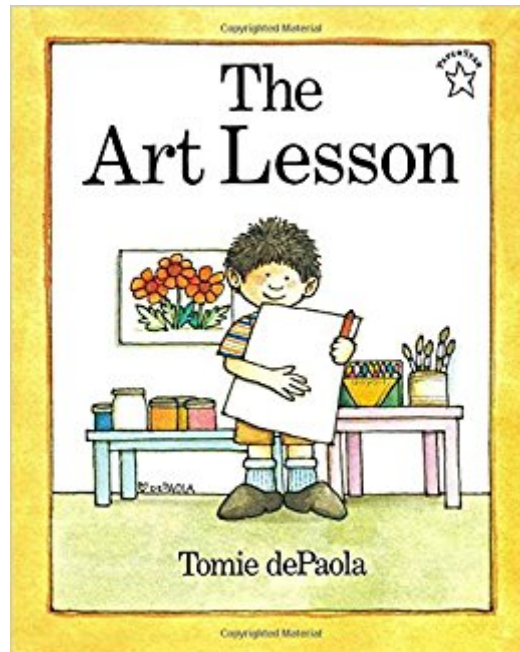




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# The Art Lesson (Paperstar Book)



## Synopsis

Tommy knows he wants to be an artist when he grows up. He can't wait to get to school and have real art lessons. When Tommy gets to school and finds out that the art lessons are full of "rules", he is surprised and dismayed. How the wise art teacher finds a way to give Tommy the freedom to create and stay within the "rules" makes a wonderfully perceptive picture book about growing up and keeping one's individuality. Tomie dePaola is the author and illustrator of many beloved books for children, including the Caldecott Honor Book *Strega Nona*. Fans of all ages will be pleased to hear that *The Art Lesson* is, in fact, based on the artist's own experiences growing up, and offers a welcome glimpse into his past. This bright picture book is as covered with drawings as the walls of Tommy's parents' and grandparents' houses, and sends an inspirational message to budding artists and individualists. Break out the crayons!

## Book Information

Series: Paperstar Book

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (December 21, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0698115724

ISBN-13: 978-0698115729

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 0.1 x 10.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 62 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #13,810 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art #188 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings #229 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School

Age Range: 2 - 5 years

Grade Level: Preschool - Kindergarten

## Customer Reviews

This is a charming exercise in autobiography (one of several) by the great author-illustrator Tomie dePaola. "Tommy" is consumed with a passion for drawing. Although encouraged by his family, who treat his pictures with respect and decorate their houses and workplaces with them, he encounters misunderstanding and frustration at school. Finally, an art teacher gives him a chance to do his own

thing. The Art Lesson is filled with many full-page illustrations in dePaola's inimitably warm, soothing style. It's also packed with the right lessons on individuality and perseverance, especially for children who are already showing a single-minded interest or special talents that put them ahead of their peers. (Ages 4 to 8) --Richard Farr --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A boy named Tommy loves to draw with his Binney & Smith Crayola crayons, and these pictures hang on his side of the room, in his mother's kitchen, at the barber shop where his father works, in the store of his Irish grandparents and in the home of his Italian grandmother Nana. Tommy? Nana? This work of picture-book fiction is really a gem of an autobiography, and readers familiar with dePaola's work will find wonderful, well-placed clues to his lifetime of artistry among these pages. Tommy starts school, and can't wait for the day when the art teacher comes. But there are a couple of hitches: the paints at school are cracked and powdery (and blow "right off the paper"), and the art teacher only lets the children have one piece of paper, on which to "copy" her drawings. Tommy, who has been told by his aunts (twins, who are artists) that real artists never copy, has a crisis. But his teachers (including Tommy's regular classroom teacher) show themselves to be far more understanding than readers could have predicted, and all ends well. Inventive and revealing, dePaola provides a lyrical blend of text and art. This is an inspired and childlike offering, perhaps one of dePaola's best. Ages 5-8. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I ordered a copy of Tomie dePaola's The Art Lesson after my seven-year-old daughter raved about him after her teacher read one of his books in class. When the book arrived and I surprised my daughter with it, she hugged me with the strength of Thor because I had given her a book from her favorite author. We sat down and read The Art Lesson together several times, but what was so exciting was that my daughter pointed out how the story reflected the childhood of the author. Upon closer examination, I recognized that this was a golden opportunity to use this book to teach author's craft and purpose. I decided to use this book to introduce this skill to a middle school ESL class. Initially, I was afraid that they would be insulted that I was using a children's book with them. However, I was pleasantly surprised: many of them had read it in Spanish in their home country, so they possessed background knowledge. Since they had prior knowledge, I was able to expand upon it by introducing how the author crafted the book using specific writing strategies and that his purpose was to reflect his childhood awakening to a life as a writer and artist. I would definitely

recommend this book as a high interest, literacy-enriched text for children; it also is an extraordinary resource for teaching challenging skills such as author's craft and purpose.

Great.

Perfect for what I need.

I love this book! It sends a valuable message to young people to not give up. Yes sometimes there are adults that stand in the way of the creativity of a child, as the teacher did in this book, but he didn't let that discourage his dreams and desire to be a creative artist! Sends a good message to youngsters.

Great book for the little artist in your family. Helps the little ones understand being different is ok.

Lovely biographical story about Tomie dePaola's love of art from the very beginning.

Excellent

I absolutely loved this book as a child and recently purchased it for my son. It came quickly and in pristine condition, very satisfied!

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