

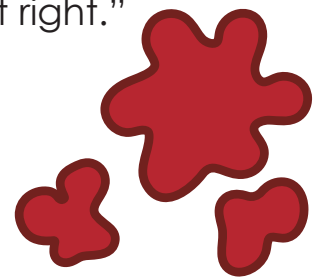
# Read for Pleasure

ish

By Peter Reynolds



Ramon loves to draw, especially when he learns that he doesn't have to worry about getting it "just right."



## Pre -Read

Before embarking on this book, ask your class who considers themselves to be an artist. Place the number of hands raised on a post-it note and keep safe until later. Tell them that today we are going to read about one such artist.

.....

You will find that the younger the group sat before you are, the more hands will be raised. As children get older, fewer hands tend to be raised.

The question as to why this is, will be considered when considering the book as a whole.

## Cover Chat

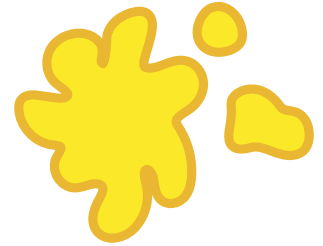
*Let's first look at the cover of this picture book.*

- We see the book's main character – Ramon. What is he holding?
- What is he doing? Why might he be doing this?
- Follow the painted line. Where did it begin?
- Are the flowers (and the vase in which they are displayed in) drawn perfectly? Why not?
- Does this detract from the beauty of this illustration? Discuss.
- What is the main colour of this book's cover? Might this be significant?

## **Title Talk**

Now let's consider the book's title: *ish*.

- This book's title is interesting for two reasons:
  - \* Firstly, it does not begin with a capital letter. Why might this be?
  - \* Secondly, the dot over the i is a flower. Why might this be?
- *ish* can be both a suffix and a word in its own right. Look this up using an online dictionary. What might this suggest about how this story will... A] begin, B] develop and C] end?



## **Page 1-4**

- Where, when and what did Ramon love to draw?
- How is this depicted by the illustrator?
- Why do you think Peter Reynolds chose to illustrate each of these in the way that he has? Discuss.

## **Page 5-6**

- What is Ramon drawing when his older brother Leon looks over his shoulder?
- Might we have seen this vase of flowers before? If so, where?
- Copy out what Leon says to his Ramon. How kind were his words?
- Which of his words are written in capitals? Why might this be?
- Say the question 'WHAT is THAT?' out loud. How did you read it? Why?
- How would Ramon have felt after hearing these words?
- Would you have felt the same way? Discuss.

## **Page 7-8**

- How does Ramon react upon hearing Leon's hurtful and unkind words? Act it out.
- Look at and discuss the illustration on page 8. Interestingly, we cannot see Ramon's face while he is struggling to draw. Might this be significant?
- Why do you think the author uses the word HAUNTED on this page? What is it exactly that is haunting Ramon?

- What has Leon's laughter stolen from Ramon? Discuss.
- How does this make us feel towards A] Leon and B] Ramon? Why?

### **Page 9-10**

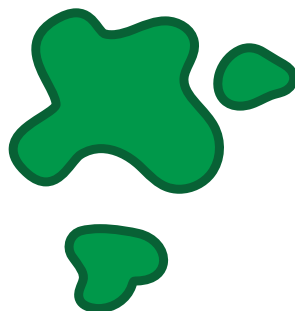
- Why do you think Ramon puts down his pencil and says "I'm done"? Discuss.
- Interestingly, the illustration to this part of the story depicts Ramon without a mouth. Might this be significant?

### **Page 11-12**

- Who do you see on page 11? Have we seen Ramon's little sister, Marisol, before? If so, where and when did we see her? Might this be important?
- What does Ramon say to Marisol? How do you think he says this? Act it out. Might this be why YOU is written in capital letters?
- What does this tell us about how Ramon is feeling at this moment? Discuss.
- Which other word on page 12 is written in capitals? Why might this be? Again, act this part of the story out.
- What does Ramon tell Marisol to do?
- Marisol does just that but does something else first. What does she do?
- If Ramon had scrunched up his drawing and thrown it away, why do you think he chases after Marisol? Discuss.

### **Page 13-14**

- What does Ramon see when he enters Marisol's bedroom?
- Why do you think he falls silent and does not yell at his sister? Discuss.
- Why do you think the author describes what Ramon sees as a CRUMPLED GALLERY?
- How is this gallery depicted? What does this tell us about Marisol? Discuss.



### **Page 15-16**

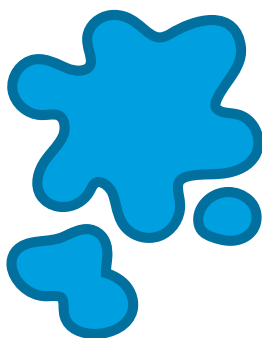
- Which of Ramon's drawings is Marisol's favourite? Draw your answer.
- Have you seen this drawing before? If so, where? Look back at page 6. Might this be significant?
- Which word (or suffix) is written in capital letters? Why is this important?  
Remember your definition of ISH and the fact that this is also the book's title.
- What do you think Marisol means when she says Ramon's drawing looked VASE-ISH? Discuss.

### **Page 17-18**

- Why do you think Ramon begins to look at all his crumpled drawings on Marisol's bedroom wall?
- How does he begin to view his artwork? Discuss.  
Remember: all these drawings he had crumpled up and thrown away in much the same way as you would a piece of rubbish.
- Look at the illustration on page 18. Why do you think Ramon puts his hand on Marisol's shoulder?
- How important is it that Marisol is in this illustration and BOTH Ramon and his sister are seen looking at this crumpled gallery? Discuss.

### **Page 19-23**

- How does Ramon feel now that he knows his drawings don't have to be perfect for them to be appreciated and liked?
- Discuss how this liberates Ramon's creativity and reignites his passion for drawing. You may also wish to consider how this new-found passion helps banish Leon's haunting laughter.
- Make a list of things Ramon enjoyed drawing when filling up his notebook. Which of these do you like best? Draw and colour your answer.
- Are any of these pictures perfect? Why is it important that we recognise this? Discuss.



### **Page 24**

- How did Ramon's new-found love of art inspire his writing?
- How did it help him become a better writer?
- Why is this important when we are trying to be creative? Discuss.

### **Page 25-26**

- Which feeling do you think Ramon decides to SAVOUR rather than try to capture in a drawing or with words?
- Why is it important that we too, savour moments like these?
- How is this depicted on page 26?

### **Page 27-28**

- We are told that Ramon lived ISHFULLY ever after. What do you think this made up word means?
- Why is it important that we recognise that life is never perfect but that we can still enjoy it if we accept its ISHNESS and embrace the freedom this brings?

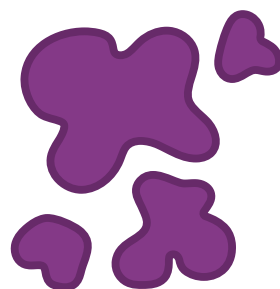
### **Think about the book as a whole**

What do you think the main message of this book is?

Refer back to the post-it note and the number of learners who raised their hand when asked if they viewed themselves as being an artist.

After discussing the book's main message, ask your class who NOW considers themselves to be an artist. Compare this number with that found during the pre-reading task.

Has the number of learners who consider themselves an artist increased, decreased or stayed the same? Why might this be? Discuss.

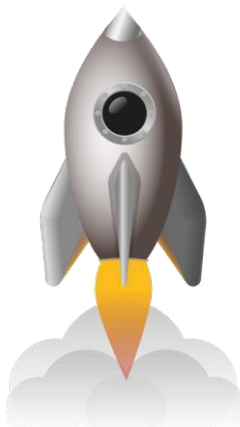
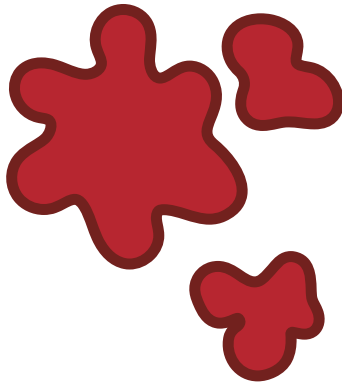


## Dedication

On the final page of this book, the author and illustrator, Peter Reynolds, writes the following message.

*"Dedicated to Doug Kornfield, my art teacher, who dared me to draw for myself and find my voice."*

Why do you think he does this and what might it tell us about Peter Reynolds and his art teacher, Doug Kornfield?



The perfect companion to  
Reading Rocketeers: **Unit 3.11**

## **John Murray**

[www.johnmurraycpd.co.uk](http://www.johnmurraycpd.co.uk)



John is a recognised specialist in developing children's reading and comprehension.

The creator of Reading Explorers, Top Class Comprehension and Reading Rocketeers, his seminars and CPD training focus on the teaching, learning and enjoyment of reading.

An independent Literacy consultant, he aims to support schools to improve their performance and secure best practice. Above all, it is to ignite within us a passion for books and a genuine love for the written word.

His enthusiasm and expertise can be seen throughout his work and his resources and training are used in classrooms worldwide.

“The world was hers for the reading.”

Betty Smith