

One day the principal of a school sent a note home. The note told parents that she needed their help. She asked them to help make the school look better.

It was an old building. It was made of bricks and concrete. Inside, the classrooms were bright. There were posters on the walls. There were children's drawings on the walls. On the outside the school was plain.

The principal had a plan. She wanted to paint a mural. A mural is a very big painting on a wall. She asked parents to help make the mural. She asked parents to come to paint on Saturdays. The principal bought the paint and the art teacher drew the design. It would be a picture about children.

The first Saturday, 10 parents came. Teachers and students came, too. They all painted all day. The art teacher told them what colors to use. By the end of that day the mural was started, but it would take more time. The volunteers went home with paint on them, but they were smiling. They were proud that they were making the school look special.

The next Saturday, more people came to paint. They had seen the beginning of the mural, and they liked it. They wanted to help, too. So more of the mural got done that day. The art teacher said it would take just one more Saturday and we would be done.

The next Saturday it rained. There was so much rain people could not paint. When they tried, the paint washed off their brushes and onto the sidewalk. That Monday the school had to clean the sidewalk.

The sun was shining the next Saturday. Even more volunteers came to paint. They finished the mural and got paint on themselves, but they were happy. They were proud they had helped the school look special. At a near-by school, parents and students started to paint a mural, too. Soon there were murals in many communities.

Identify/Analyze/Infer Cause-Effect Relations – Nonfiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

Choose the best answer for each question

1. What made the classrooms look good?

- a. The posters.
- b. The children.
- c. The windows.
- d. The school.

2. What caused the sidewalk to get paint on it?

- a. People were careless.
- b. The paint came off the walls.
- c. The heavy rain caused it.
- d. The mural was too big.

3. What caused more people to volunteer on the second Saturday?

- a. They had to.
- b. They saw the mural.
- c. The principal asked them.
- d. They had children at the school.

4. Why might a nearby school start a mural?

- a. They need it.
- b. They saw it.
- c. They had paint.
- d. They like art.

5. *Write your own answer to this question. How would the neighborhood be different because of the mural?*

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

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| Item | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Answer | a | c | b | b |

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.
People will feel proud.