



My name is Teresa Merrifield and I am the Art Teacher at Ashland Elementary School. I am a lifetime resident of Plymouth and enjoy this small vibrant town. My husband Alan, is also a teacher at Newfound Regional High School, and is always involved in athletics through coaching or officiating. I have two active daughters, Gwen and Kayley. You will often find me cheering them on at field hockey or basketball games. I have spent most of my time being a busy teacher, wife, and mom and not taking the time to pursue my creative side. I have recently tried to change that.

I received paper and gouache for a Christmas gift and fell in love with the material. I have always liked painting, but never fell in love with a type of paint. I love the versatility and ease of using gouache. I have mostly been inspired to paint people. They mainly have hidden faces, which started as a joke. My daughter said I was avoiding faces. I was in a sense, but it allowed me to paint more quickly and freely. I started with a few themes such as, months, flowers, work, and friends. But now I find inspiration all around me and have been branching out finding other subjects.

Art has always been important to me. I enjoy sharing all of the avenues art can be. I believe many people are born with natural artistic talents and don't use them, others work hard and develop with artistic voice. My goal as a teacher is to help my students find an artistic voice and develop it. Some may create with traditional media, drawing, or painting, and some may find alternatives, telling stories with stop motion animation or building a sculpture with recycled materials. I am discovering that I am finally figuring out my own voice.

