

The Color of My Neighborhood

Fine arts, visual arts, and design

PART 01 Pre-Reading & Visualization

"Is technology a tool to help us reach our goals, or is it a shortcut that erases our individual voices?"

PART 02 The Reading Text

 BLOG POST • FINE ARTS, VISUAL ARTS, AND DESIGN

The New Mural

Maya is a graphic designer who lives in a busy city. Usually, her work is done on a computer screen, where she creates logos and digital layouts. However, last month, she decided to step away from her desk. She volunteered to lead a community art project: a giant mural on the side of an old library. Maya wanted to blend "fine art" techniques with modern street design to tell the story of her neighborhood.

The project was a huge task. First, the wall was cleaned and prepared. Then, a grid was drawn so the proportions would be correct. Maya chose a warm color palette of oranges, yellows, and deep blues. "In design, color isn't just about beauty," Maya explained to the volunteers. "It's about emotion. We want people to feel energized when they walk past this library."

Members of the community—from children to seniors—helped paint the lower sections. By the end of the week, the gray bricks were transformed into a masterpiece of visual art. The mural didn't just decorate the building; it gave the residents a sense of pride. Now, the library is not just a place for books; it is a landmark of local design.

PART 03 Active Reading (QAR)

1. Right There (Find the facts):

1. What is Maya's primary job during the day?

2. What specific building was chosen for the mural project?

2. Think and Search (Connect the ideas):

- List the three steps mentioned in the text for preparing and painting the mural.

3. Why did Maya choose specific colors like orange and yellow?

3. Author and You (Infer and analyze):

4. The text says the mural made the library a "landmark." Based on your own experience, how can art change the way people feel about a public space?

5. Maya uses both digital design and physical painting. Which type of art do you prefer, and why?

PART 04 Glossary

- **Mural (noun):** A large painting applied directly to a wall or ceiling.
- **Graphic design (noun):** The art of combining text and images in advertisements, magazines, or books.
- **Palette (noun):** The range of colors used by a particular artist or for a specific project.
- **Proportions (noun):** The relationship between the size of different parts of a drawing or object.

**WORKSHEET CORE REFLECTION**

Review your answers and vocabulary entries above. Prepare to discuss how these terms apply to real-world contexts.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

TOPIC CONTEXT

The Color of My Neighborhood

OBJECTIVE

Students will demonstrate B1-level reading proficiency by identifying specific details and inferring the social impact of visual arts within a community context.

VOCABULARY TERMS

Mural

Graphic design

Palette

Proportions

GRAMMAR FOCUS

- Passive Voice (Implicit)

INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURE

1. **Pre-reading (10 mins):** Display the image prompt. Ask students to describe the colors and the "vibe" of the mural. Use this to elicit vocabulary like *vibrant, public, and community*.
2. **Reading & Chunked Tasks (20 mins):** Have students read the text silently once. On the second reading, ask them to highlight any "Passive Voice" constructions they find (e.g., "the wall was cleaned," "a grid was drawn"). This reinforces the grammar focus implicitly.
3. **Post-Reading & QAR Discussion (15 mins):**
 - Break students into pairs to answer the **Right There** and **Think and Search** questions.
 - Conclude with a whole-class discussion on the **Author and You** section. Focus on the cultural value of art: *Does art have to be in a museum to be "fine art"?*