

Todd Parr Art - Criteria

Hello, inspirational artists!

Your task, should you choose to accept it (JK: you don't have a choice!) (well, actually, I guess you do...) is to produce at least one but perhaps two pieces of art, in the style of artist Todd Parr, to be a part of a whole-class exhibit.

We've done the first steps already: daily practice of his style in various contexts and coming up with your "It's okay to..." statements.

Next steps:

- Finalize with me which two statements you will be working with.
- Remind yourself of the criteria for this project (listed at the end of this document).
- Reread the rubric.
- Spend time in the Land of Maybe:** in your comp book try out different ideas for how you can represent your image. Use the rubric and the criteria to help shape your approach. Think, "Okay, that's one way of doing it. What's another possibility?" These could be small changes or total redo's.
- Decide whether you want your paper to be oriented as Landscape (longer than it is tall) or Portrait (taller than it is long). What orientation best suits the setting and composition of your piece?
- Look over your sketches and decide which ones you will use and how they fit together. On a blank piece of paper, create a draft of your picture. Remember to leave the appropriate amount of space on the top of the page for your text. On this draft, test out color options for the various aspects of your drawing.
- Reread the rubric and the criteria: do you need to adjust anything in your draft in order to meet the criteria on the rubric at the level you are aspiring to?

- **Practice:** what parts of this image might be tricky to do? Practice those elements to help build your confidence and your level of precision.

- Create a Word document with your "It's okay to..." statement.
Because we are creating a whole class exhibit, we want all of the text on our pages to look the same. To this end, please follow these guidelines for your text (see next page):
 - oriented according to your plan (landscape or portrait)
 - center justified
 - in Comic Sans MS font
 - in 20-point font
 - if your text takes up more than one line, decide on a textually and aesthetically pleasing place to break the line in two

- Print out your text on blank white paper and submit it in the In-Box. On the back, please write your name and let me know if you want your page printed on Yellow, Green, Blue, Pink, or Orange paper. Please choose two different colors for your two pictures.

- Show me your draft. When we have agreed that you are ready, I will give you your colored paper with your text printed on it.

- Create your final version.

Some things to keep in mind:

- Draft your work **lightly** with pencil first.

- Create in this order: characters, speaking and thinking bubbles, setting.

- Take a Final Artistic Moment after completing this drafting stage.

- Make adjustments, then pencil your lines in smoothly, with confidence (make sure you are calm and focused, and that you are breathing).

- Fineline, using the notes you made with our House of Fire experiment (again, take time to calm yourself and focus your mind before and while doing this).
 - Color, using pencil crayon - remember to color in one direction. What kinds of textures can you produce?
 - Take your final Final Artist Moment.
- Hand your work in, with your signature on the back (in case you get famous).
 - Repeat for second picture (if time allows).
 - Do something nice for yourself.

Criteria

This is the criteria you all came up with for drawing in Todd Parr-style:

- Bright colors
- Head is made from a circle
- Two dots for eyes; no eyebrows
- No nose
- Tiny neck in relation to size of head
- Only a few teeth (if mouth is open)
- Three fingers
- Body made of basic shapes
- Female hair usually big or exaggerated
- Male hair usually made of only a few strands
- Clothes are usually solid block of color; sometimes shirts are striped, or with stars or polka dots
- Skin color not necessarily realistic
- One full color for background

- Shoes are distinct shapes (sock-like for men and children; chunk heel for women) and often different colors
- Animals have all four legs on one side
- Always facing front
- No shading
- Arms are often stretched out, away from the body
- The rules of physics do not apply
- All emotion is shown through the shape of the mouth
- No elbows; no knees
- No attempt at perspective
- Animals have been slightly personified
- Two-D
- Sizing is not necessarily realistic
- Only the necessary people and objects are depicted
- Setting is usually very simple
- Finelining is a little thicker than usual
- No sharp edges

And here are some additional criteria to consider as you piece your work together:

- The characters are the stars of the show - this means they take up most of the room on the page
- Clear communication, through facial expression and body language, of how the character/characters is/are feeling
- The page is balanced
- The setting is clear
- Inclusion of thinking and speaking bubbles
- The work celebrates its characters rather than judging them
- It can be funny, but work to avoid being silly
- Coloring is done with care, with pencil crayons