



ISH

PETER H. REYNOLDS

SUMMARY

Ramon loves to draw. He draws all day, every day. One day, his brother looks at his drawing and laughs when he can't tell what it's supposed to be. Suddenly, Ramon is very self-conscious of his drawing and crumples up all of his drawings that aren't perfect. Soon he decides to give up drawing all together, no matter how much he loves it. Can his little sister Marisol convince him not to give up?



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Questions:

1. Is there anything you really love to do that your friends or family don't love as much? How would it feel if someone made fun of you about your favorite hobby?
2. How do you think Ramon felt when Leon made fun of his picture? How do you think he feels about Leon? How did boys usually feel about their older brothers?
3. Has someone's laughter ever haunted you? Have you ever remembered a time that someone laughed at you over and over? How does it feel when you think of it again?
4. Have you ever quit something because of someone else's opinion? Should people quit things they love because of what other people think?
5. How do you think Ramon felt when he saw all of the artwork he meant to throw away on Marisol's wall? Why do you think she kept it all?
6. How do you think Ramon felt when he looked at the pictures on Marisol's wall through her eyes? How did the attitude of "ish" help him feel better?
7. How do you think Ramon felt when he started to draw again? Did he feel bad about himself and how imperfect his pictures were?
8. Is perfection important? Is anyone perfect? Is it more important to be happy and kind than perfect?
9. Do you think that Ramon kept drawing and writing? What happens when you keep doing something and practice a lot? Does it get easier? Do you get better at it? So is it more important to be perfect, or to work hard and never give up?