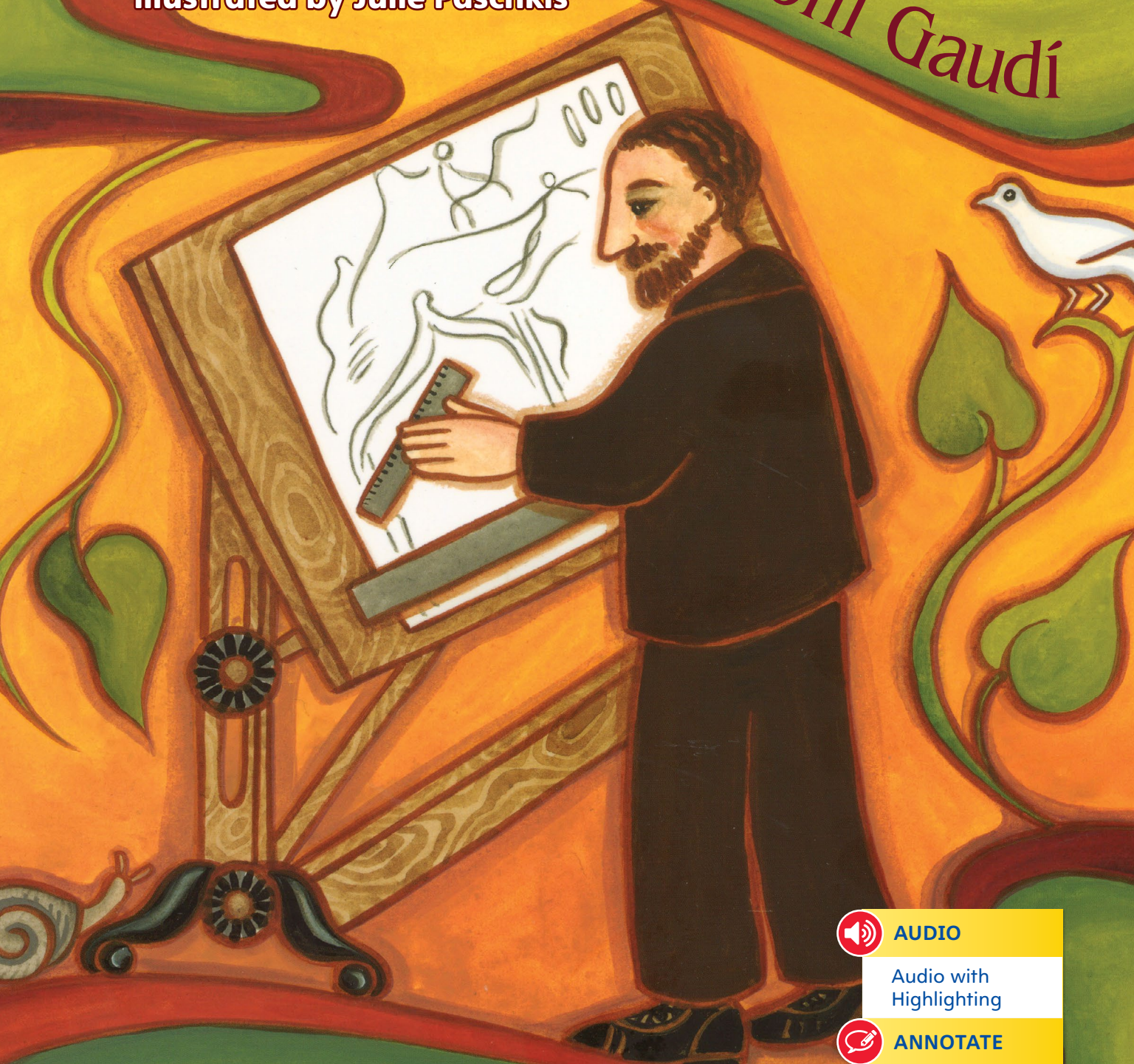


Genre Narrative Nonfiction



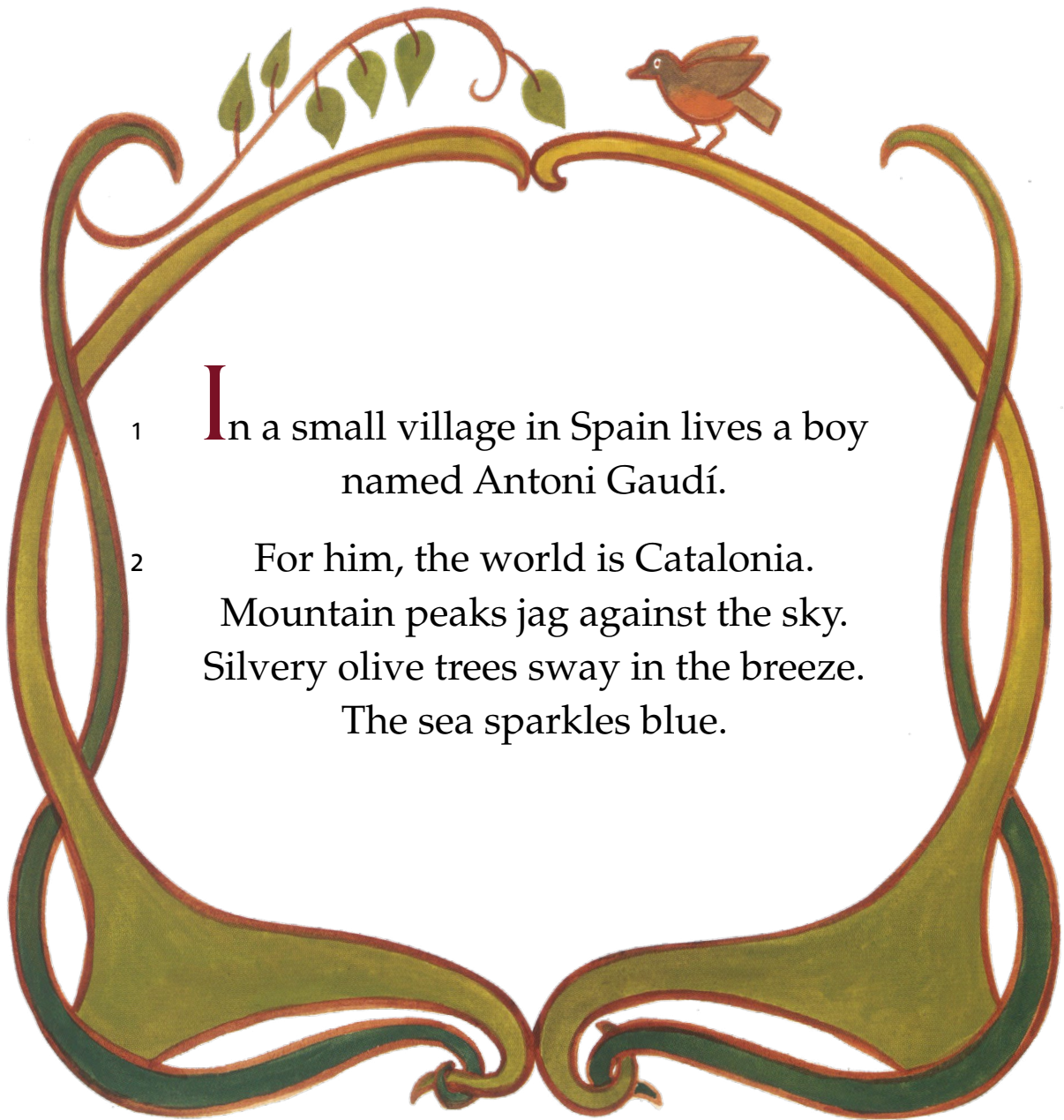
Building on Nature: The Life of Antoni Gaudí

by Rachel Rodríguez
illustrated by Julie Paschkis



 **AUDIO**
Audio with
Highlighting

 **ANNOTATE**



1 **I**n a small village in Spain lives a boy
named Antoni Gaudí.

2 For him, the world is Catalonia.
Mountain peaks jag against the sky.
Silvery olive trees sway in the breeze.
The sea sparkles blue.



- 3 Little Gaudí often feels sick.
His bones and joints ache.
He can't always run and play
with his sister and brother.
- 4 But Gaudí has time to notice.
With wide eyes, he observes the world.
All around him is light, form, and
the Great Book of Nature.
He will read from it all his life.

Use Text Features

Underline the words that give more details about the picture.

observes watches carefully





- 5 Gaudí's father works with copper and fire. His mother's family are metalsmiths, too. Over and over, he watches flat pieces of metal become shapes with a hollow space inside.



- 6 Gaudí grows stronger.
He makes friends with two boys.
Together, they explore an ancient monastery.
He dreams of rebuilding the ruins.

CLOSE READ



Vocabulary in Context

Sometimes you can figure out the meaning of an unfamiliar word by looking at words around it.

Underline the words that help you understand the meaning of **ruins**.



Make Connections

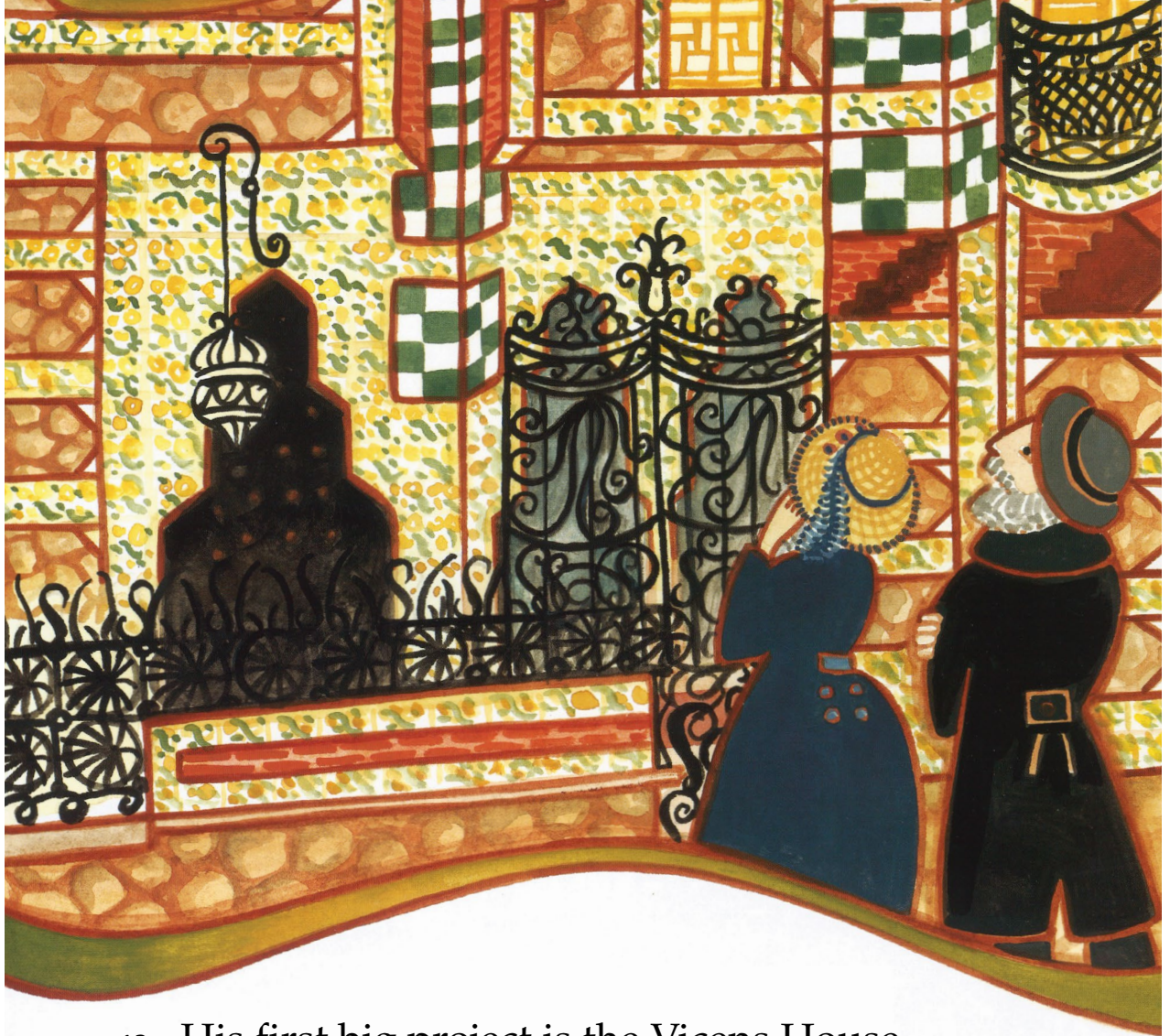
Highlight details that tell how Antoni Gaudí learns to be an architect. Who helps him learn?

architect a person who designs buildings

monuments buildings, statues, and places that honor a person or an event

- 7 After high school, Gaudí goes to Barcelona to be an architect.
- 8 He studies important monuments and reads at the library. Other architects teach him.
- 9 Gaudí wears fine top hats and coats. He attends the opera and goes to church, too.
- 10 He designs his own desk. He creates lampposts for the city.
- 11 Soon others ask Gaudí to build for them.





- 12 His first big project is the Vicens House.
- 13 Everywhere, zinnia tiles bloom.
The house is a checkerboard of color.
Passersby stop and stare.
They aren't used to Gaudí's bright colors.
- 14 Gaudí brings nature inside the
house, too.
- 15 Leaves climb up walls.
Cherries hang overhead.
Birds wheel around and soar to the sky.



Make Connections

Highlight the words that help you understand that Gaudí creates things that other people will find fun to use.



- 16 Gaudí works on several projects at once. He begins to design the Holy Family Church. For years, he will plan and dream it into life. His faith inspires his work.
- 17 For Gaudí, building is serious. Everything must function. But he isn't afraid to use his imagination.
- 18 Each time visitors use a door knocker, they squash a bedbug underneath.
- 19 A peephole looks like a honeycomb.
- 20 Gaudí makes people notice his smallest creations.

creations things that are made or produced

21 He designs a gate for his friend Güell's country home.

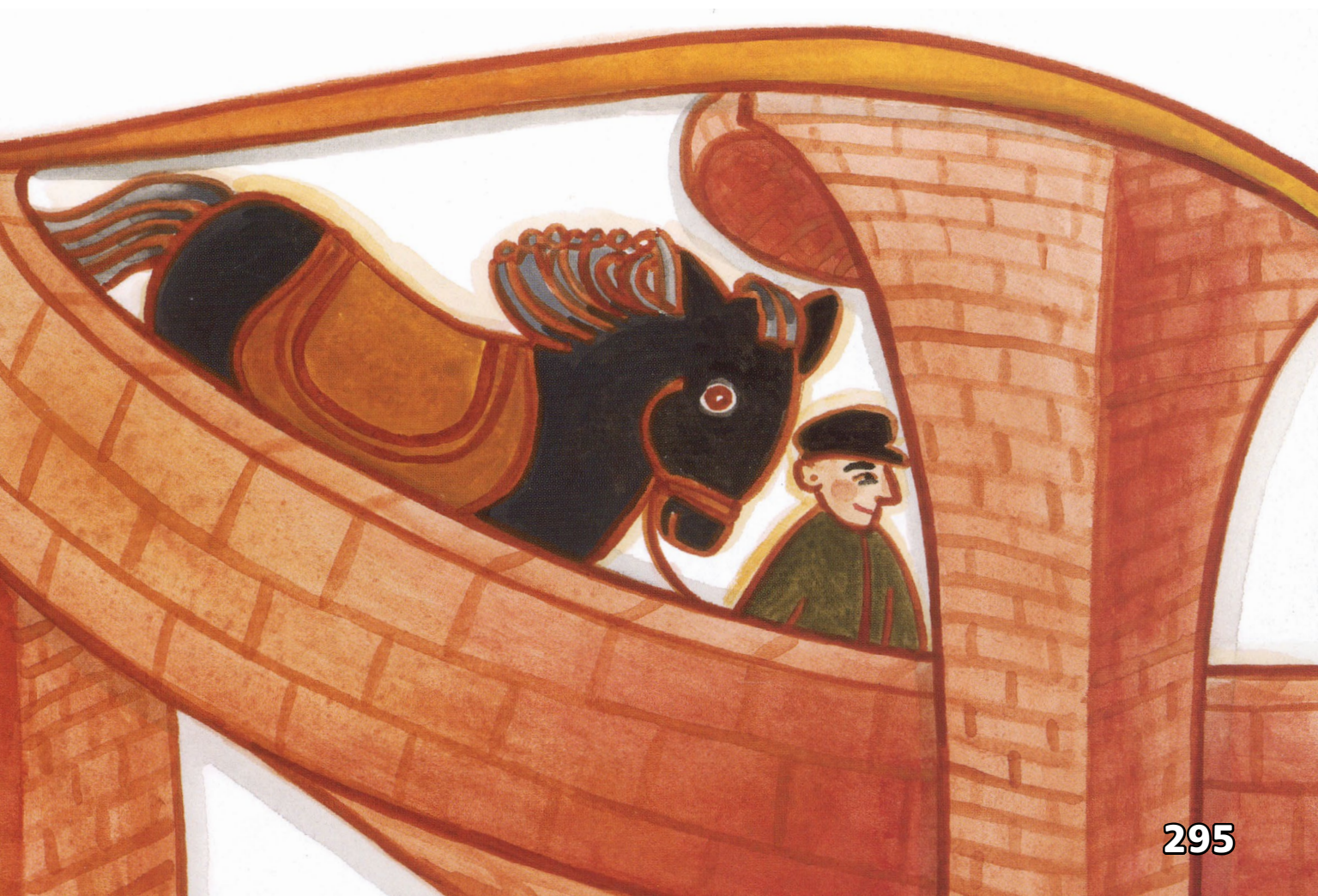
A dragon perches atop diamonds and squares, baring his fangs and slithery tongue. Gaudí's creations get braver.

22 For Güell's Palace in town, Gaudí builds a curving ramp to a basement stable.

Horses clomp down to it.

Upstairs, sunlight enters a domed ceiling.

The family enjoys their salon beneath a starry sky.

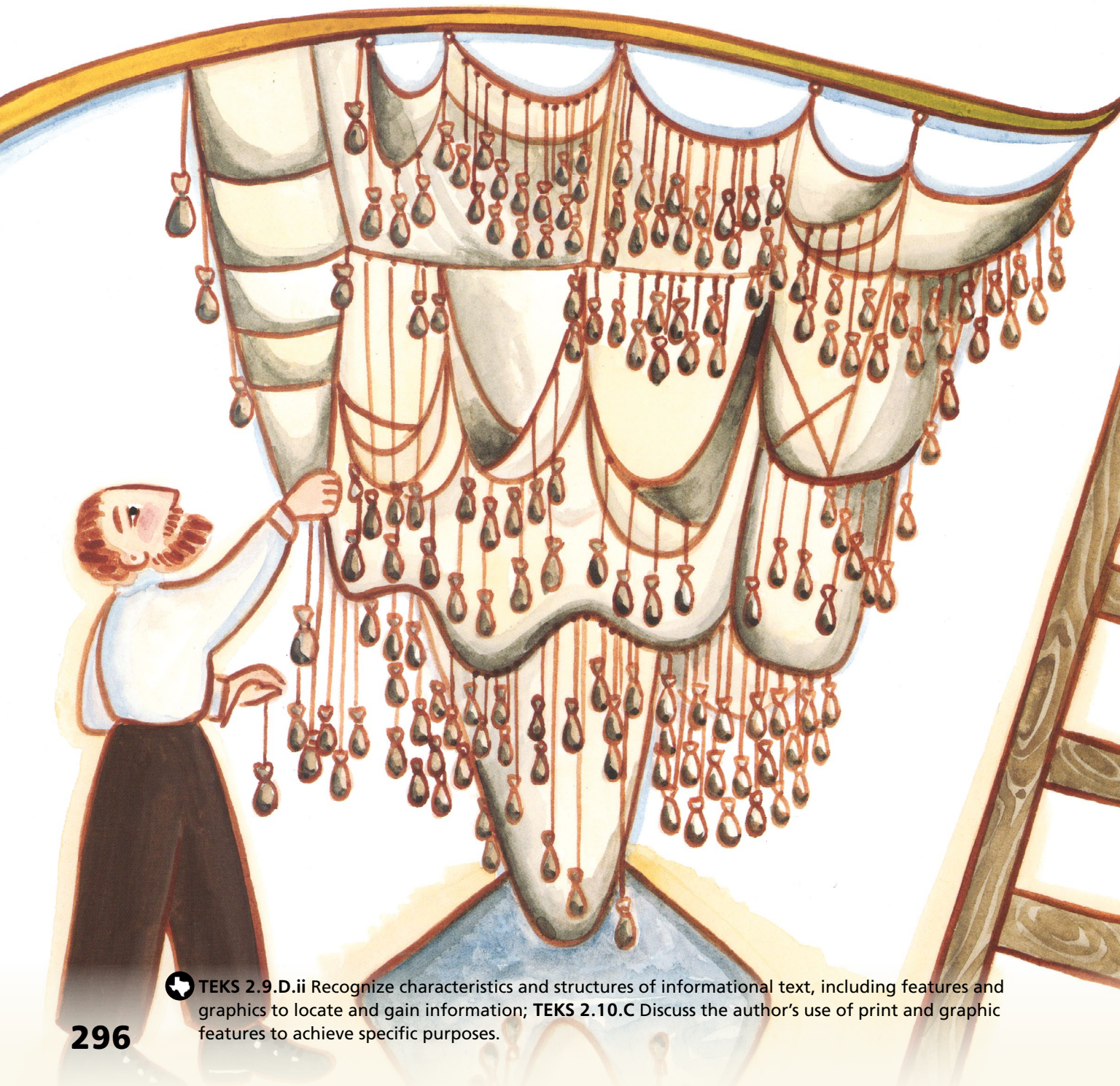





Use Text Features

Underline the words that the picture makes easier to understand.

- 23 How do you build a chapel underground?
Gaudí studies this giant problem for ten years.
- 24 He creates an upside-down model that resembles a colony of bats.



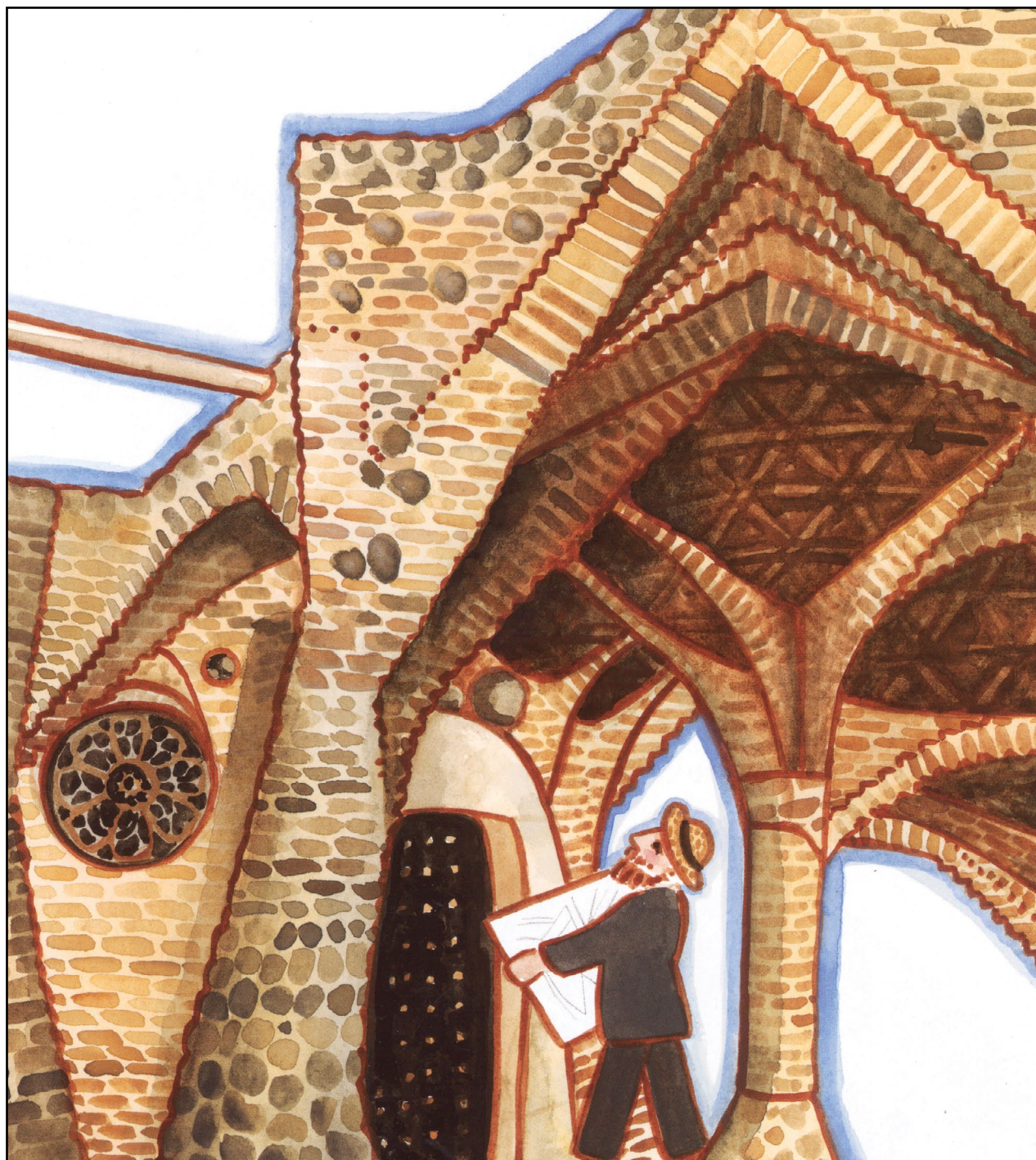
 **TEKS 2.9.D.ii** Recognize characteristics and structures of informational text, including features and graphics to locate and gain information; **TEKS 2.10.C** Discuss the author's use of print and graphic features to achieve specific purposes.

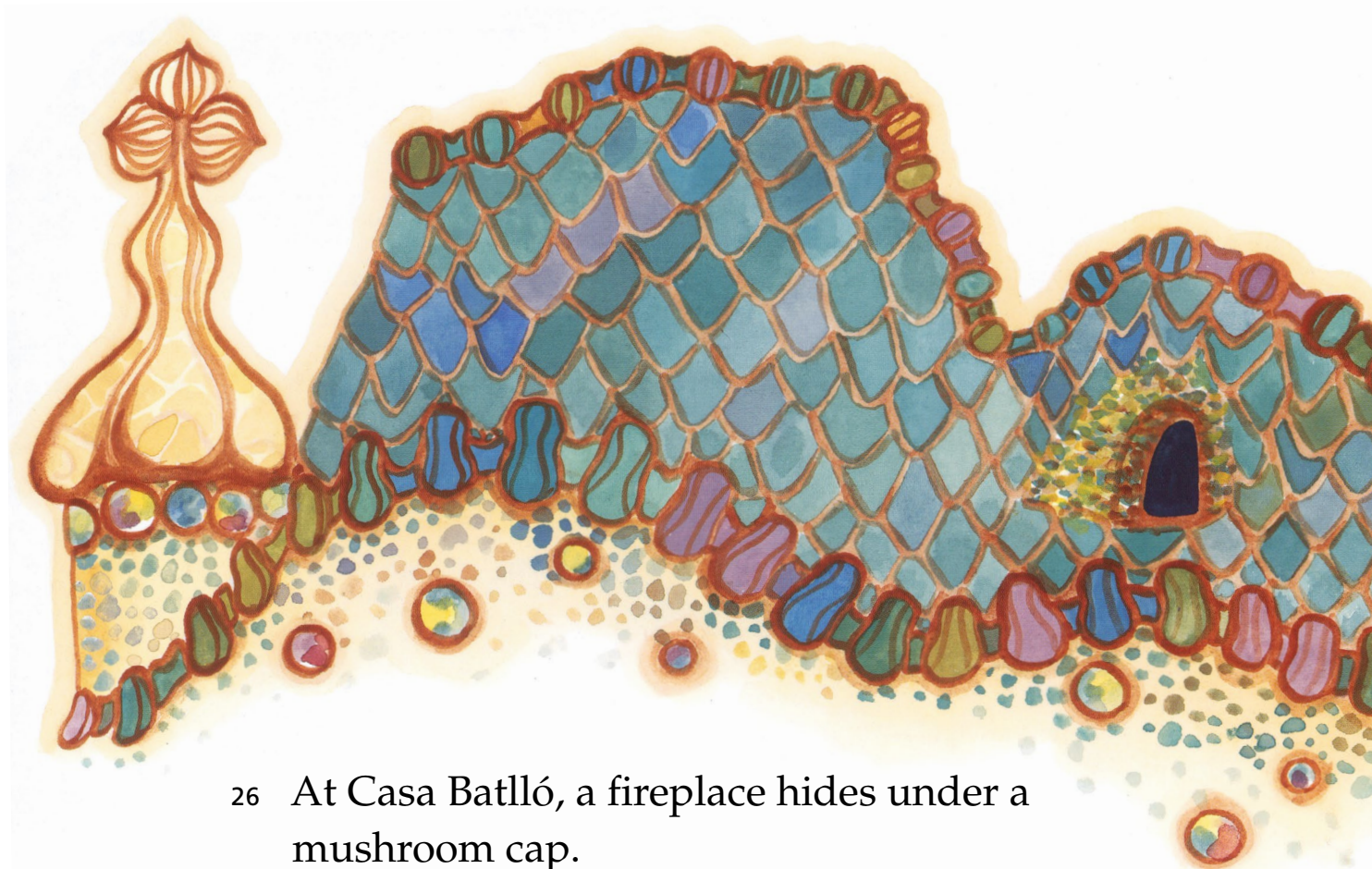


CLOSE READ

- 25 Gaudí learns how the arches and columns will work. He turns it right side up and begins to build the Colonia Crypt.

arches curved structures that often form the tops of doors, windows, and gateways





26 At Casa Batlló, a fireplace hides under a mushroom cap.
Hallways look like underwater caverns.
The house sparkles like the sea.





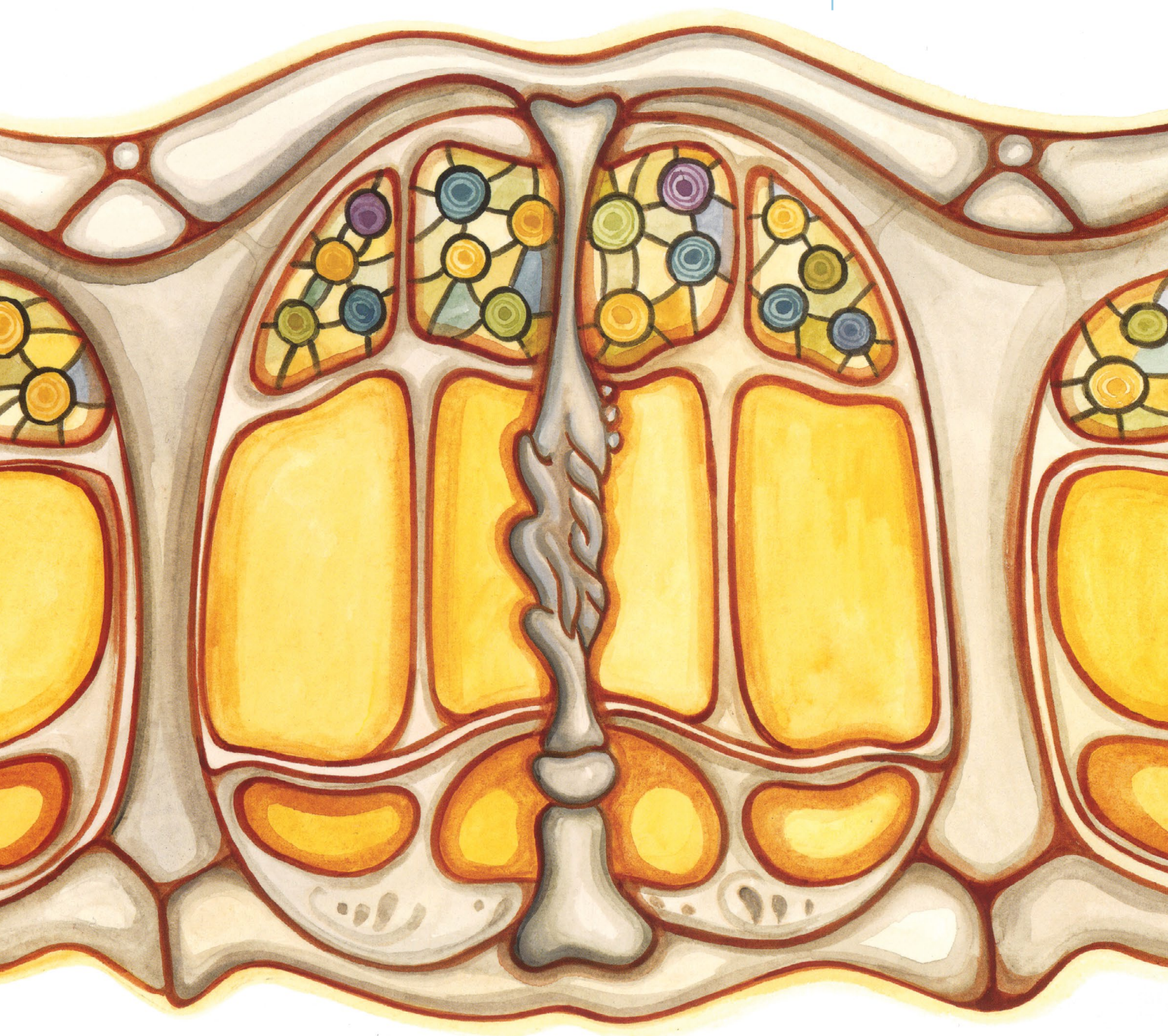
CLOSE READ

27 The roof arches in a dragon's spine.
Pillars are giant animal feet, balconies are
bones, and round walls are smooth
serpent skin.

A sword of a tower slays the beast.

Vocabulary in Context

Underline the
word that helps
you figure out
the meaning
of **slays**.



28 Everyone gapes at Gaudí's grand twists
of imagination.

But not everyone enjoys his strange
buildings.

Gaudí pays no attention to the talk.
He listens to himself.





- 29 Casa Milà waves and swells.
Rounded rooms cluster into a giant
beehive.
Gaudí is turning nature into art.
- 30 He decorates chimneys on the roof,
a moving wonderland.
The rooftop courtyard looks like a ship.
Visitors feel rolling ocean waves beneath
their feet.

Use Text Features

Underline the words for things that the picture helps you understand.





- 31 Casa Milà causes an uproar.
A few people even hate it.
“What is this?” they ask.
“A mountain,” some guess.
“Or a hornet’s nest.”
- 32 Maybe it’s a sand castle or a giant cake.
- 33 Some say Gaudí’s building is laughing at the
others on its street.
- Casa Milà fascinates everyone.



- 34 Park Güell is a fantasyland set on a hillside.
Gatehouses warp and wave hello.
A mosaic lizard stands guard.
- 35 A long bench snakes around a playground.
Gaudí's workers smash old tiles, glass,
and plates to bits.
They decorate the endless curving bench.
Gaudí praises his talented craftsmen.
- 36 Visitors pour in to celebrate Gaudí's
vision of Catalonia.

Use Text Features

Underline three examples of things in the text that the picture shows in a colorful way.






Use Text Features

Underline the words that the picture shows. How does the picture help the author achieve her purpose?

- 37 Gaudí grows older, and still he works on his Holy Family Church. He uses the lessons from all his other buildings and dedicates his final years to it.
- 38 Tile and Venetian glass encrust soaring towers. Inside, light filters through a stone forest.



 **TEKS 2.9.D.ii** Recognize characteristics and structures of informational text, including features and graphics to locate and gain information; **TEKS 2.10.C** Discuss the author's use of print and graphic features to achieve specific purposes.

39 Gaudí's church shimmers like a dream over Barcelona.





CLOSE READ



Make Connections

Highlight the words that help you understand what Gaudí left behind for society.

- 40 Gaudí leaves behind few words or plans.
His daring creations speak for him.
They tell his stories.
They are Gaudí's poem to the world.
- 41 Gaudí's buildings curve and arch.
They sparkle and glitter and whisper
with joy.





CLOSE READ

- 42 They stand waiting for you to see with your very own eyes.

Fluency

Practice reading fluently. Read aloud paragraphs 28–33 several times with a partner. Read at the rate you talk, and group words as you read with expression.

