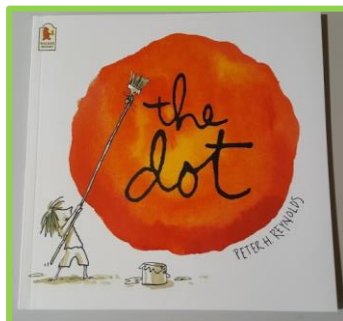


Getting creative with dots

The suggestions in this resource can be used in conjunction with [International Dot Day](#) on 15 September, or any day when you feel like going a little dotty.

Use the picture book *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds as a stimulus to discussion and to inspire creativity.



An inspiring and heart-warming story of Vashti, a reticent child, and a caring teacher who encourages her to be courageous and have a go.

Go dotty with a Dot Day party

Dress up in dots

Make dotty decorations

Share dotty party food: cupcakes or biscuits topped or filled with candy buttons, circles of fairy bread dotted with sprinkles, traffic light sandwiches and biscuits, vegetable circles ...



Brainstorm dotty words

Compile a list of other dot words; for example:

Spots

Polka dots

Splotches

Specks

Daubs

Flecks

Mathematical explorations

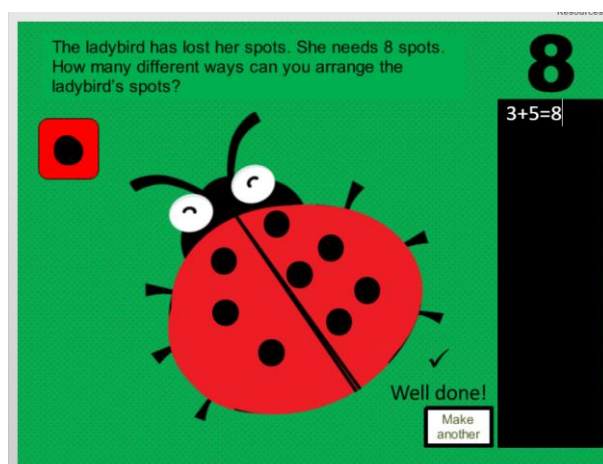
Explore circles

Make patterns: repeating patterns and growing patterns; use counters, stickers or paper circles

Play dice games including subitising with numbers to six

Play a game of dominos, and use dominoes to explore addition turnaround facts

Explore number with [Ladybird Spots](#)



Explore or brainstorm where dots are found in the environment

Dots of spills on the pavement

Dots of gravel in concrete

Dots on dice and dots on dominoes

Signpost dots

Dots to guide people walking

Animals with spots: giraffes, cheetahs, leopards, dogs, frogs, butterflies, ladybirds, fish

View magnified computer images to identify each little dot, a pixel of colour

Take photos of the dots and make a caption book with one photo to a page; for example:



Dots on the footpath.



Dots on boxes.



Dots on the stairs.



Dots on frogs.

Get artistic

Dot designs

Make pictures using only dots: try paint, felt tip markers or stickers; make big dots, little dots and many different coloured dots.

Dotty creatures

Give each child a circle of paper approximately 5 centimetres in diameter. The child stamps a fingerprint in the middle and uses imagination to change it into a picture of something; for example, the sun, a face, an alien, an animal.

Attach the fingerprint dots to a large sheet of contrasting paper. Caption the display; for example:

“Our collection of dots: as unique as we are.”



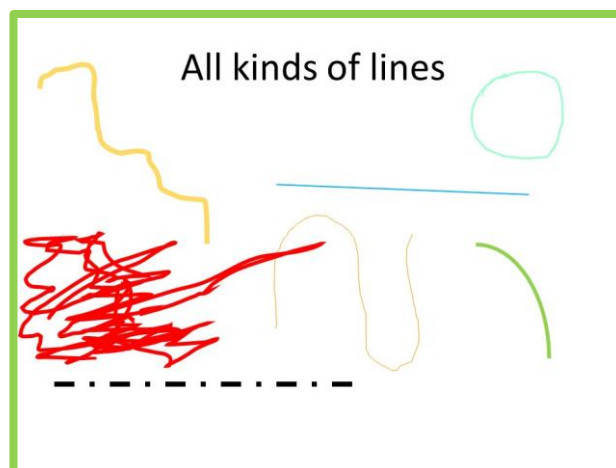
Explore lines

At the end of *The Dot*, Vashti encourages a boy to make his mark by drawing a line.

Make all sorts of lines: long lines, short lines, wiggly lines, thick lines, thin lines, squiggly lines, happy lines, sad lines, angry lines.

Use a variety of media to make lines: pencils, crayons, oil pastels, felt tip markers, charcoal, gel pens, paint, cotton buds dipped in food colour, computer software, fingers on touch devices.

Compile a collection of pages of lines to form a book. Write a caption on each page.



Be inspired by the masters

Watch and discuss videos of artists at work

For example:

[Mo Willems](#)

<https://youtu.be/qyUfnccxdnY>

Explore ways Mo Willems has used lines in creating his characters. Encourage children to have a go at drawing them too.

[Helene Magisson](#)

Watch as Helene creates one of the beautiful watercolour images for the book of poems [Magic Fish Dreaming](#) by [June Perkins](#).

<https://youtu.be/xvDjuvo8MLo>

[Kim Michelle toft](#)

In this time lapse video, Kim demonstrates painting the cover illustration for her most recent publication Coral Sea Dreaming.

<https://youtu.be/OMDhzDPPuXk>

[Carol Schwartz](#)

In this video, Carol talks about the importance of research and observation to creating accurate illustrations for non-fiction books about nature.

<https://vimeo.com/75260700>

Read stories about famous artists



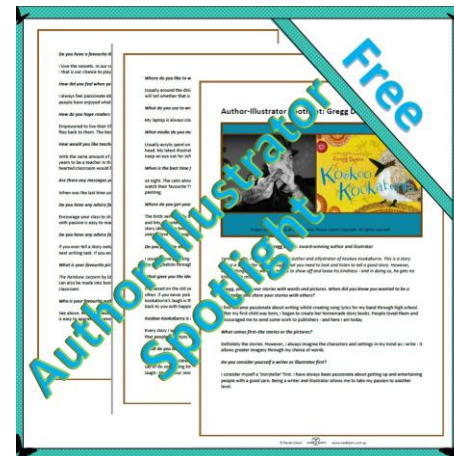
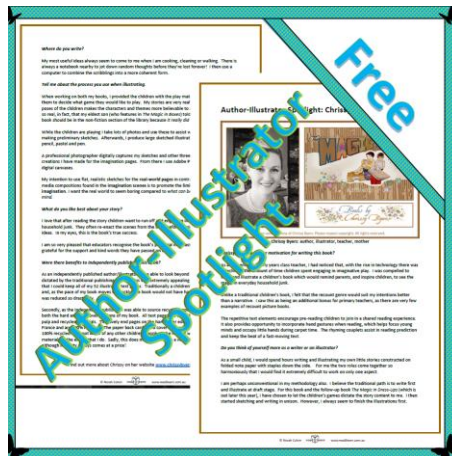
These books with stories about famous artists such as Dali, Picasso, Matisse, Monet, and Renoir are just a few from my personal collection. Ask your school librarian, or at your local library, for other titles.

Invite an illustrator to your classroom

Invite an artist or illustrator to your classroom to discuss and demonstrate techniques and inspire the children to create artworks of their own.

Check out readilearn [Illustrator Spotlights](#)

Read the books to the children and discuss techniques used by the illustrators.



Note the use of dots in Greg's illustrations.



Reminder

The most important thing of all is to encourage children to have a go and to have fun imagining and creating. As teachers, we can learn a lot from Vashti's teacher about acceptance, encouragement, and a growth mindset.

Check out the [International Dot Day Get Started](#) page to download a free Educator's Handbook packed with other dot suggestions.

I hope you are as excited about International Dot Day as I am. How will you celebrate?

Note: All websites and videos were accessed on 7.09.2017.