

WISH WALL MURAL

Day 7: Painting the Wish Wall

The Connection:

Hello fourth graders. This is my last class with you and before I start I want to emphasize how impressed I have been with the way you've approached making the Wish Wall Mural. I've noticed how seriously you have taken your wishes. You were thoughtful in thinking of them, writing them on the wall and in painting over them. This level of care you showed makes a big difference when you are trying to make your artwork powerful and I think it is for that reason that our Wish Wall Mural has been a success.

Active Engagement:

Today we are going to look back at all the different topics we've talked about by looking at the Wish Wall Mural website that I created. I made this website for a number of reasons but most importantly because I wanted for there to be a record of your great work and smart ideas.

Before I start I want you to know that this website is not yet finished. There is still MUCH more information that I plan to put on here, especially pictures of people painting the wall and of the wall itself. I really wanted you to see as much as possible but making a website takes a lot of work and a lot of time. I did my best in these past few days to get as much done as possible but definitely come back to the site in the following weeks as there will be much more added.

While the part of the website that shows the making of the wall needs lots of work still, the part of the website about OUR work together is pretty much finished. We will spend most of our time today looking over that section.

Show home page of www.wishwallmural.com

The website address is www.wishwallmural.com. This is the homepage of the website, which explains what the Wish Wall Mural project is all about.

On the left are the three different sections of the site: Learn, Make, and More.

Show Learn section

Here is a Classwork Overview—a summary of each of our class lessons with links to look more closely at each lesson. Let's look at the first one: Art & Ideas.

Show Art & Ideas section

This page reviews all the things we talked about the very first day and it talks about Conceptual Art. Who will explain what is important in Conceptual Art?

Students respond.

The most important part of a conceptual artwork is the idea.

As you can see here is a picture of Joseph Kosuth's "One and Three Chairs," and Robert Rauschenburg's "Erased de Kooning Drawing."

Down at the bottom are the answers you all gave to some of my questions: here you can look more closely. Let's read one together. This is what Sarah wrote:

Read Sarah's card from website.

There are pictures of all of your cards and some photographs of you too. At the bottom is a picture of the poster Lucy made after the lesson to hang in the classroom.

Now let's look at the next lesson: Urban Wall Painting. Who will tell me what kinds of wall paintings we talked about?

Students respond.

We looked at murals, graffiti, graffiti that seems like a mural, and we looked at "cover-ups," place where graffiti has been covered with paint. Then we compared these examples of urban wall painting to the artwork by Rauschenburg, "Erased de Kooning Drawing." Let's read Nisha's response to remind us what is similar or different between this artwork and the examples of wall painting we talked about.

Read Nisha's card from website.

Mr. R's artwork began with an idea like murals and graffiti. It covers-up another person's work graffiti and cover-ups, and it has permission like murals and cover-ups. When you get home, you can read all the different responses and look at all the pictures of you in the classroom. Again, here is a picture of the poster Lucy made after the lesson to hang in the classroom.

Now let's look at the next lesson: Secrets & Wishing. Let's read one of your cards to see what some reasons might be to keep a WISH secret and protected. Let's read Emerson's response.

Read Emerson's card from website.

This is a great reason that a wish might need to be protected and you can come back and read all the other good reasons when you visit the website on your own.

Ready for the next lesson? Let's look at Introducing for the Wish Wall. This page talks about the IDEA of the Wish Wall Mural and the different problems I encountered when thinking of how we were going to make this idea into an actual artwork. It talks about what you need to make a mural. Who will remind us what is needed for a mural?

Students respond.

You need an idea and permission to use the wall. It also talks about how we wrote a title right on the wall just like Rauschenburg did with his artwork. We also painted the wall so that it could camouflage into the neighborhood landscape. This page talks about that as well.

At the very bottom, you can see some of your Possible Wishes for the Wish Wall Mural lists on this page. Those of you who let me photograph your pages have them pictured here.

The very last selection in the Learn section will be finished in the next couple of weeks.

Now let's move on to the Make section. This section is all about making the Wish Wall Mural. Remember that this section still needs a lot of work and will be updated in the next few weeks. This is just a small sample of what will eventually be pictured.

Go to Make section of website.

It shows how I prepared the wall by cleaning it and applying two coats of paint. It shows pictures of the people who stopped by to talk about what was going to go on the wall. People were very curious!

There are many more images that will go on the site that I will show you from a disk I brought. Let's look at pictures from this Monday.

Show Graham & Parks photos

For those of you who didn't come by on Wednesday night, I have taken pictures of that event so you can see how many people came by and put their wish on the wall. Remember we decided that the more wishes the wall had on it, the more powerful the wall would be as an artwork? Well, would you believe that there are more than 500 wishes on that wall!!! Everyone has been excited to put his or her wish on the wall. There have been little kids and grandparents, teenagers and police officers, construction workers, and even some of your parents have come by and put their wish on the wall. Here are some pictures for you to see.

Show community photos

Once all the wishes were put onto the wall, it was time for me to finish the camouflaging. In order to make it a truly convincing camouflage, I needed to paint in the areas where no one could reach.

Show photos of me finishing the wall

I plan to go back next week to do a little more work up high.

What do you all think about the Wish Wall Mural?

Students respond.

I will ask you to write your thoughts about this question on an index card. It is a very open question and so you can write whatever you want to share about the Wish Wall Mural. What do you think about the Wish Wall Mural?

Pass out cards. Students respond.

I know you're finished when your pencils are down.

The Link:

The work you have all done has been really fantastic. You have been creative and smart in the classroom. You have shown a lot of care when thinking about the subjects we've talked about and when preparing for the mural. I want to make sure you realize what an excellent job you have ALL done. I am glad that we have this website so everyone else can know this too.

So, thank you for all of your hard work. I had a lot of fun and loved working with you. AND! I hope all your wishes come true.