



The Art Lesson



Tomie dePaola



Tommy knew he wanted to be an artist when he grew up. He drew pictures everywhere he went. It was his favorite thing to do.



His friends had favorite things to do, too. Jack collected all kinds of turtles. Herbie made huge cities in his sandbox. Jeannie, Tommy's best friend, could do cartwheels and stand on her head.





But Tommy drew and drew and drew.





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Tommy wants to be an artist when he grows up, and can't wait to meet his art teacher when he gets to first grade. Then he finds out that she expects him to copy her pictures. Tommy knows real artists don't copy! But after some discussion, they find a solution that allows the artist in Tommy to shine.

"This work of picture-book fiction is really a gem of an autobiography....Inventive and revealing, dePaola provides a lyrical blend of text and art. This is an inspired and child-like offering, perhaps one of dePaola's best."
—*Publishers Weekly*

★ "DePaola's well-honed color-drenched artwork...is warmly appealing; a deceptively simple approach underscored by pure craft."
—*Booklist* (starred review)

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