



Maybe Something BEAUTIFUL

HOW ART TRANSFORMED A NEIGHBORHOOD

BY F. Isabel Campoy
AND Theresa Howell

ILLUSTRATED BY
Rafael López



AUDIO

Audio with
Highlighting



ANNOTATE



CLOSE READ



- 1 In the heart of a gray city, there lived a girl who loved to doodle, draw, color, and paint.
- 2 Every time she saw a blank piece of paper, Mira thought to herself, *Hmm, maybe...*
- 3 And because of this, her room was filled with color and her heart was filled with **joy**.

joy a feeling of great happiness



- 4 On her way to school one day, Mira gave a round apple to Mr. Henry, the owner of the shop down the street.
- 5 She gave a **flower** to Ms. López, the lady with the sparkling eyes.

Ask and Answer Questions

Highlight any text details about Mira that you have questions about.





- 6 She gave a songbird to Mr. Sax and a red heart to the policeman who walked up and down the streets.
- 7 On her way home, Mira taped a glowing sun onto the wall hiding in the shadows.
- 8 Her city was less gray—but not much.

shadows shaded places away from light





- 9 The next day, Mira saw a man with a pocket full of paintbrushes.
- 10 He gazed at the wall.
- 11 He looked at her sun.
- 12 He held his fingers up in a square and peered through them.
- 13 “Hmm...,” he said thoughtfully.
- 14 “What do you see?” Mira asked.
- 15 “Maybe... something beautiful,” the man replied.

CLOSE READ



Vocabulary in Context

Sometimes the author gives you a synonym for an unfamiliar word. A synonym is a word that means the same or nearly the same as another word. Underline the word that means nearly the same as gazed.



**Describe and Understand Characters**

Underline the word that shows the man is happy to be painting.

scurried moved quickly

16 Then, just like that, he dipped a brush in the paint.

BAM! POW!

17 The shadows scurried away.

18 Sky blue cut through the gloom.

19 The man's laughter was like a rainbow spreading across the sky.





- 20 "Who are you?" Mira asked.
- 21 "I'm an artist," he said. "A muralist.
- 22 I paint on walls!"
- 23 "I'm an artist too," she told him.
- 24 He handed Mira a brush.
- 25 "THEN COME ON!"





26 Mira dipped it in the loudest color she saw.

27 **YOW-WEE!**

28 The wall lit up like sunshine.

CLOSE READ



Describe and Understand Characters

Underline the word that helps you know how Mira feels.





Vocabulary in Context

Underline the word in the first sentence that has nearly the same meaning as **pizzazz**.

rhythm the strong beat that some music has

29 As the man drew pictures on the bricks, Mira added color, punch, and pizzazz!

30 Soon Mr. Sax joined in.

31 Then came others.

32 Everyone painted to the rhythm.

33 Salsa, merengue, bebop!



TEKS 2.3.B Use context within and beyond a sentence to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words;
TEKS 2.3.D Identify, use, and explain the meaning of antonyms, synonyms, idioms, and homographs in context.

34 Even Mira's mama painted
and danced the cha-cha-cha!

35 The whole neighborhood
became a giant block party.

36 Until...



**Describe and Understand Characters**

Underline the words that tell what Mira thinks when she first sees the policeman.

- 37 ...the policeman walked up.
38 "Excuse me," he said.
39 The music stopped. Mira put her brush down.
40 They were surely in trouble.
41 The officer cleared his throat, then paused.
42 "May I paint with you?" he asked.
43 So Mira handed him a paintbrush.
44 And the music started again.





- 45 Teachers and papas jumped in.
46 Babies too!
47 Mira and the man handed out brush
after brush.
48 Color spread throughout the streets.
49 So did joy.





- 50 Wherever Mira and the man went,
art followed like the string of a kite.
- 51 After they colored the walls, they
painted utility boxes and benches.
- 52 They decorated sidewalks with poetry
and shine.
- 53 And everyone danced.
- 54 Together, they created something more
beautiful than they had ever imagined.

Ask and Answer Questions

Highlight a
text detail that
you can ask a
question about.





CLOSE READ



splattered

splashed by dots of something

55 When their clothes were splattered with a million colors, everyone sat down to rest—except the muralist.

56 His eyes sparkled.

57 “You, my friends, are all artists,” he told them.

58 “The world is your canvas.”

59 He smiled wide, then pulled everything together in big, sweeping motions.

60 His paintbrush was like a magic wand.



61 When he was finished, Mira added one more bird, way up in the sky.

62 Maybe, she thought. Just maybe...

CLOSE READ



Ask and Answer Questions


What questions do you have about how the story ends?

Highlight a text detail that you can ask a question about.

Fluency

Read aloud paragraphs 1 to 8 of the story several times with a partner. Practice reading at the same rate you talk, not too fast and not too slow.



 **TEKS 2.4** Use appropriate fluency (rate, accuracy, and prosody) when reading grade-level text.
TEKS 2.6.B Generate questions about text before, during, and after reading to deepen understanding and gain information.