



## A Lesson on Community Progress by Paige McDaniel

**Grade Level:** Grade 6

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 3 hours

**Lesson Keywords:** mural, community, future, school, newspaper

**Lesson Description:** In the following lesson, students will read a passage on a school that paints a mural. After reading the passage, students will complete a short assessment on their vocabulary read during the passage. The students will discuss the themes of the passage through several questions, such as, the meaning of the mural and complete the lesson with a short essay. This essay will creatively allow students to apply their knowledge obtained from the passage by asking them to imagine painting their own mural. By engaging in this essay, students are forced to consider what a mural would mean to their community and think of the overall purpose of the reading and lesson.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.1: Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.1: Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.1: Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.3d: Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey experiences and events.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6.1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6.4a: Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

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## Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

**Instructions:** Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

### Community Progress by

**Content:** I was a part of our schools mural. I helped to paint the mural, and I am actually pictured in it, too. When you view the mural, you will notice my picture. The mural shows children playing, and I am there, too - you can see me in the mural.

The mural also represents the future. It illustrates what we strive to be when we get older. Our teachers asked us all to choose specific careers. They asked what type of job we want to hold in the future. I chose a teacher because I would really enjoy becoming a teacher. Our principal said, we want to make this vision clear - we want our community to see what your future can be. She said we could paint that big mural on the wall outside the school. She asked the community to donate money to pay for the paint. They did. Our art teacher stayed after school to help us.

After we painted the mural, a newspaper reporter came to our school. She said she had heard about our mural project from a friend, and she had then told her editor about it. An editor is the person who decides which stories will be presented in the newspaper. The editor said it was a terrific story about community pride and progress, which is why she sent the reporter to learn all about our mural.

The reporter discussed the mural with us. When she left, a photographer arrived at our school. The photographer said that the newspaper was going to publish a story about the mural. The photographer took many photos and said the editor would choose one for the newspaper.

The newspaper put the story in the paper. Everyone was really excited. That day, the newspapers sold out in our community stores.

Everyone wanted a copy of the newspaper so they could see our community in the paper. People came from other neighbor hoods just to see our mural. Principals of other schools came to see the mural. They had read about us in the newspaper and wanted to help their school make a mural. That way, their school would look special, also.

Our principal was extremely proud of what we had done. She met with the parents and told them, I believe we need another mural. Our building has several more walls. We need you to help. Visit our school today and you will see more murals that show how proud we are of our community.

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## Task 1: Vocabulary

**Instructions:** Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

**Q: 1 WordPhrase:** mural **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author in our story says, "I helped to paint the mural, and I am actually pictured in it, too." What does the word "mural" mean in this sentence?

- A: Reflection
- B: Painting on a wall
- C: Statue
- D: None of the above

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "mural" correctly?

- A: John looked at his reflection in the mural.
  - B: The mural displayed children dancing and playing.
  - C: Mural loved to dance.
  - D: The mural moved quickly across the plain.
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**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** vision **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our story says, "Our principal said, we want to make this vision clear - we want our community to see what your future can be." What does the word "vision" mean in this sentence?

- A: The ability to see with the eyes
- B: An idea or plan
- C: An aspect of something
- D: None of the above

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "vision" correctly?

- A: Jose went to the doctor to get his vision checked.
  - B: Kendry had a vision for his paper and wrote an outline to show it.
  - C: LeeAnn insisted she wanted the new vision of the movie and not the old vision.
  - D: All of the above
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**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** editor **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author in our story says, "The photographer took many photos and said the editor would choose one for the newspaper." What does the word "editor" mean in this sentence?

- A: A person who determines the final text or image in a work
- B: A person who takes photographs
- C: A person who writes an article
- D: None of the above

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "editor" correctly?

- A: The editor ran fast to win the 5K race.
  - B: The editor took some photos to put in the newspaper.
  - C: The editor fixed the article for the final edition.
  - D: None of the above.
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**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** represents **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our story says, "The mural also represents the future." What does the word "represents" mean in this sentence?

- A: To give a present
- B: To end
- C: To stand for or act for
- D: All of the above

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "represents" correctly?

- A: Manuel represents the gift to Marnie.
  - B: Education represents hope and a future for many Americans.
  - C: Represents are not good for the skin.
  - D: All of the above.
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## Task 2: Forum Discussion

**Instructions:** This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and two peer responses for each topic.

### 1 - The meaning of the mural:

What did the mural mean to the school and the community? Why was the mural so important and special? Why do you think other schools wanted to paint their own murals?

### 2 - Newspapers and the Community:

The newspaper played a large role in this story. What is the purpose of a newspaper? What influence do you believe the newspaper had in our story and on the success of the mural?

### 3 - The Mural and the Future:

In this story, do you think the mural influenced the future of the students? If so, how did it influence them? What influences do students have on their future lives and careers?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** You are to write an essay and post here 500 words on the following prompt:

In our story, we read about students who created a mural for their school. Imagine you are creating a mural. Describe the mural you would create. Explain the purpose of the mural (why you created this particular mural) and the effect it would have on your school and/or your community.

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