

## Emma and Tyler Take the Fingerprint Survey

Drawings are interesting. Artists choose what to draw, and the idea travels through their fingers to the drawing surface. It's been said that art helps people to express their ideas and feelings. Since each person is one of a kind, each drawing is too! *The Fingerprint Survey* explores the connections between an artist and his or her drawings.

Emma (below) is 10 years old and lives in a New York City apartment. Tyler (art right) is 12 and lives on a farm in Wisconsin. Emma and Tyler took The Fingerprint Survey. Comparing their work gives us clues about their personalities, feelings, and life experiences.



To take the survey, Emma and Tyler first made three drawings: a stick figure doing something, a tree, and a drawing of their choice. Next, they used an inkpad to make a fingerprint. That's where The Fingerprint Survey gets its name. The fingerprint was used as part of their final drawings. After each drawing, they answered a question.

Emma and Tyler's drawings were scanned into the computer, and their comments were typed into this Story. On the following pages, the survey directions are printed in blue, followed by their completed work.

1. Draw a stick figure doing something.



Emma drew this, and...



Tyler drew this.

*Question: Why did you choose to draw the stick figure doing that activity?*



Emma wrote, "I love flowers."



Tyler wrote, "I don't like drawing that well, so I just drew a stick figure walking."

2. Draw the very best tree that you can.



Emma drew this, and....



Tyler drew this.

*Question: There are many kinds of trees. Why did you choose to draw that one?*



Emma wrote, "Once I went to Washington D.C. when all the cherry blossoms were out."



Tyler wrote, "Mine's a big Linden tree with lots of wood for carving."

3. Draw something, anything that you choose.



Emma drew this, and....



Tyler drew this.

*Question: Why did you decide to draw that?*



Emma wrote, "My grandmother's favorite flowers are tulips, red ones. They have to be red."



Tyler wrote, "In second grade, a kid taught me to draw Elvis. It's the only thing that looks ok when I draw it."



4. Using the inkpad, make a fingerprint on the paper. Next, make a drawing using your fingerprint as part of the drawing.



Emma drew this, and....



Tyler drew this.

*Why did you draw that?*



Emma wrote, "I draw this dog all the time because I want a dog and can't have one in the apartment."



Tyler wrote, "It's a mouse; I used to have one for a pet."

What have we learned from Emma's and Tyler's surveys? We've learned that:

- Emma loves flowers and Tyler doesn't like to draw.
- Emma has been to Washington D.C. when the cherry blossom trees are in bloom, and that Tyler loves the wood from Linden trees for carving.
- Emma's grandmother loves red tulips and that Tyler can draw a really good Elvis!
- Emma wishes she could have a dog, and that Tyler used to collect bugs.

Each drawing begins with an idea that travels to a drawing surface, and holds clues to the artist's story. We learned some interesting things about Tyler and Emma. We learned how Tyler feels about his ability to draw, that Emma has been to Washington D.C., and much more. The Fingerprint Survey is one way to learn about others!

