



MAYBE SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL: HOW ART TRANSFORMED A NEIGHBORHOOD

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Reading and Activity Guide



BEFORE READING

- + Today's book is called: Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood. Do you know what *transformed* means?? (Maybe kids know the "Transformers"?) *Transformed* means "totally, completely, and thoroughly changed - whether it's on the outside (appearance), or more on the inside (character - who you are or what kind of person you are). Think of the *transformation* (or metamorphosis) that happens when a caterpillar changes into a butterfly!
- + Any predictions about how art might transform, or totally change, a neighborhood??

DURING READING

- + Have you ever given a drawing (or any gift, even a very small or simple one), to anyone? How did it make them feel?

AFTER READING

- + As mentioned in the video, this is based on a true story! [Click here](#) to read the Author's Notes. [Click here](#) to read more about the Lopez's Urban Arts Trail via the Maybe Something Beautiful website.
- + Did you know that *Jesus* transforms US, too? Read 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" Just like the city was sad and gray without any art, our hearts or lives can be sad and gray - how? *Sin* - *When we hurt others with words or actions, etc.* Jesus is the Master Artist who creates something NEW - He cleans away our sinful deeds and fills our heart with His perfect, colorful love! He makes us a NEW creation - our old sins are GONE - completely forgiven! Now THAT is something beautiful

SPRINGBOARD ACTIVITIES:

Activity #1: Transform Your Space! - Transform YOUR Space! - Grab some paper - regular, large, or even bulletin board-sized! - and your paints, colored pencils -- whatever art supplies you have or love -- and create some beautiful art! Tape it around your room, classroom, hallway, etc. You can work together to create murals like the Lopez's, or small, individual pieces. Add some beauty, color, and joy to your space.

Activity #2: Beautify a Neighborhood - Creating art around your neighborhood is just one way of beautifying your neighborhood. There are SO many ways, from collecting trash at a park to volunteering to read with students at a local school. Check out these ideas from [Curbed Magazine](#). Remember that God loves all people and neighborhoods. He sees the beauty that is in all communities and among all people - even if it looks sad and gray to us. You can help those who are already working to transform sad, gray cities into vibrant places of joy and life. Look into local non-profits or volunteer organizations in your town or in a city nearby. See what programs they are already coordinating and how you can get connected to help!

