

Name:

Day One

Graffiti: Vandalism or Art?

Part 1: Silent read

→ Is graffiti always vandalism? Or could it be art? Read silently.

If you walk along the Manhattan Bridge in New York City, you will see graffiti on roofs and billboards. You'll also see hundreds of graffiti "tags" covering the bridge itself. Tags are stylized signatures that put the tagger's name up for others to see. Taggers often compete to see who can put their names in the hardest or most dangerous places to reach. They call this "slamming." Taggers sometimes "slash" each other's tags, putting a line through or writing on top of other taggers' names. Slashing is considered a challenge or an act of disrespect to the other tagger. Another kind of graffiti is "scribing," scratching a tag on plastic or paint with a knife or key.

The law almost everywhere considers graffiti to be vandalism. Many New Yorkers especially hate tagging. Tanya from the Bronx says, "Graffiti makes ugly marks on beautiful cities."

Some people argue that graffiti is not vandalism. They say that it is actually art and that it is created by people who need space to express themselves. At Flatbush Middle School, a group of teens painted an entire wall of the gym together. When they were nearly finished, a school security guard caught them. The students were suspended from school. They also had to apologize publicly to the entire school community. Tina had this to say about her motives. "Before I painted the gym, nobody paid any attention to me. Now everyone knows who I am."



Day One

// one minute

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Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Why do people create graffiti?

What does slamming mean in graffiti slang?

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Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

If you walk along the Manhattan Bridge in New York City, / you will see graffiti on roofs and billboards. // You'll also see hundreds of graffiti "tags" covering the bridge itself. // Tags are stylized signatures / that put the tagger's name up for others to see. // Taggers often compete / to see who can put their names in the hardest / or most dangerous places to reach. // They call this "slamming." // Taggers sometimes "slash" each other's tags, / putting a line through / or writing on top of / other taggers' names. // Slashing is considered a challenge / or an act of disrespect / to the other tagger. // Another kind of graffiti is "scribing", / scratching a tag on plastic or paint / with a knife or key. //

The law almost everywhere considers graffiti to be vandalism. // Many New Yorkers especially hate tagging. // Tanya from the Bronx says, / "Graffiti makes ugly marks on beautiful cities." //

Some people argue that graffiti is not vandalism. // They say that it is actually art / and that it is created by people who need space to express themselves. // At Flatbush Middle School, / a group of teens painted an entire wall of the gym together. // When they were nearly finished, / a school security guard caught them. // The students were suspended from school. // They also had to apologize publicly to the entire school community. // Tina had this to say about her motives. // "Before I painted the gym, / nobody paid any attention to me. // Now everyone knows who I am." //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.