Meet the Author and Illustrator

Peter H. Reynolds

It took Peter H. Reynolds a year and a half to write The Dot. He named his character Vashti after a young girl he met at a coffee shop. Mr. Reynolds wrote Ish as a follow-up book to The Dot.
Art class was over, but Yashvi sat glued to her chair. Her paper was empty.

Yashvi’s teacher leaned over the blank paper. “Ah! A polar bear in a snow storm,” she said. “Very funny!” said Yashvi. “I just CAN’T draw!”

Her teacher smiled. “Just make a mark and see where it takes you.”

Yashvi grabbed a marker and gave the paper a good, strong job. “There!”
Her teacher picked up the paper and studied it carefully.

"Hmmm,"
She pushed the paper toward Vashii and quietly said.

"Now sign it."

Vashii thought for a moment.

"Well, maybe I can't draw, but I CAN sign my name."

The next week, when Vashii walked into art class, she was surprised to see what was hanging above her teacher's desk.

It was the little dot she had drawn—HER DOT! All framed in swirly gold!
Yashi painted and painted.
A red dot. A purple dot.
A yellow dot. A blue dot.

The blue mixed with the yellow. She discovered that she could make a GREEN dot.
Yashi kept experimenting. Lots of little dots in many colors.

"If I can make little dots, I can make BIG dots, too."
Yashi splashed her colors with a bigger brush on bigger paper to make bigger dots.

Yashi even made a dot by NOT painting a dot.
At the school art show a few weeks later, Vashi’s many dots made quite a splash.

ANALYZE THE TEXT

Compare and Contrast. Does Vashi have a different feeling about her dot now? Explain.
Vashii noticed a little boy gazing up at her:

"You're a really great artist. I wish I could draw," he said.

"I bet you can," said Vashii.

"NO! No, not me. I can't draw a straight line with a ruler."

Vashii smiled.

She handed the boy a blank sheet of paper.

"Show me."

The boy's pencil shook as he drew his line.

Vashii stared at the boy's squiggle. And then she said . . .

"Sign it."