

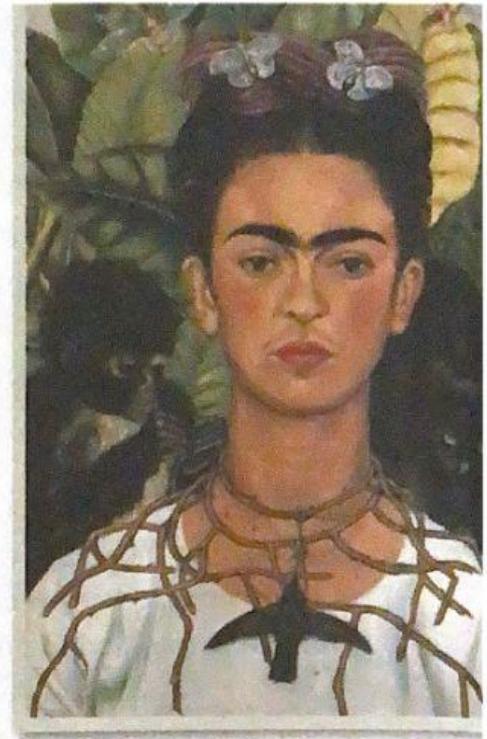
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Frida Kahlo's Paintings and Psychology

The Mexican painter Frida Kahlo (1907–1954) lived a life of extraordinary suffering. She caught a disease called polio when she was only six. She was nearly killed in a bus accident when she was 18. The bus accident left her with long-lasting injuries that caused her great pain for the rest of her life. Because of these injuries, she was not able to have children. As a result, she suffered a painful miscarriage when she was 25.

The pain in Kahlo's body must have affected her paintings. Though she was an energetic, active, vibrant woman, the pain often made her feel alone. The majority of her



▲ *Self-portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird*, 1940, by Frida Kahlo



▲ The Frida Kahlo Museum, also known as The Blue House

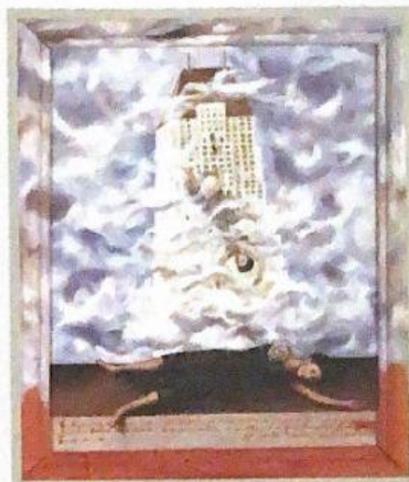
Questions

1. What's the purpose of this passage? •Main Idea•
 - a To ask whether pain is needed for a true artist.
 - b To describe Frida Kahlo's life and art.
 - c To describe Mexican art.
 - d To explore the psychology of artists.
2. What does this passage focus on? •Subject Matter•
 - a An artistic era.
 - b A type of art.
 - c A painting.
 - d An artist.
3. What images was Frida Kahlo known to use? •Supporting Details•
 - a Folk dancing.
 - b Corn fields.
 - c Green jungles.
 - d Parrots and monkeys.

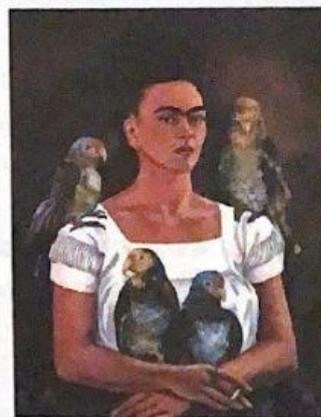
15 paintings are self-portraits. Kahlo once said, "I paint myself because I am so often alone and because I am the subject I know best." She must have felt that her unique pain separated her from other people. Kahlo often painted her face on the bodies of animals or other people. She painted her individual suffering, but she also used her face to represent pain in all beings.

25 However, Kahlo also lived a life of passion and fun. She played sports in school, wore colorful clothes, danced, studied, and loved. She was very proud of being Mexican and was politically active. These characteristics are represented in her paintings. She uses bold colors, including lots of reds. She also uses Mexican imagery, such as monkeys and parrots.

35 Frida Kahlo took her pain, combined it with her strong spirit, and turned it into art. Her paintings may make viewers uncomfortable with their honesty, but Kahlo wasn't the type of person to hold back. If she could suffer and grow, her paintings could make viewers feel and grow as well.



▲ *The Suicide of Dorothy Hale*, 1939, by Frida Kahlo



▲ *Me and My Parrot*, 1941, by Frida Kahlo (cc by Banco de México Diego Rivera & Frida Kahlo Museums Trust)

4. What can we infer about Frida Kahlo from the sentence, "Though she was an energetic, active, vibrant woman, the pain often made her feel alone"? •Inference•
- a She didn't like to paint. b She liked to exercise a lot.
c She was into medical experiments. d She didn't feel other people understood her.
5. In the first paragraph, what does it mean that Frida Kahlo suffered a **miscarriage**?•Words in Context•
- a She suffered from depression. b She had a heart attack.
c She lost a baby. d She was handicapped.
6. Why did Frida Kahlo suffer from pain her whole life?•Cause and Effect•
- a They were injuries from a bus accident.
b She was in a plane crash when she was young.
c She contracted a terrible disease at 18.
d She was born with a pain disorder.