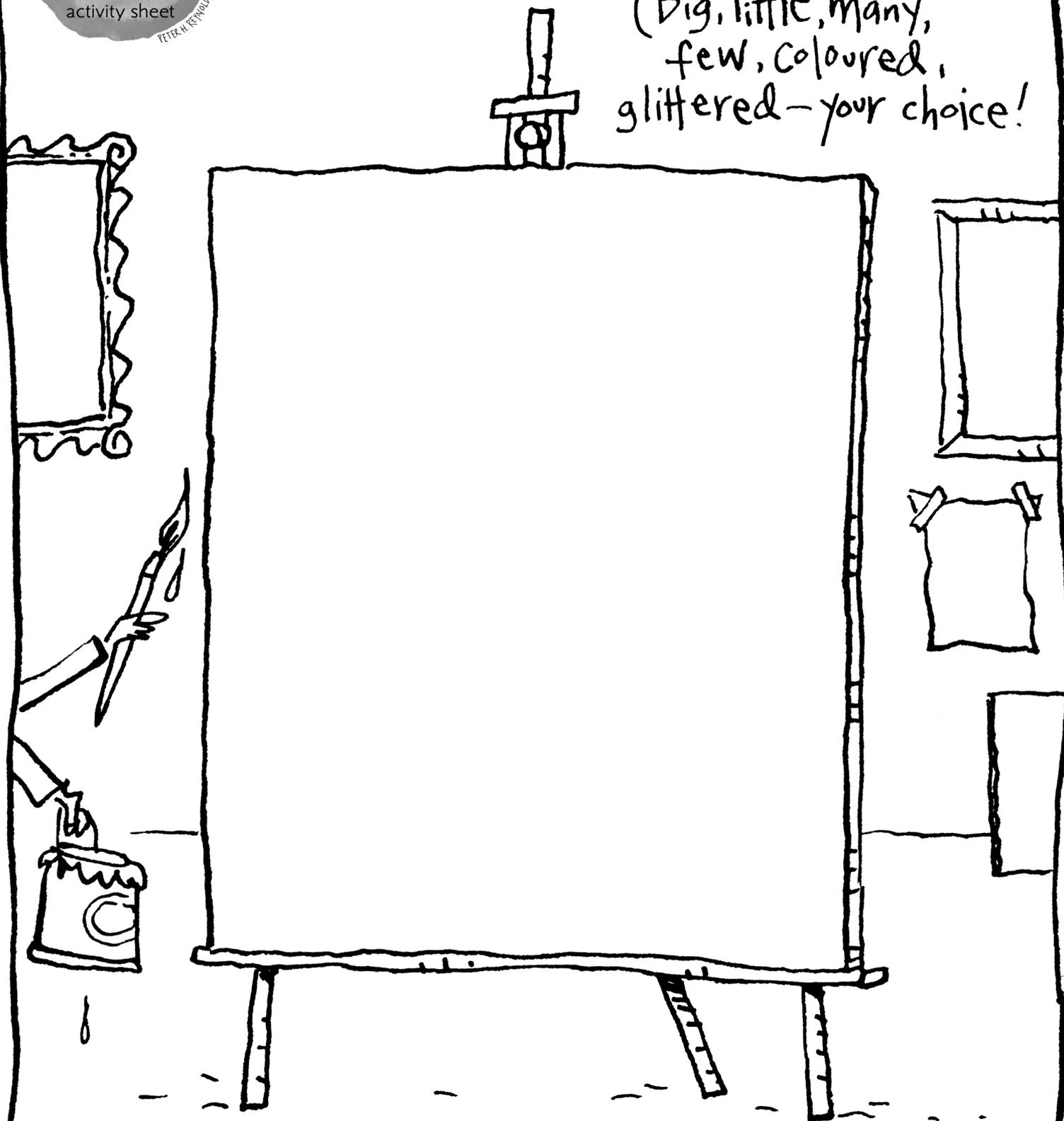


Cut out the frame, add your art,  
and hang it up to share.



# Make your mark! Make your own dot!

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



Be sure to sign and date your work! Peter