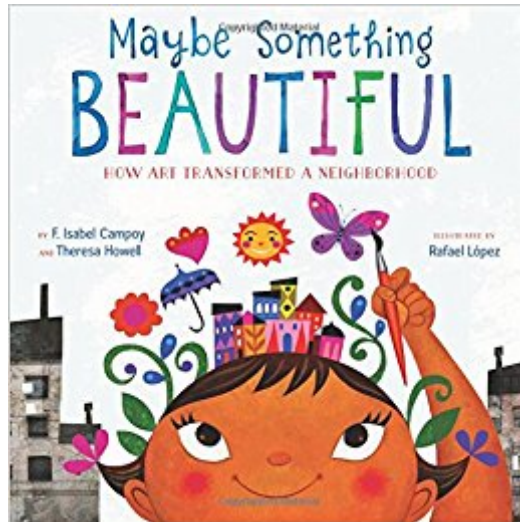


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Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed A Neighborhood



Synopsis

What good can a splash of color do in a community of gray? As Mira and her neighbors discover, more than you might ever imagine! Based on the true story of the Urban Art Trail in San Diego, California, *Maybe Something Beautiful* reveals how art can inspire transformation—and how even the smallest artists can accomplish something big. Pick up a paintbrush and join the celebration!

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD580L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (April 12, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0544357698

ISBN-13: 978-0544357693

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #31,598 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > City Life #128 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art #766 in Books > Children's Books > Activities, Crafts & Games > Activity Books

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Behind the Scenes with Rafael López An inside look at the artistic process behind *Maybe Something Beautiful*, the vibrant picture book based on the true story of the Urban Art Trail in San Diego, California. Below are some early sketches from the book, and some background information from the award-winning illustrator.

I wanted to capture the essence of the East Village where we started painting our first mural in Downtown San Diego. I took my camera and walked around photographing and capturing the actual buildings from the neighborhood. I wanted somehow to incorporate them into the book. As you can see on the right I had to correct the perspective to straighten them to fit what I had in mind. Once the buildings were straightened I added my own textures I created with different techniques, using

acrylic and watercolor. I created a collection of new 'fictitious' buildings for the story but based on the actual buildings. I cut pieces of construction paper and then incorporated the textures into them.

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I then proceeded to create a pencil sketch to see where thing will fit. This is an important stage where you can play with size, proportion and editing. One last stage is to paint your characters in this case Mira which I did traditionally with acrylic on wood board. The it's all about putting all the elements together digitally and fine tuning the final composition. I had a great time experimenting with a new technique. It was very important to keep having fun! Enjoy!

PreS-Gr 2â "In a town that is dismal and austere, Mira offers her neighbor her joyâ "art. After Mira hands out some of her paintings, a muralist takes notice of her work. Eventually Mira, the muralist, and the diverse community come together to make their town a beautiful work of art. LÃ pez's illustrations dominate the landscape of the book and depict the characters' movements in a painterly style. Warm colors portray the community's efforts to brighten their neighborhood and contrast with the more muted tones used to depict the desolate cityscape. The illustrations are rendered with acrylic paints on wood, along with digital tools to layer photos and other objects to create Mira's neighborhood. The prose feels somewhat distant from the charming artwork and themes. The narrative was inspired by an actual event, as noted in the back matter, but the text does not fully transmit the heartwarming story of the powerful influence of art. VERDICT An additional purchase, especially where the artist's work is popular.â "Briana Moore, School Library Journal

Chicago Public Library Best of the Best books of 2016 Huffington Post Best Picture Books of 2016 Kirkus Best of 2016 School Library Journalâ 's Fuse#8 Best of 2016 2017 TomÃ's Rivera Book Award * "An inspiring and wistful message wrapped up in a subtle, thoughtful narrative and lively, beautiful art: simply superb."â "Kirkus, STARRED review "...Campoy and Howell deliver a clear, uplifting message about the power of art to revitalize people and their surroundings."â "Publishers Weekly "This empowering story of community engagement might inspire kids to get involved in their own neighborhoods."â "Booklist

If it was possible to give a book 10 stars, I'd do it. A book like this doesn't come along all that often. Exquisite in thought and design, it carries a powerful, layered message for all

readers—children at all ages and adults. Isabel Campoy hits compelling and potent notes in her writing, while Rafael Lopez dazzles with images that bring the ideas to life. It's going to be a focus in my mentor text workshops, no question. Ruth Culham

Ordered this for my preschool class and it was a cute story the kids loved it and I was able to teach lessons from it.

This delightful book, filled with hope is based on a true story about murals and art transforming a gray city. The text is captivating, mixing quiet moments with bursts of energy. The illustrator is also the muralist this story was based on and he delivers inspiration with each turn of the page. The compelling images move from somber grays and urban textures to lively scenes bursting with color and emotion. An empowering story about changing a community for children and adults.

Maybe Something Beautiful, by F. Isabel Campoy & Theresa Howell. Illustration by Rafael López. A book that can be read by readers of all ages, because its message is empowering, transformative, and indeed beautiful. Probably a universe of stars would be a fitting evaluation. Now we need it in Spanish! Martha Valdés.

This picture book matches a beautiful, heartfelt story with vibrant, engaging imagery. I've gotten it for children of all ages and, whether 2 years or 6 years old, they loved reading it - over and over (and over...). To me, that's the ultimate sign of a wonderful story. Bravo!

This is a beautiful and inspiring book about how creativity can change communities. The story is authentic and the illustrations are absolutely gorgeous. The spirit of the book is fantastic and you will so enjoy how it galvanizes you to want to create change in your own community. Wonderful!

A wonderful story about how a neighborhood can come together as a community and make something beautiful out of something drab.

This is such a literally lovely book. I guess that is no surprise since the muralist in the story is the illustrator. I love that! My daughter was actually very excited by that fact as well. Lopez does an amazing job of telling the story through the art. You can really feel the sadness in the gray, lifeless buildings and bent, dark silhouettes of the people at the beginning of the book. That starts to change

as Mira adds color and joy to the people she meets but the pages only really transform after the muralist arrives on the scene. This is a fun book with a positive, happy message.

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