



# Urban Artists at Work

## Part 1

**Teacher Reads** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has 4,000 murals, which are large pictures that are painted on the walls of buildings. The murals are part of the Mural Arts project, which was started in 1984 by an artist named Jane Golden.

The goal of the **Mural** Arts project was to have  
10 **young** people from **Philadelphia** help artists paint  
17 murals. At first, Mural Arts was a little project, but  
27 it did not stay that way! As time passed, Mural Arts  
38 has grown and turned into an important part of life  
48 in Philadelphia.

50 Why has the project worked so well? Artists and  
59 people in the **community** work together on art that  
68 means a lot to them. They take pride in the work  
79 they do. Each mural seems to burst from the side of  
90 a **building** and “speak” to the people of Philadelphia.  
99 That’s because each mural shows things that people  
107 think are important.



## Part 2

**Teacher Reads** The murals in Philadelphia cover a wide range of topics and subjects. Keep reading to find out what some of them are.

110 The murals show people from the past and present  
119 who grew up in Philadelphia. There are leaders, sports  
128 stars, **singers**, and other people in the murals. Lots  
137 of murals use swirls of bright paint to show people at  
148 work and at play. There are murals of gardens filled  
158 with plants and murals of birds.

164 Lots of people stop and look at a mural named  
174 *Reach High and You Will Go Far*. It shows a girl with  
186 a tree held high in her hands. What is this mural  
197 saying? It is telling kids to set big goals and reach for  
209 big dreams.

## Part 3

**Teacher Reads** Philadelphia offers different kinds of tours, which are trips around the city, so visitors can learn about its amazing murals. There are walking tours, train tours, and trolley bus tours.

211 On weekends, you might see lots of people getting  
220 on a bus to see Philadelphia's murals. People come  
229 from the suburbs of Philadelphia, as well as from other  
239 parts of the U.S. The trip leader tells them when the  
250 murals were painted, who the artists are, and other  
259 interesting facts. People may come back lots of times  
268 to see the murals they like best. That is not a surprise  
280 to the people of Philadelphia, who take pride in the  
290 murals. The murals show who they are. [Learn More](#)  
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