

WISH WALL MURAL

Day 3: Secrets & Wishes

The Connection:

Hello fourth graders. If you remember, last week we talked about different kinds of paintings that you might see around a city. We talked about murals, graffiti, and cover-ups. We also took another look at the conceptual artwork made by Robert Rauschenburg, Mr. R. We ended by thinking about what the city paintings had in common with Mr. R's artwork. I read through all the cards at the end of the day and was very impressed. You all did an amazing job. I can tell that you are thinking about ideas and how ideas are important in art.

The Teaching:

We've had a chance now to look at images of Conceptual Art, graffiti, murals, and images of cover-ups—which aren't art at all. But today we're going to talk just about ideas. Specifically we are going to talk about wishing and secrets.

I'm sure you have all made a wish and you have all had a secret.

There are different kinds of wishes, aren't there? There are wishes that ask for something to be given to you, like "I wish for a puppy on my birthday." This wish is FOR you but you are not the one who could make the wish come true, right?

There are wishes that are goals you want to achieve: "I wish to be an animal doctor when I grow up." Again, this wish is FOR you too but here you ARE the one who could make the wish come true.

And there are wishes that are for other people: "I wish my Dad's broken leg heals so that he can for walks again." This wish is for someone ELSE and you are not the one who can make the wish come true. Maybe you could HELP the wish come true, like walking the dog for your Dad so that he can rest his leg. But in the end, making the wish come true is not up to you.

These are some different types of wishes.

Now what about secrets? I know from the stories in the hallway that some of you have already thought about secrets, so I bet we'll have a good conversation today. Just like there are different types of wishes, there are different kinds of secrets too. There are secrets which HIDE things and secrets which PROTECT things.

There are secrets that are meant to hide something so that you don't get in trouble, like keeping it a secret that you have eaten an entire cake when you weren't supposed to. This is an example of a secret that hides something.

There are also secrets that are meant to protect something. Maybe the secret is protecting a surprise, like keeping it a secret that you are planning a surprise party for your sister. Or maybe the secret is protecting something that is private, like keeping it a secret that your sister is really sick. These are examples of secrets that protect something.

So now we have thought about different kinds of wishes and different kinds of secrets.

Active Engagement:

There are wishes that ask for something to be given to you, like "I wish for a puppy on my birthday." This wish is FOR you but you are not the one who could make the wish come true, right?

Will someone share a wish? Share a wish that is for YOU but you are not the one who could make the wish come true.

Students share.

Will someone else share a wish? Share a wish that is for YOU but you ARE the one who could make the wish come true.

Students share.

Will someone else share a wish? Share a wish that is for someone ELSE and you are NOT the one who can make the wish come true.

Students share.

These are some good wishes and great examples of the different kinds of wishes we talked about. No matter what kind of wish we make, we always want it to come true, right? That's the whole point of wishes. We just talked about how sometimes we can make a wish come true ourselves and sometimes, it's not up to us. Thinking about how a wish will come true is a big part of making a wish.

I've noticed that sometimes wishes and secrets go together. Sometimes, we keep our wishes secret. When I blow out candles on my birthday cake, I make a wish and I keep it a secret. What kind of secret is it, I wonder? A secret to hide something or a secret to protect something? It's definitely a secret to protect something. A secret to protect my wish. Why does a wish need to be a secret? Why does a wish need to be protected?

I'd like to spend more time this week hearing what you have to say about these ideas so I'm going to pass out note cards again. I'd like for you to write our your answers to this questions. Share your ideas. What are the reasons someone might keep a wish a secret?

I'll know you're finished when you have put your pencils down and then we can all share our ideas.

Students write responses to questions and share ideas.

Thinking about how a wish will come true is a big part of making a wish. You could even think that a wish is ALIVE until it has come true. When you make a wish, you might have to protect it to keep it alive and sometimes keeping it a secret is a way to protect it.

Let's say you want to be an animal doctor and you are afraid of animals. You know that there is a lot of work to be done until your wish might come true but you want to keep your wish alive. Maybe if you share your wish, someone might remind you that it will be hard to make your wish come true. You might keep your wish secret to protect it and keep it alive.

Another reason you might want to protect your wish is to keep it private. Maybe your wish feels like it is so important to you that it is personal and private. You might keep your wish secret to protect it and keep private.

These are some reasons why you might protect a wish and why you might keep a wish secret.

The Link:

Today we've talked about different kinds of wishes and different kinds of secrets. We've thought about why we might keep a wish secret and how secrets can act as a kind of protection.

Next week we're going to think about all the different things we've talked about during my visits.