Even though something we create may not turn out the way we originally thought (or hoped) it would, it can still be something we are proud of, if we persist and don’t worry about making mistakes.

PROGRAM SUMMARY:
Regina is so afraid of making a mistake on her art project that she won’t even pick up a crayon to get started. Regina’s Big Mistake, written by Marissa Moss, explores some of the ways that artists express themselves through their work, and takes a look at the creative process. Segments highlight a variety of art forms and the hidden artist in everyone.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:
Have students relate personal experiences of times when something didn’t go as planned, but turned out all right in the end.
Discuss what it means to be an “artist. Include in the discussion, different types of artists and the different types of materials that artists use in creating their art.

CURRICULUM EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:
Using a book that the students have not yet heard, read aloud to them a paragraph that is rich in description, and have them draw the picture they “see” from hearing the words.
Invite an artist into the classroom to talk about her/his work and give a demonstration.
Read a poem aloud to the students and have them paint what it describes or how it makes them feel.
Provide an opportunity for students to discuss different styles of art. Visit an art gallery, if possible, or use art prints and picture books. Invite students to discuss what they see, what they like, what the work of art reminds them of etc.

There have been many times in history when “mistakes” have turned into very useful inventions. Have students research some of these valuable mistakes. Two books by Charlotte Foltz Jones will give them many ideas: Mistakes That Worked (Doubleday) and Accidents May Happen (Doubleday). In order for students to share their findings, have them demonstrate or dramatize how the “mistake” occurred.

RELATED THEMES:
• art appreciation
• self-confidence
• individuality creativity

About The Author:
Marissa Moss entertained her brothers and sisters when they were young with the stories and pictures she created. She has a degree in art history and once taught art to elementary school children. She now writes and illustrates full time from her home in Berkeley, California, which she shares with her husband and son.
BOOKS REVIEWED BY CHILDREN:
THE ART LESSON by Tomie dePaola (Putnam)
I AM AN ARTIST by Pat Lowery Collins, illus. by Robin Brickman (Millbrook Press)
THE LITTLE PAINTER OF SABANA GRANDE by Patricia Maloney Markun, illus. by Robert Casilla (Simon & Schuster)

SUPPLEMENTARY BOOKLIST:
THE PAINTER by Peter Catalanotto (Orchard)
NO GOOD IN ART by Miriam Cohen, illus. by Lillian Hoban (Greenwillow)
MATTHEW’S DREAM by Leo Lionni (Knopf)
THE YOUNG ARTIST by Thomas Locker (Dial)
PICTURE by Elizabeth MacDonald, illus. by Dave McTaggart (Viking)
THE FANTASTIC DRAWINGS OF DANIELLE by Barbara McClintock (Houghton Mifflin)
THE MAGICAL DRAWINGS OF MOONEY B. FINCH by David McPhail (Doubleday)
ALL I SEE by Cynthia Rylant, illus. by Peter Catalanotto (Orchard)
EMMA'S RUG by Allen Say (Houghton Mifflin)
BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING by Amy Schwartz (HarperCollins)

REGINA’S BIG MISTAKE Discussion Guide

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