

# Max and the Dumb Flower Picture

by Martha Alexander

Max is determined to express his creativity. A valuable lesson on the pressures that children feel to conform.



## Read

### Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *How many of you like to draw pictures?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder why Max has on a mad face?

### During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Rare Words in *Max and the Dumb Flower Picture*

- **sulked:** to show resentment and refuse to talk to others
- **worried:** to feel anxious about something unpleasant that has happened
- **exclaimed:** to cry out with surprise and excitement

### After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why doesn't Max want to color the flower picture?
- Why does Miss Tilley want him to color the flower picture?
- Do you think Max knows what he's talking about when he says his mother would rather have his very own drawing?
- What else could Max have done to let Miss Tilley know that he wanted to draw his very own flower picture?
- Would you have run away if you were Max?
- How did the mothers feel when they saw the flower pictures?

## Do

### Draw a Flower Picture

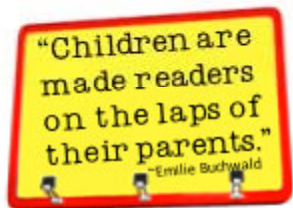
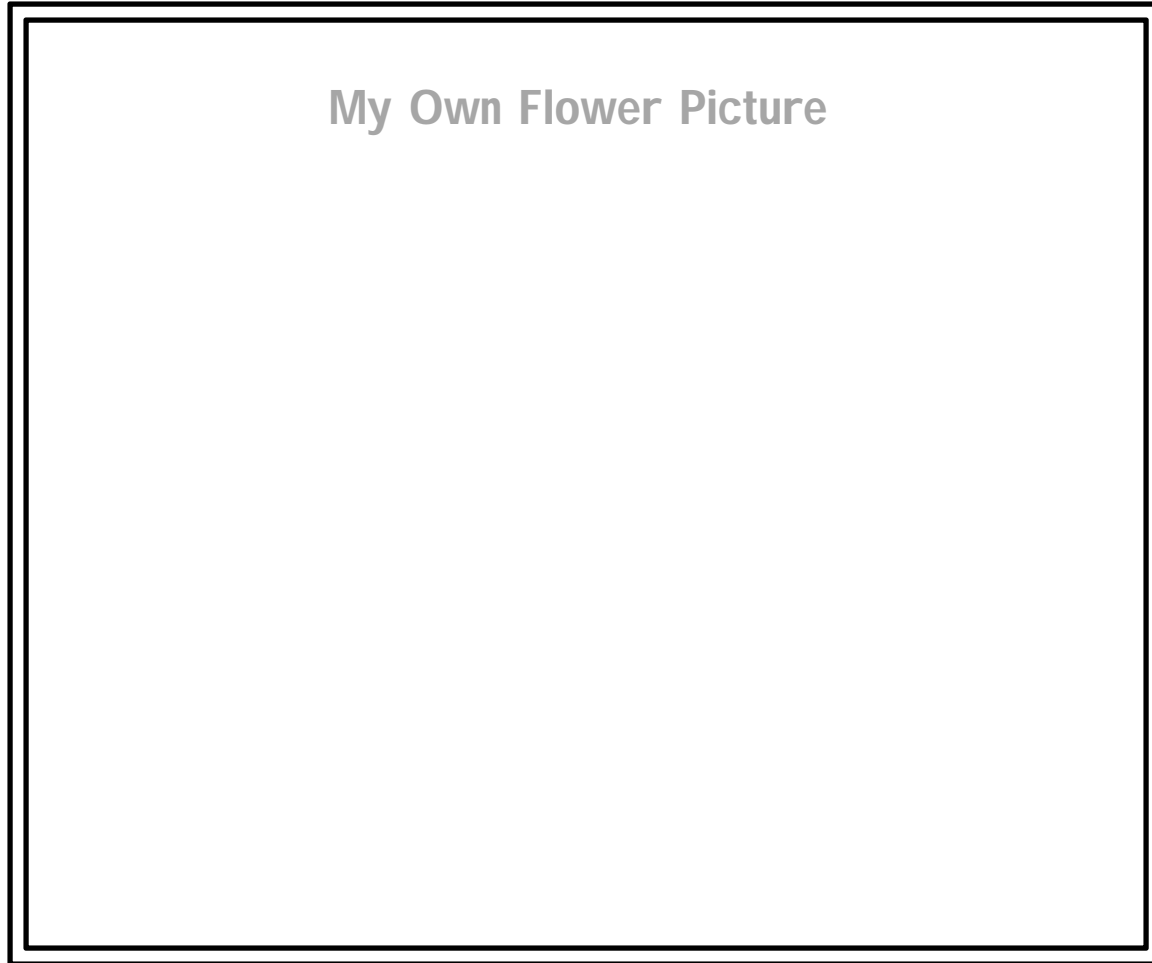
Copy the attached My Own Flower Picture printable so each child has their own sheet. Draw your own special flower picture!

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My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## My Own Flower Picture



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