

Courageously Creative - Kindergarten

This lesson will inspire children to develop a growth mindset by encouraging them to express their creative abilities with confidence. While the lesson is recommended for Kindergarten students, it can be adapted for use with students in any of the primary grades. Complete each section by following the instructions below.

 Teacher Led	 Requires Computer OR Mobile Device	 Requires Spaces
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Spaces Prep

Create your Activity in Spaces before the lesson. Not sure how to create an Activity? Check out this [short video tutorial](#) on assigning and managing Activities.

Learning Goals

1. Students will **learn** the importance of being confident in self-expression.
2. Students will **practice** a creative skill (i.e., painting) by creating a “dot” following the story.
3. Students will **reflect** on the completion of the task

Materials

 Student Handouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handout [A] - Examples of Dots (Page 4)
 Video/Audio Clips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Dot” book or video by Peter H. Reynolds
 Technology Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet • Mobile device, tablet, or laptop
Additional Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White square (8” by 8”) card stock paper or a paper plate for each student • Paint (the more variety of colours, the better!) • Paintbrushes • Water • Containers/cups for water

Instructions

Before the lesson

1. Students are invited to the carpet and asked to form a circle
2. Discuss with students how they feel when they try something new. Share your example.
 - *Follow up by asking how they feel when it is challenging*
 - *Or, Project/Show different emojis and ask students to select one to represent how they feel when it is challenging*
3. Explain how trying something new can require courage
 - Discuss with students what courage means
 - Courage: the ability to do something that frightens one
 - Write the word on the board and create a mind map outlining the students’ responses to what courage means to them.
 - Move towards their understanding of the word as expressing themselves with their whole heart even when they are doing something new or challenging

During the lesson

1. Show the cover of the book and ask students:
 - *What do you think this story is about?*
 - *How do you think this child will be courageous?*
2. Explain you are going to read a story about a girl, Vashti, who doesn't think she is very good at drawing in the beginning but learns she is an artist by the end
3. Read the book or show the video of the author reading the book (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swm-alwgFVo>)
4. Once finished, ask the following questions to the whole class:
 - What did Vashti make in the beginning?
 - How did Vashti feel about what she made?
 - What changed for Vashti after her teacher encouraged her?
 - Do you think it required courage for Vashti to begin with a dot and create something big?
5. Explain that students are going to make a dot like Vashti did.

After the lesson

1. Discuss the examples found on the **Handout [A] - Examples of Dots**
2. Students will work at a table to create a dot. Students can make their initial mark by creating a dot or circle in the centre of their page, and then continue adding circles around their initial mark using the paint
 - a. Encourage students to think about something they would like to do that will take courage
3. After the students have completed their dot, students will log into their Spaces account

4. Click **+Create** > **Camera** (be sure to allow Spaces access to the camera) > Take a photo of the completed dot, **Handout [A] - Example of Dots** > Post **Photo** 
 - a. Click the **Title** box and add a title to the Post. In the **Post Description** box, write a description of the Handout.
 - b. Click **Next** > **Post**
5. In the **Add reflection** box of the Post, write a reflection answering the following questions:
 - i. How did you feel while creating your dot?
 - ii. How do you demonstrate courage in the classroom? At home?
 - iii. What is something new that you have tried that is challenging recently?
 - iv. What is something you would like to try?
6. Click the send arrow  to post your reflection

Worksheet

HANDOUT [A]: Examples of Dots

