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The Art Lesson

Tomie dePaola
The Art Lesson

By: Tomie dePaola

Adapted from The Art Lesson by Tomie dePaola

All images obtained from The Art Lesson by Tommie dePaola
Tommy loves to draw.

Drawing is his favorite thing to do.

Everywhere he goes he draws pictures.

When Tommy grows up he wants to be an artist.
Tommy's friends all have their favorite things to do.

Jack likes to collect turtles.

Herbie likes to build big cities in the sandbox.

Tommy's best friend, Jeannie likes to do cartwheels.
Tommy's twin cousins are in art school learning to be real artists.

Tommy's cousins tell him not to copy and to always practice.

So he practiced.
Tommy hangs his pictures on his bedroom wall.

Tommy's mom hangs his pictures all over the house.
Tommy's dad hangs his pictures up at work.

Tommy's dad works at the barber shop.
Tommy's Irish grandparents hung his pictures in their grocery store.

Tommy's Italian grandmother framed one of his pictures.
One night Tommy hid under his sheets with a flashlight and drew on his sheets.

His mom was not happy.

Mom said, "No more drawing on the sheets!"
Tommy's parents built a new house.

Tommy drew on the unfinished walls with bright blue chalk.

Then the painters came, and Dad said, "No more drawing on the walls!"
Tommy was excited for kindergarten.

Tommy's brother, Joe, told him about the art teacher.

She teaches real art lessons.

Joe said, "You only get one piece of paper."
Tommy asked Miss Bird, the kindergarten teacher when the class would have their art lesson.

Miss Bird said, "Art lessons start next year."

Then Miss Bird said, "We will paint pictures in class tomorrow."
Tommy did not like painting.

The paper got wrinkled and the paint did not stick to the paper very well.

Tommy brought his painting home from school and the wind blew the paint off the paper.
The next day Tommy saw the real art teacher at school.

She was wearing a blue smock and carrying a big box of chalk.
Tommy and Jeannie looked at the first graders' pictures that were hanging in the hallway.

Jeannie said, "Tommy next year you will be the best artist in the class!"
Over the summer, Tommy practiced drawing.

Tommy got a new box of sixty four Crayola Crayons for his birthday.

There were so many colors to choose from.
Tommy brought his sixty-four crayons to school.

Miss Landers, the first grade teacher was not happy.

Miss Landers said, "Everyone must use school crayons!"
School crayons only had eight colors.

Tommy was upset, because he could not use his crayons, and he could only have one piece of paper.

Miss Landers asked Tommy to leave his special birthday crayons at home.
The next day, Tommy snuck his special crayons into school under his sweater.

Mrs. Bowers, the art teacher taught the class how to draw Pilgrim men and women.

Mrs. Bowers said, "Watch carefully, and copy me."
"Copy? Copy?"

Tommy knew that real artists did not copy.

Tommy sat at his desk and chose not to draw.

Mrs. Bowers and Miss Landers asked Tommy why he was upset.
Tommy said, "I'm going to be an artist when I grow up, and artists do not copy."

Mrs. Bowers and Miss Landers decided that Tommy could use his own crayons and draw his own pictures after the art lesson was over.

This made Tommy happy.
Tommy grew up to be an artist.

Tommy still draws today.
A Guide to How Students at Different Levels of Communication will Participate in the Adapted Literature Lesson:

The Art Lesson
By: Tomie dePaola
Interest Level Grades- K-2
Reading Grade Level Equivalence- Grade 3/4

Page 1:
- **Written Text Level:** Students will follow along by reading the written text accompanied with Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols.
- **Picture/Photograph Level:** Students will follow along by looking at the pictures and looking at the Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols above the text. If the student is at the photograph level an actual photograph of a young boy holding a sketch pad could be shown.
- **Object Level:** Drawing is Tommy’s favorite thing to do and he loves to draw. The student at the object level can be given a cardboard cut out of a red heart or a small plastic red heart. This object is appropriate for this page, because there is a heart in the picture and there are also hearts present within the text to show Tommy’s love for drawing.

Page 2:
- **Written Text Level:** Students will follow along by reading the written text accompanied with Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols.
- **Picture/Photograph Level:** Students will follow along by looking at the pictures and looking at the Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols above the text. If the student is at the photograph level an actual photograph of a turtle, sandcastle, and a girl doing a cartwheel could be shown.
- **Object Level:** Tommy’s friends all have their favorite things to do. There are four small pictures on this page. The student at the object level can be given a small stuffed turtle or a pail and shovel to represent some of Tommy’s friends’ favorite things to do.

Page 3:
- **Written Text Level:** Students will follow along by reading the written text accompanied with Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols.
- **Picture/Photograph Level:** Students will follow along by looking at the pictures and looking at the Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols above the text. If the student is at the photograph level an actual photograph of twin teenage girls drawing could be shown.
- **Object Level:** Tommy’s twin cousins tell him not to copy and to always practice. The student at the object level can be given two identical Barbie dolls with dark hair to represent Tommy’s grown up twin cousins.

Page 4:
- **Written Text Level:** Students will follow along by reading the written text accompanied with Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols.
- **Picture/Photograph Level:** Students will follow along by looking at the pictures and looking at the Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols above the text. If the student is at the photograph level an actual photograph of a boy hanging a drawing on his bedroom wall could be shown.
**Object Level:** Tommy hangs his pictures on his bedroom wall and his mom hangs his pictures all around the house. The student at the object level can be given a roll of scotch tape to represent the tape Tommy would have used to hang his pictures on the walls.

**Page 5:**
- **Written Text Level:** Students will follow along by reading the written text accompanied with Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols.
- **Picture/Photograph Level:** Students will follow along by looking at the pictures and looking at the Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols above the text. If the student is at the photograph level an actual photo of someone at the barber shop can be shown.
- **Object Level:** Tommy’s dad hangs his pictures up at work. His father works at the barber shop. The student at the object level could be given a pair of child safe scissors to represent the barber shop.

**Page 6:**
- **Written Text Level:** Students will follow along by reading the written text accompanied with Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols.
- **Picture/Photograph Level:** Students will follow along by looking at the pictures and looking at the Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols above the text. If the student is at the photograph level an actual photo of a grocery store and a framed picture could be shown.
- **Object Level:** Tommy’s grandparents hang up his pictures at the grocery store and his grandmother frames one of his photos. The child at the object level could be given an apple and banana to represent the Irish grandparents hanging the pictures at their grocery store. The child could also be given a small framed drawing to represent the framed picture that Tommy’s grandmother had in her living room.

**Page 7:**
- **Written Text Level:** Students will follow along by reading the written text accompanied with Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols.
- **Picture/Photograph Level:** Students will follow along by looking at the pictures and looking at the Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols. If the student is at the photograph level an actual photo of a boy hiding under his bed sheets with a flashlight.
- **Object Level:** Tommy hides under his covers with a flashlight and draws on his sheets. The child at the object level could be given a flashlight or a small piece of the bed sheet to represent Tommy drawing under his covers.

**Page 8:**
- **Written Text Level:** Students will follow along by reading the written text accompanied with Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols.
- **Picture/Photograph Level:** Students will follow along by looking at the pictures and looking at the Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols above the text. If the student is at the photograph level an actual photo of the inside of an unfinished home could be shown. The student could also be shown a picture of a boy drawing on the wall using blue chalk.
- **Object Level:** Tommy draws on the unfinished walls of his new house using bright blue chalk. The child at the object level could be given a piece of bright blue chalk to represent Tommy drawing on the walls of his new house.

**Page 9:**
- **Written Text Level:** Students will follow along by reading the written text accompanied with Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols.
• **Picture/Photograph Level:** Students will follow along by looking at the pictures and looking at the Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols above the text. If the student is at the photograph level an actual photo of one piece of paper can be shown.

• **Object Level:** Tommy is told by his brother that there is a real art teacher at school, but she only lets you have one piece of paper. The child at the object level could be given a piece of paper to represent the one piece of paper that art teacher gives you.

**Page 10:**

• **Written Text Level:** Students will follow along by reading the written text accompanied with Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols.

• **Picture/Photograph Level:** Students will follow along by looking at the pictures and looking at the Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols above the text. If the student is at the photograph level a photograph of a female teacher can be shown to represent Miss Bird.

• **Object Level:** Tommy asks Miss Bird when the kindergarten class will start their art lessons. The child at the object level could be given a paintbrush to represent asking about the art lesson and the fact that Miss Bird said they would be painting tomorrow.

**Page 11:**

• **Written Text Level:** Students will follow along by reading the written text accompanied with Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols.

• **Picture/Photograph Level:** Students will follow along by looking at the pictures and looking at the Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols above the text. If the student is at the photograph level a photograph of a boy holding a spotted/painted wrinkled piece of paper could be shown.

• **Object Level:** Tommy takes his painting home from school and the wind blows the paint off the wrinkled paper. The student at the object level can be given a large piece of spotted/painted wrinkled paper to represent the wrinkled paper with the paint coming off.

**Page 12:**

• **Written Text Level:** Students will follow along by reading the written text accompanied with Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols.

• **Picture/Photograph Level:** Students will follow along by looking at the pictures and looking at the Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols above the text. If the student is at the photograph level a picture of a female teacher wearing a blue smock and carrying a bucket of chalk can be shown.

• **Object Level:** Tommy sees the real art teacher in the hallway. The art teacher is wearing a blue smock and carrying a big box of chalk. The student at the object level can be given a piece of the blue smock to hold or a small box of chalk to represent the art teacher.

**Page 13:**

• **Written Text Level:** Students will follow along by reading the written text accompanied with Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols.

• **Picture/Photograph Level:** Students will follow along by looking at the pictures and looking at the Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols. If the student is at the photograph level a photo of student artwork hanging in a school hallway could be shown.

• **Object Level:** Jeannie and Tommy see the first grader's art work hanging in the hallway. The child at the object level can be given piece of student artwork to hold. The piece of artwork would have an orange pumpkin on it to represent the artwork Tommy and Jeannie saw in the hallway.
Page 14:
- **Written Text Level**: Students will follow along by reading the written text accompanied with Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols.
- **Picture/Photograph Level**: Students will follow along by looking at the pictures and looking at the Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols above the text. If the student is at the photograph level a photo of boy holding a box of 64 Crayola Crayons could be shown.
- **Object Level**: Tommy receives a box of 64 Crayola Crayons for his birthday. The student at the object level could be given a box of 64 Crayola Crayons to hold to represent the ones Tommy received from his mother on his birthday.

Page 15:
- **Written Text Level**: Students will follow along by reading the written text accompanied with Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols.
- **Picture/Photograph Level**: Students will follow along by looking at the pictures and looking at the Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols above the text. If the student is at the photograph level a picture of an older female teacher wearing glasses and looking angry could be shown.
- **Object Level**: Miss Landers tells Tommy that everyone must use school crayons. Miss Landers was not happy that Tommy brought his box of 64 Crayola Crayons to school. The student at the object level could be given a pair of glasses to represent Miss Landers.

Page 16:
- **Written Text Level**: Students will follow along by reading the written text accompanied with Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols.
- **Picture/Photograph Level**: Students will follow along by looking at the pictures and looking at the Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols above the text. If the student is at the photograph level a photo of a sad boy with an 8 pack of crayons and one piece of paper could be shown.
- **Object Level**: Miss Landers says that the students can only use school crayons and Tommy becomes upset, because school crayons only have eight colors. The student at the object level could be given a box of 8 crayons to represent the school crayons Tommy was told he had to use.

Page 17:
- **Written Text Level**: Students will follow along by reading the written text accompanied with Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols.
- **Picture/Photograph Level**: Students will follow along by looking at the pictures and looking at the Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols above the text. If the student is at the photograph level a photo of a boy with crayons stuffed under his sweater could be shown. The child can also be shown a photo of the art teacher wearing the blue smock drawing on the chalkboard.
- **Object Level**: Tommy sneaks his crayons into school under his sweater. The art teacher teaches the class how to draw Pilgrim men and women and she tells the class to copy her. The child at the object level could be given a piece of chalk and a piece of the blue smock to represent the art teacher who was drawing.

Page 18:
- **Written Text Level**: Students will follow along by reading the written text accompanied with Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols.
- **Picture/Photograph Level**: Students will follow along by looking at the pictures and looking at the Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols above the text. If the student is at the photograph level a photo of a boy talking to two of his teachers could be shown. The student could also be
shown a photograph of two pieces of identical artwork to represent the art teacher asking the students to copy.

- **Object Level:** Tommy becomes upset, because the art teacher tells the class to copy her drawings. Miss Landers and Mrs. Bowers ask Tommy what is wrong. The student at the object level could be given two identical drawings to represent the fact that the art teacher asked the students to copy her. The student could also be presented with the blue smock again to represent the art teacher.

**Page 19:**

- **Written Text Level:** Students will follow along by reading the written text accompanied with Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols.

- **Picture/Photograph Level:** Students will follow along by looking at the pictures and looking at the Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols above the text. If the student is at the photograph level a picture of two female teachers talking could be shown to represent Miss Landers and Mrs. Bowers deciding that Tommy could draw his own pictures one the art lesson is over. This made Tommy happy, so a picture of a boy smiling could also be shown.

- **Object Level:** Miss Landers and Mrs. Bowers decided that Tommy could draw more pictures after the art lesson was over using his own crayons. The child at the object level could be presented with the box of 64 Crayola Crayons and more than one piece of paper to represent that Tommy would be able to use his own crayons and draw more pictures after the art lesson is finished.

**Page 20:**

- **Written Text Level:** Students will follow along by reading the written text accompanied with Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols.

- **Picture/Photograph Level:** Students will follow along by looking at the pictures and looking at the Mayer Johnson Picture Symbols above the text. If the student is at the photograph level a photograph of an older man drawing at a desk/drawing board could be shown.

- **Object Level:** Tommy grows up to be an artist and he stills draws to today. The child at the object level could be given a pencil and a sketch pad full of pictures to represent that Tommy has drawn many pictures over the years.