

# *The Most Magnificent Thing*

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**Why we love it:** And so the story begins: “this is a regular girl and her best friend (her dog).” Until one day when she decides to make “the most magnificent thing.” This “regular girl” knows exactly how it will look and work, but no matter how hard she tries, and how hard her assistant assists (again, the dog), it just isn’t right. So she finally declares “I quit.” But when she steps back and actually looks at all her flawed prototypes, she figures out that failures are full of their own successes. If you look at them the right way.

**Questions to ponder with your kids:** Ask your kids if they’ve ever had the perfect image of something in their mind, but couldn’t quite get it right when they drew it/built it/designed it. How did they solve that problem? Did it ever come out exactly as they imagined it? Why or why not? Most importantly, did it matter if it wasn’t exactly as they’d imagined? Continue along this path by asking them what they think about things that don’t turn out exactly as planned. Are they failures? Or opportunities? How does the “regular girl” in the book learn from her many tries? What have they learned when things/situations don’t go exactly as planned? Last, but not least, ask your kids: if you could design and build one “most magnificent thing”, what would it be? And then have them draw their designs, plan how to build it, and give it a try!