



Read Aloud Guide

Title: *Maybe Something Beautiful* by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell, illustrated by Rafael Lopez

Best for: TK - 3rd grade

Summary: This book is about a young girl named Mira who lives in a town that is bleak and austere. Mira decides to create paintings and hand them out to her neighbors. A muralist takes notice of her work and begins to paint large murals with Mira and community members.

Why we chose this book: We love the inspiring story of Mira and her artwork, and the collaboration between the community, the muralist, and the artist. This book is based on the true story of the Urban Art Trail in San Diego, CA. It reminds all of us that even the smallest artists can inspire transformation and accomplish something big.

Notes: Review the Author's Note at the end of the book before reading for relevant background information.

Central themes: City life, murals, children's art, community improvement

Introducing the book: You can begin by showing the cover, reading the title and author, and then saying something like this:

"This book is about a girl named Mira who loves to paint. Does anyone here love to paint?"

"Has anyone seen a mural before? Where did you see it? What did it look like? How are murals different from other types of art?"

After Reading: Debrief with students

"What was the community like in the beginning of the book? How did it change by the end?"

"Who helped paint the murals in the city? Why was it important that everyone help paint, and not just Mira?"

"What are some things that make your neighborhood or community special?"