



A Head Full of Colors

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Creativity, Self-Expression, The Arts

Book Brief: Jean-Michel loves art and he loves New York City—so he decides to decorate the town in style!

Author:
Storytime

Illustrator:
Leandro Lassmar

BEFORE READING

The Cover: Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover and title.

The Pictures: Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about the illustrations.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, “Have you ever seen art outside of a museum or gallery—like on buildings, sidewalks, or walls? What did you think about it?” Explain to students that this story is about real events, but it is told like a story with characters, a setting, and events in order.

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: “As we read, pay attention to how Jean-Michel uses the city as his canvas and what inspires his art.”

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What was Jean-Michel’s childhood like?
- How does Jean-Michel express himself through his art?
- Why do you think Jean-Michel chooses to create art in public spaces instead of just on paper or canvas?



Think Aloud: “I notice that Jean-Michel sees the city streets and walls as opportunities for art. This shows me he thinks art can be anywhere and for everyone, not just in museums.”

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: “How did Jean-Michel use New York City as his canvas? What inspired the art he created?”

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students, “If you could decorate your school or neighborhood with art, what would you create and why?” Connect Jean-Michel’s bold use of color, words, and symbols to how he shared his ideas with the world, and have students think about messages they’d want to share through art. Encourage students to sketch their own “street art” design that shows something important to them—it could include colors, words, symbols, or images that represent them or their community.

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- Explore 100 other free eBooks on Skybrary! Visit www.Skybrary.org to learn more.
- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.