



## WEEK 1

# Discover Your Strengths

What makes you uniquely awesome? How can you use your strengths to support your community?

## Community Chalk Murals

### Your Quest:

Help your child design a mural representing special places and people in their community as well as what inspires them. After designing your mural, you will help your child create their mural on the sidewalk using chalk!

By embarking on this quest, your child will gain the following skills:

- Understanding of murals
- Exploration of symbolism
- Knowledge of their community/neighborhood

### Mission Materials:

- Blank white paper (8½ x 11 is ok but the larger the better)
- Pencil
- Mural Examples (pgs. 4-7)
- Optional Printable: Mural Brainstorm Template (pg. 8)
- Markers / colored pencils / crayons
- Sidewalk chalk

### Mission Directions:

1. Talk with your child about what a mural is — a large painting on a wall or the side of a building that is designed to have an important message.
2. Look through images of murals together (see **Mural Examples** on pages 4-7) or take a walk to look at murals in your neighborhood. Discuss:
  - a. What do you notice in these murals? Name all the different things you see in this mural. What do you like about this mural?
  - b. A symbol is something that stands for or represents something else. For example, a heart is a symbol for love and a rainbow is a symbol for peace, LGBTQ pride, and hope for the future. Do you see any symbols in the murals you're looking at? What are they?



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- c. What do you think is the important message of each mural? What were the people who made the mural trying to say? How does this mural make you feel?
3. Brainstorm with your child about what they would like to include on a mural of their own and what message they want their mural to send. We recommend the message: Our Community is Special. Some ideas you can share with your child for what to include in their mural are below. Optional: Use the printable **Mural Brainstorm Template** (pg. 8) to help you brainstorm.
  - a. Symbols or shapes that are special to you or that represent peace, love, and hope
  - b. Important people in your life and in community like your family members, friends, neighbors, teachers, bus drivers, postal workers and more
  - c. Important buildings or places in your community like parks, libraries, schools, special landmarks, and more
  - d. Things that inspire you and things that you love
  - e. Special words or phrases
4. After brainstorming, work with your child to sketch their mural on a piece of white paper (the larger the better). It can be helpful to start by drawing an outline in pencil and then filling in in color or you can be creative and add as you go! Make sure the colors are bright and bold so that they stand out.
5. Take sidewalk chalk outside and help your child recreate your mural on the sidewalk so that your neighbors can view your mural! Make sure to take a photo of your mural so your child can remember what it looked like.

### Level Up:

- If you're unable to access a sidewalk, consider creating the mural on a piece of poster-board or tape multiple pieces of white paper together. If you have paint, experiment with using paint to create the mural on these pieces of paper!
- Explore murals around New York City through [Groundswell](#) and the [NYC Mural Arts Project](#).

### More to Explore at the Library:

- Check out the e-audiobook of [Maybe Something Beautiful](#) by F. Isabel Campoy about a girl who works with her neighbors to make her community more beautiful by painting a colorful mural. Other titles we love, only available in physical format, are [Diego Rivera: His World and Ours](#) by Duncan Tonatiuh about the famous Mexican muralist and [Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat](#) by Javaka Steptoe.
- View the animated videos of *The Curious Garden* by Peter Brown (available in English or Spanish) or *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds. The first is focused on making your community beautiful through gardening and the second shows all kids how they can be artists. Both

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are available for free without checkout limits on [Scholastic Bookflix](#) with your library card number.

- Research the history of murals and famous muralists using one of our databases ([Kids InfoBits](#), [Explora Elementary](#), or [Britannica Academic - School Edition](#)). You'll be able to find articles, photos, videos, and book excerpts to learn more about murals! To access, you will need your library card number.

### Your Reward:

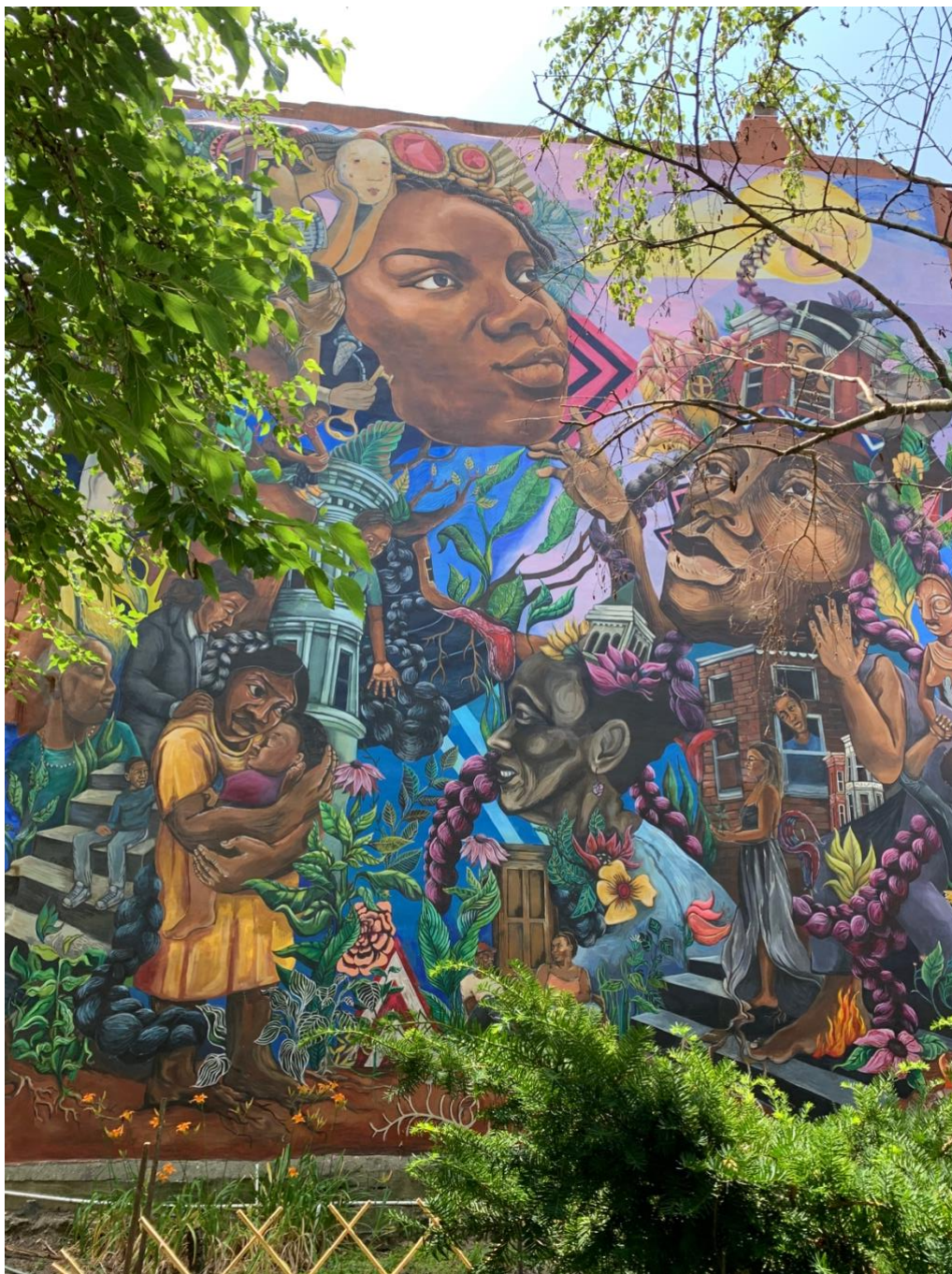
Make sure to visit NYPL's Online Reading Portal through our partner Beanstack and log your completed activity to receive a special badge! Find our portal at [nypl.org/summerreading](https://nypl.org/summerreading).

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### Mural Example #1



*Corner of Rogers Ave and St. Marks Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11216*



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### Mural Example #2



85 Lexington Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11238



## WEEK 1 Discover Your Strengths

### Mural Example #3





## WEEK 1 Discover Your Strengths



960 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY 11213

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### Mural Brainstorm Template

What <b>symbols</b> or <b>shapes</b> do I want to include?	
Who are the <b>people</b> that make my community special?	
What are the <b>places</b> that make my community special?	
What <b>inspires</b> me?	
Are there any other <b>words</b> or <b>pictures</b> that would help show that my community is special?	