

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: practicing his style in various contexts and coming up with your "It's okay to..." statements.

Next steps:

- ☐ 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?
- ☐ Create a final draft. On this draft, test out color options for the various aspects of your drawing. You will use pencil crayons for this.
- ☐ 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.

- ☐ Submit your preference survey to me: 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); and let me know if you want the page oriented Portrait or Landscape.
- ☐ 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:

- Fills the frame (not all bunched up along the bottom or on one side)
- Bright, contrasting, solid colors
- Few details—details are for defining traits
- Exaggerated sizes and colors
- Limited setting, suggested by key objects
- Body made of basic shapes
 - Head is made from a circle
 - Two dots for eyes; no eyebrows
 - No nose
 - Tiny neck in relation to size of head
 - Ears are semi-circle
 - Only a few teeth (if mouth is open)
 - Torso is an imperfect rectangle
 - Three fingers
- Female hair usually big or exaggerated
- Male hair usually made of only a few strands
- Arms are often stretched out, away from the body
- Clothes are usually solid blocks of color; sometimes shirts are striped, or with stars or polka dots (simple patterns)
- Skin color not necessarily realistic
- Shoes are distinct shapes (sock-like for men and children; chunk heel for women) and often different colors
- Always facing front
- Animals have all four legs on one side
- No shading or shadows or textures
- 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
- Two-D

- Sizing is not necessarily realistic
- Only the necessary people and objects are depicted
- Fine-lining 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
- **You must include at least one speaking bubble and one thinking bubble**
- 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