

TWO ARTISTS, ONE CITY

Reading comprehension - Belfast and its murals

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Two men, two communities

1. Read the article and complete the profiles.

	Mark Ervine	Danny Devenny
Community / political background		
Connection with the Troubles		
Common interests		

2. Mark Ervine describes the Falls Road as "*enemy territory*". Explain why he uses this expression.

Does he really consider himself to be in danger? Quote one element from the text to justify your answer.

3. What surprising information do we discover about one of the murals on the republican side?

2. Murals and identity

4. What do the two traditions of murals represent? Complete the table with information from the article.

Loyalist murals	Republican murals
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____

5. Murals are more than simple decoration. Find **three words or expressions** in the article showing that they express ideas, experiences or identities.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

6. Mark Ervine says:

"The unionists need to reassure themselves about their identity, who they are because they are under threat."

Explain what he means **in your own words**.

3. Beyond division

7. Irvine says that he and Devenny grew up quite close to each other and shared similar interests. Why, then, did they not meet earlier in their lives?

8. Show that Belfast's murals are changing.

What subjects can now be represented?

What does this suggest about Belfast today?

4. Vocabulary - Talking about identity and division

Find words or expressions from the article meaning:

Meaning	Word / expression from the text
being faithful or devoted to a country/group	
support for people who share a cause	
to honour or remember publicly	
feeling that something important may be lost	
to return to a worse situation	

Choose **two** of these expressions and use each in a sentence about Belfast.

1. _____
2. _____

5. Think further

9. "Murals can both divide and unite."

Using the article, explain to what extent this statement is true. Try to use **whereas**, **while**, **however** or **although**.

FINAL CHALLENGE

How can two national identities exist in the same city?

Write 3-4 sentences using what you have learnt from the murals and the article.

Try to include: *British / Irish identity - belonging - public space - murals - whereas / however*
