

Peter H. Reynolds & FableVision Learning Present

The Educator's Handbook for



Sign up for this year's Dot Day at:
<http://www.thedotclub.org/dotday/register>

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Peter H. Reynolds & FableVision Learning Present:

The Educator's Handbook for International Dot Day

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Peter H. Reynolds, Author of *The Dot*, on How to Celebrate Dot Day

Friends,

Welcome to our Educator's Guide for International Dot Day! It's my hope this guide will serve as a jumping off point for your adventures on Dot Day this year.

Keep in mind that the only real guideline for Dot Day is that folks read *The Dot* and then express themselves in any way they are inspired to, whether that means creating a dot — building a dot gallery — collaborating on a dot gallery with teachers/parents — animating a dot — writing a story about being brave and making your mark — going on a dot photo safari to find dot shapes in our world — writing a dot song — doing a dot-inspired dance — putting on a live performance of *The Dot*, or more! How you celebrate Dot Day is up to you — and your friends.

Just make a mark. . . see where it take you!



Peter H. Reynolds
Author and Illustrator of *The Dot*
Founder, FableVision Learning, LLC

P.S. For helpful resources and links, and to connect up with like-minded educators on Facebook, visit the official Dot Day website here:

www.thedotclub.org/dotday

P.P.S. Let us know how you plan to celebrate! Be sure to sign up here:

<http://www.thedotclub.org/dotday/register>



An Introduction to International Dot Day

September 15th marks the anniversary of the publication of best-selling author/illustrator Peter H. Reynolds' *The Dot*, a "story book for all ages." Starting in 2009, a group of educators began celebrating this date as International Dot Day — a day for classes to explore the story's powerful themes: bravery, creativity, and self-expression.

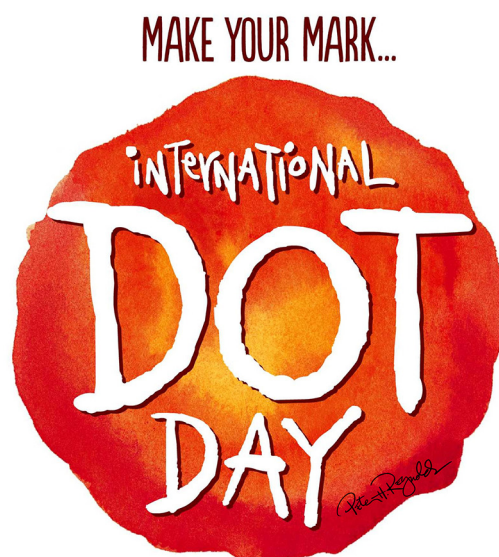
"*The Dot* more than anything celebrates the power of creative teaching," Reynolds explains. "Despite the test-centric world we live in, creative teachers know how to find those aha moments — much the same way that my 7th grade math teacher Mr. Matson 'connected the dots' between math and art, which changed my life." To honor that moment, Reynolds dedicated *The Dot* to Mr. Matson.

The Dot tells the story of a caring teacher who reaches a reluctant student in a remarkably creative way. In Reynolds' book, the teacher dares a very resistant Vashti to "make her mark." Vashti's breakthrough begins with a simple dot on a piece of paper. Encouraged by her teacher, she sets off on a journey of self-discovery, letting her creativity bloom and, ultimately, inspiring others.

Teacher Terry Shay believed so fully in the power of *The Dot* that he "made his mark" by declaring September 15th International Dot Day. He encouraged fellow teachers to read the book and then create their own dots. Dot Day caught on quickly. Since the first Dot Day in 2009, the numbers of participating educators and students around the globe have skyrocketed. More and more schools are joining in the fun every year.

One simply has to search #DotDay on Twitter to witness the enthusiasm of teachers gearing up for this year's Dot Day. Posts and links adorn the wall of the International Dot Day Facebook page (www.facebook.com/InternationalDotDay). Educators are also spreading the word about *Big Screen Books: The Dot*, a group story-sharing software program that allows students to interact with the story on a computer or interactive whiteboard.

How does Reynolds recommend celebrating? "Spread the word... On International Dot Day, read *The Dot*, wear dots, eat dots, draw dots, frame dots, connect the dots, splurge on art supplies, try a new medium — a new instrument, write a poem, rearrange your furniture, reconnect the dots with an old friend, make something, or make something with a friend. Share your creativity with the world."



SEPTEMBER 15th-ish

First: Share the Story of The Dot!

Some possible additions to your Dot Day Toolkit...

the dot Book & DVD

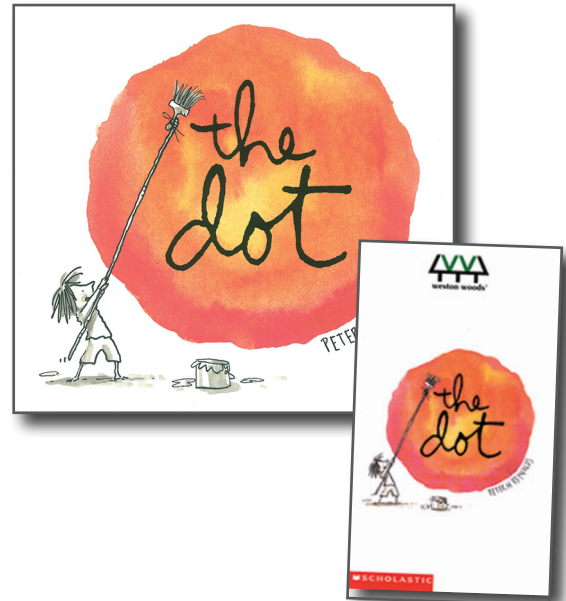
By Peter H. Reynolds

Beloved in classrooms around the world, *The Dot* tells the story of Vashti, a girl who begins a journey of self-discovery after she is challenged by her teacher to “make her mark.”

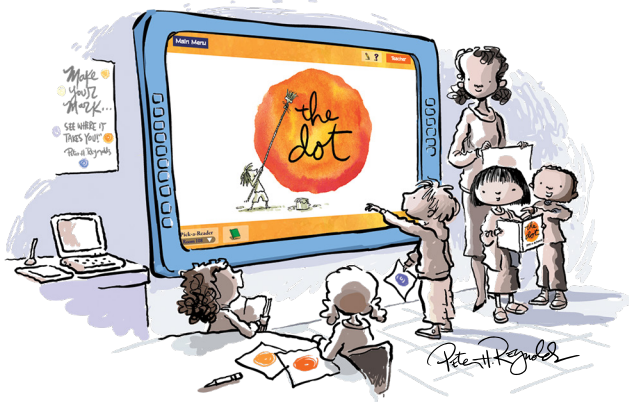
The Dot book has been translated into over 25 languages, including Braille. Among other awards, *The Dot* was honored with the *Irma S. and James H. Black Honor for Excellence in Children’s Literature Award* and the *Christopher Award*.

The Dot was also adapted as a short animated film by Reynolds’ animation studio, FableVision, and Scholastic/Weston Woods. Narrated by Thora Birch (*American Beauty*), the film won the prestigious *Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Children’s Video*.

www.fablevisionlearning.com/thedot



Peter H. Reynolds' the dot Interactive Edition: A Big ScreenBook®



Teachers and students can dive into *The Dot* on any computer or interactive whiteboard with *Big Screen Books*, Peter’s innovative group story-sharing software. With optional narration by Peter and a special “Meet the Author” video, *Big Screen Books: The Dot* is like having a virtual author visit! The program offers a variety of customizable features and fun activities.

Ish, the sequel to *The Dot*, is also available as a *Big Screen Book*. Consider sharing this story as a follow-up to Dot Day!

www.fablevisionlearning.com/bigscreenbooks

Creative Activities from the Classroom!

Here are just a few ways teachers around the globe have celebrated Dot Day:

Twister — Maryann Molishus

Get several Twister games and have the whole class play at the same time. See who can be the last person standing.

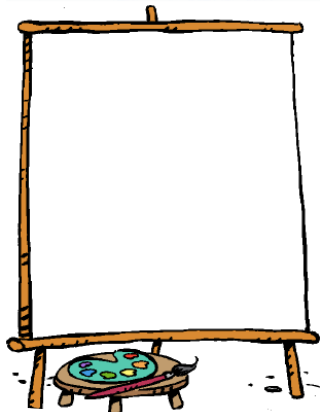
Give the Make Your Mark Award — Maryann Molishus

Choose students, adults, or families from your school community who are making a difference in your school, neighborhood, or the world. Design a certificate and present it to them on Dot Day.



Make Giant 3D Dots — Maryann Molishus

Divide the class into small groups of about four. Make large, white paper circles with a diameter of about a meter. Use a roll of art paper or tape two strips of paper together to make the circles large enough. You will need two circles for each 3D dot. Have each group design one of the circles. Take two of the dots and attach them. You can staple them or punch holes and sew them together with ribbon. Leave an opening at the top. Stuff them with newspaper, then close the top.



Guest Dot Sign-In — Maryann Molishus

Have an easel and chart paper with a small basket of markers, crayons, etc., near the entrance to your classroom. Make sure anyone who comes to your classroom adds his or her own special dot to your Guest Dot Sign-In Page. Save the paper. It is nice to have one from each year and to display them on Dot Day.

Goals, Interests, and Pride — Chris Prout

Have students create their own DOT picture that includes some of the things they are proud of, such as their goals, their interests, and their career goal.

Skype with Authors — Shannon Miller & John Schumacher

Invite authors into your classroom via a *Skype* conference call. In the past, authors Erica Perl, author of *Dotty and Chicken Butt*, and Eric Wight, author of the *Frankie Pickle* series, visited our classes.

SketchUp, Skype, and Wikis — Shannon Miller & John Schumacher

Create *Google SketchUp* Candy Lands and Candy Lands created from DOT boxes, then Skype with another school so the creators can present their projects. Afterwards, students can vote on their favorite Candy Land by using a Wiki.

Creative Activities from the Classroom (continued...)

Light Painting Dots — Kathryn Hone Coneway

In a darkened room, draw with flashlights. Their motions are captured on a digital camera set to a slow shutter speed. This combines performance art and drawing to create colorful, bright dots!



Group Dot — Kathryn Hone Coneway

Cover a round table with butcher paper or craft paper. Allow students to work in pairs and small groups to add to the dot. This allows students to talk about working as a group as well as explore relationships between shapes and colors, and the wonder of in-between spaces. Make it a goal to fill the dot with color and see what happens as students negotiate use of space and relationships among shapes and colors within the dot.



Creative Activities from the Classroom (continued...)

Handmade Paper Dots — Kathryn Hone Coneway

Make paper pulp with shredded colored paper that is mixed with water in a blender. Students use embroidery hoops stretched with window screen to scoop out colorful circular sheets of hand-made paper. Colors can be layered and shaped for unique effects. When dry, the paper will accept watercolor and ink pens for further decoration.

The Buddy Dot — Rayna Freedman & Mary Shea

Give each student six circles to cut out and decorate. Then, cut their dots in half. Each student gets a colored piece of construction paper of their choosing. They then glue half of each dot on their paper. Students find six buddies to trade their remaining half dots with. They then glue down their half dots, matching them up with the halves already glued down, creating a mosaic of dots on their construction paper. Then they cut out their favorite dot. Students color a square background for their cut-out dot on a piece of canvas. They choose their favorite part of the new dot. Using various art tools they create a new dot that is then placed on their square background. Put these all together and create a class masterpiece.



Here are more fun ideas! See page 2 for the names of the creative educators who contributed to this list.

Wear Dots

Wear clothing with dots on them or put dot stickers on clothing.

Pointillism

Study Georges Seurat, Pointillism, and the value of dots.

Name Tags

Have students decorate dot-shaped name tags for their lockers by making a collage of pictures that tell about themselves.

Help Younger Artists

Have older students read *The Dot* to younger students and discuss.

Creative Activities from the Classroom

(continued...)

CDs

Decorate dots the size of CDs, stick them to a CD, then mount the CD on a bulletin board with 3D putty. Place these alongside photographs of students, along with the “story” of how they were named.



9/11

Tie Dot Day in with 9/11. Read *New York's Bravest* by Mary Pope Osborne and *The Dot*, then talk about how heroes make their mark by doing good things. Challenge students to make their mark by being good citizens.

Dot Math

Give students dot stickers; they have to create something and count how many dots they use. Have them complete the sentence “_____ dots can make a _____.”

Be the Dot

Let the students be the dots. They wear hats and create artwork with their bodies as body dots. Pictures can be uploaded to create a video.

Making the Most with Technology

Create dot artwork in *MS Paint*, then upload the pictures to www.blabberize.com to give their artwork a voice. Upload to www.schooltube.com.

Video

Make a video of the book and at the end, film students saying “try,” “try it,” or “make your mark.” Share it with the whole school.

New Twister

Play your own version of Twister. Write students’ names out with bingo dobbers, have students wear something with dots, roll the dice, and move to that number square.

Trying Dots

Supply paper dots for students to color and decorate with something they’re going to “try.”

Open House

At the annual open house, have a table where students and families “Make Their Mark” and color/decorate a dot that will be added to a big dot mural. Give “DOTS” candy to any guests who participate.

Creative Activities from the Classroom

(continued...)

Door Dots

When students arrive, have the classroom door covered in dots — plain colored dots, waiting like a blank canvas.

Pinwheels

Decorate pinwheels using the dot painting technique of Australian indigenous people.

Trading Cards

Make artist trading cards to exchange with students from another school.

Clay Dots

Use clay to make dots. Twist and mix several colors until students have their perfect combination. Teachers glue pin backs onto the dots so the children can wear them home.

Edible Dots

Bring in baked goods with dots, like M&M's, chocolate chips, etc. (Please be sure to follow your school's policies regarding food allergies.)

Use Multiple Media

Make a design with masking tape on a large paper dot. Watercolor over the tape. Remove the tape to show negative space (white space) in the midst of the watercolors students had painted. Then use bingo dot markers to complete the design.

Coffee Filters

Color on coffee filters with markers, then spritz them with water. Mat them and have a dot gallery.

Story Time

Sit on large 10" circles at story time and circle time.

Scavenger Hunt

Go on a dot scavenger hunt.



Creative Activities from the Classroom (continued...)

Here are some programs, apps, media, and links you may find helpful...

Apps/Programs/Websites

Animation-ish
Animoto
Blabberize
Doodle Buddy
Drawing Pad
Glow Paint
Google Drawing
Kerpoof
KidPix
Microsoft Paint
Microsoft Word – Autoshapes
Pixie
Stationery Studio
Skype

Media

Bingo markers
Colored pencils
Crayons
Do A Dot markers
Markers
Pastels
Pom poms
Sculpey clay
Sidewalk chalk
Stampers & construction paper
Watercolors



Links

http://web.missouri.edu/~hanuscind/4280/chromatography_learningcycle.pdf
[http://chicagoacs.net/statefair/CD-2006/experiments/coffee filter chromatography.html](http://chicagoacs.net/statefair/CD-2006/experiments/coffee_filter_chromatography.html)
— Melissa Miskovsky
<http://animoto.com/play/zA3ebEQjn0VCfnghezapNw>
— The KinderKids
<http://www.mrswinsper.com/3/post/2011/09/international-dot-day.html>
— Karen Winsper
<http://twolibrariesonevoice.blogspot.com/2011/09/what-fun-week-celebrating-dot-day.html>
— Shannon Miller
<http://blogs.greenbay.k12.wi.us/RedSmithLibraryMediaCenter/2011/09/27/international-dot-day-make-your-mark-and-see-where-it-takes-you/>
— Amy Kline
<http://www.notesfrommcteach.com/2011/09/international-dot-day-2011.html>
— Karen McMillan
<http://tvstechtips.edublogs.org/2011/09/16/international-dot-day/>
— Karen Arrington
<http://www.stevespanglerscience.com/experiment/sharpiemenscience>
— Michelle Perron

Connect With Other Teachers Through Skype in the Classroom!

Skype™ in the Classroom is a platform which enables teachers from around the world to connect with each other and expert speakers to design lessons that can be delivered by Skype. Learn more at: <http://education.skype.com>

The logo for "skype in the classroom" is displayed on a blue rectangular background. The word "skype" is in its characteristic white, rounded font, followed by "in the classroom" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

It's really easy to get started — here are quick steps to get you up and running:

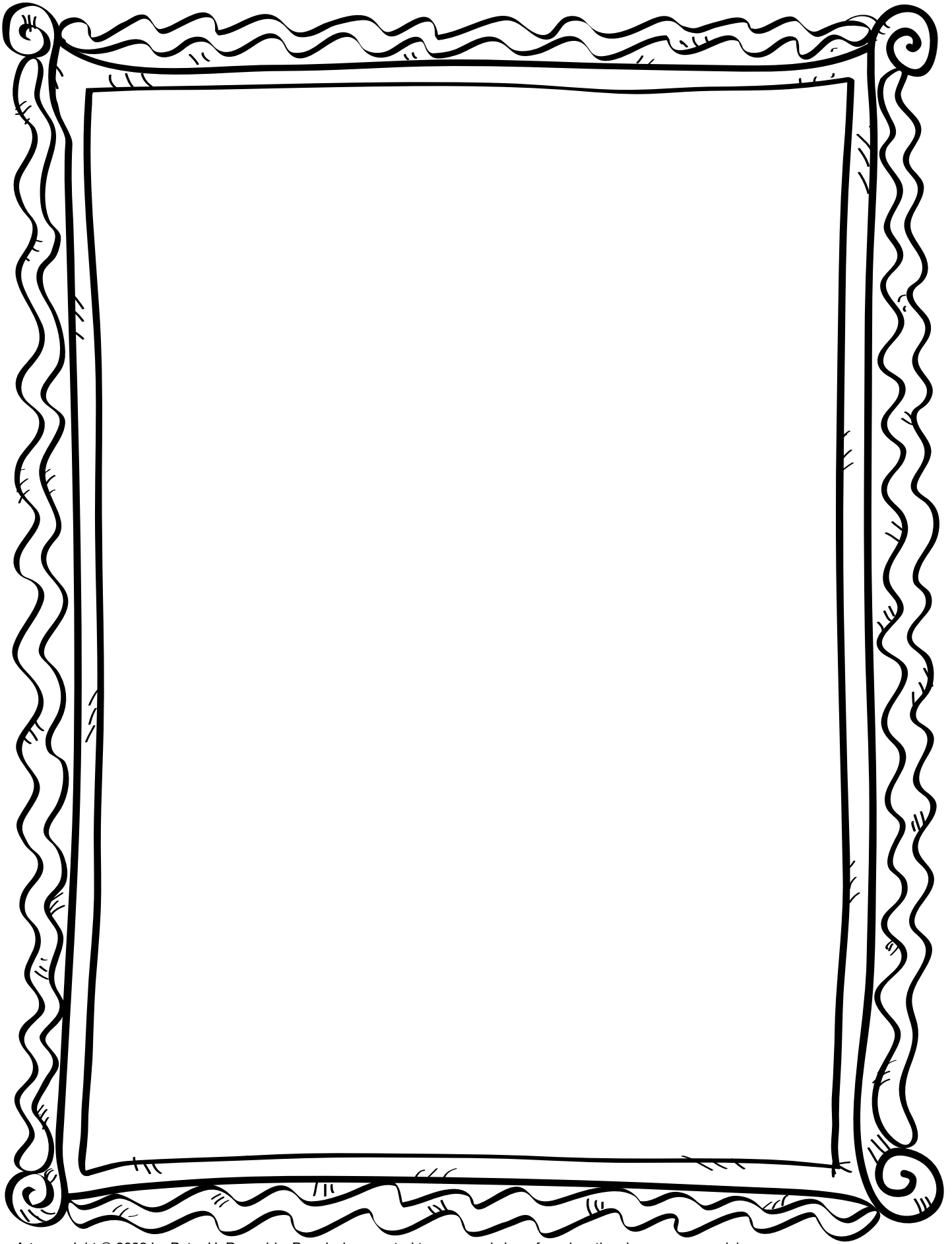
1. Sign in to the *Skype in the Classroom* site. If you already have a Skype account, you can log in with the same details. If you don't have a Skype account already you can create one there.
2. Once you're logged into the site, you can create your own individual profile which includes:
 - a screen name which is visible to other users
 - an email address (this won't be visible publicly — it's used for sending notifications to you)
 - your location
 - + you can then add profile picture, a short description of your professional interests, subject areas, and language(s) you can speak.
3. Take a look around and explore what other teachers are doing on the site. A good place to start is the "projects" page, but you can also search using keywords if you are looking for a specific topic.
4. If you find a project you are interested in, why not register to take part in it? The project organizer may get in touch to arrange a call or session.
5. If you don't see something you're interested in, why not create your own project?

Think about including:

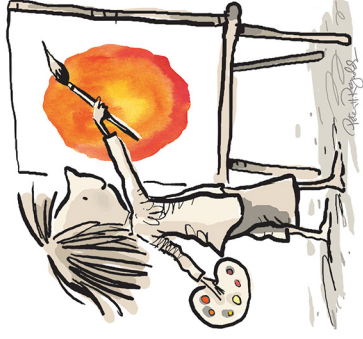
- how the project title describes the opportunity to other teachers
- the subjects your Skype call will cover
- the learning outcomes
- the opportunities for interaction and participation during the call
- whether you will provide any resources to support the session (photos, videos, activity sheets)
- how long the call will take and whether it is a one-off call or part of a series
- how long the opportunity is available for

If you are creating this project in response to the Choose2Matter initiative, consider including **"Choose2Matter"** in the title or description of the project so like-minded people can find you.

Remember, it's always nice to hear back. If someone contacts you about taking part in your project, try to write a short reply whether you are able to work together at this time or not.



Make Your Mark... And See Where It Takes You!

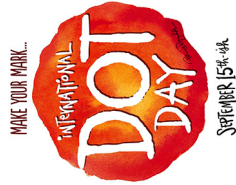


This is to certify that:

_____ made their mark on **International Dot Day!**
Thank you for bravely joining us in celebrating creativity around the world.

Date: _____ Signed: *Peter H. Reynolds*

Peter H. Reynolds, FableVision Founder & Author of *The Dot*



www.fablevisionlearning.com/dotday



Share Your Ideas With Us – and the World!

Now that you have seen what others have done, we'd love to hear from you.

Do you have plans for International Dot Day? Do you want to share a project you have in mind?

To tell us your ideas, please visit:

<http://www.thedotclub.org/dotday/register>

OR

email: info@fablevisionlearning.com



Also, be sure to connect with like-minded educators on Twitter and Facebook — simply **tweet with hashtag #DotDay**, or “like” the **International Dot Day Facebook page**:

www.facebook.com/InternationalDotDay

In closing, if you want to spread the word about *The Dot*, consider these fun posters and T-shirts (for both kids and grown-up kids). Order yours today at: <http://shop.fablevisionlearning.com>

