**A class reflection based on ‘The Dot’ by Peter H Reynolds**

****

**Teacher notes**

This is an inspiring simple story that can be used with all ages. From a Christian perspective, this story can be used to explore the theme of encouragement. All of us need encouragement from time to time and the Bible talks about the importance of this many times. It would be helpful to have the book in class so that the children can look at it but there is a good version of the story being read here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Clpw7PG7m1Q>

There are other themes that you could draw from elements of the story, for example, exploring growth mindset.

**Introduction**

**PowerPoint Slide 1** Use the link in slide one to view YouTube video of the story being told. Discuss the idea that many think they cannot draw. Is artistic flair a natural ability or can you develop it with practice?

**PowerPoint Slide 2** Discuss the questions from this slide. This explores the teacher’s reaction to the problem and also what it feels like to be failing at something.

**PowerPoint Slide 3** This slide explores the theme of encouragement and gives examples of appropriate Bible references. It is mentioned in the Bible many times for a reason – if we are to build each other up and be part of positive, happy communities then encouragement is an essential component:

***1 Thessalonians 5****:****11****, NIV: "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."*

***Romans 15:5-6****, NIV: “**May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had,****6****so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

**PowerPoint Slide 4** Using the questions on this slide to explore how encouragement makes us feel and why it is so important. You could also deepen and extend the conversation to discuss constructive criticism and how we should approach times when we know that we need to improve. How can we respond positively, even when negative criticism dents our confidence and hurts our feelings? Christians believe that God can gives us encouragement and strength, even when no-one else does.

**PowerPoint Slide 5** Use the prayer on this slide as a conclusion to the reflection time:

***Dear Lord***

***Thank you that you are a God of love and encouragement.***

***Help us to be a school community that is the same. Give us the strength to be supportive even when we do not feel like it or find it hard.***

***Help us to acknowledge when we could improve and view as a positive challenge whilst we strive to make the most of the gifts and talents with which we have been blessed.***

***Let your light shine through all of us,***

***In Jesus’ name, Amen***