



The home of Frida Kahlo, which she shared with Diego Rivera, is now a museum dedicated to her life and work.

Biographies of Great Artists: Frida Kahlo

Frida Kahlo was born in Mexico in 1907. As a small child, she was very happy and ran and laughed all the time—even in church. However, when she was six years old, her life changed completely. She got a serious disease called polio and had to remain in bed for nine months. (a) _____.

In spite of this, Frida was able to lead a normal life, and at 15, she was enrolled in a prestigious school in Mexico City. There, she was influenced by the modern changes that were sweeping across Mexico. She cut her hair short like a boy and started riding a bicycle—(b) _____. She was very interested in science and decided to become a doctor.

Then, in September, 1925, Frida was involved in a horrendous accident. She was riding on a bus when it crashed into a trolley car. Her right leg was broken in 11 places, and she had many other broken bones. (c) _____.

On the one hand, this was obviously a tragedy: as well as living with pain, she also had to give up her plans to become a doctor because she knew she would never be strong enough. On the other hand, it also helped her discover something else about herself. While lying in bed after the accident, Frida began reading books about art. Her father was a

painter and photographer, and he encouraged her interest in the subject. Frida was not only someone who did not give up easily, but she was also very talented. (d) _____.

In 1929, Frida married the famous Mexican artist Diego Rivera, and although she was a more original painter than he was, for a long time she was known just as Diego Rivera's wife. However, soon famous artists such as André Breton, Marcel Duchamp, and Georgia O'Keeffe noticed her and praised her work, and after an exhibition in Manhattan in 1938, she became very famous in the US, France, and Mexico. Still, she struggled to make a living from her art because (e) _____.

She continued to paint all her life, even though her health became increasingly bad. Although she was bedridden when a famous gallery organized an exhibition of her work not long before her death, she insisted on attending the opening ceremony, and her bed was carried into the gallery so that (f) _____.

Frida died in 1954, at the age of 47, but her paintings, her life, and her ideas still attract a lot of attention. In 2002, a popular movie, which was nominated for six Oscars and won two, was made of her life, with Salma Hayek as Frida, (g) _____.

A Read the article. Parts of the text are missing. Match the parts to the spaces.

- _____ 1. she could talk to visitors
- _____ 2. One year later, she completed her first painting: a portrait of herself
- _____ 3. shocking for a young woman of her time
- _____ 4. For the rest of her life, she had severe pain every day caused by that accident
- _____ 5. and she is also a character in the 2017 animated movie *Coco*
- _____ 6. The disease made her left leg shorter than her right, so she had serious problems walking
- _____ 7. she refused to adapt her style to some of her clients' requests

B Look at the words from the text and match them to the definitions.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. biographies | a. extremely bad |
| _____ 2. remain | b. moving very fast |
| _____ 3. sweeping | c. very strong |
| _____ 4. horrendous | d. stay |
| _____ 5. severe | e. support and help |
| _____ 6. encourage | f. stories of people's lives |

C Write *true* or *false*

- 1. Frida Kahlo had a happy childhood until she was six.
- 2. As a teenager, Frida liked modern ideas.
- 3. Frida became a doctor.
- 4. Frida began painting after she suffered a terrible accident.
- 5. Frida's father and husband were artists, too.
- 6. Frida only became famous soon before she died.
- 7. Frida had to stop painting when her health became worse.
- 8. Frida died when she was still young.

D Read the article again. List all the expressions that show contrasting ideas.

- 1. (Paragraph 1) _____
- 2. (Paragraph 2) _____
- 3. (Paragraph 4) _____ , . . . , _____
- 4. (Paragraph 4) _____ , . . . , _____

5. (Paragraph 5) _____
6. (Paragraph 5) _____
7. (Paragraph 6) _____
8. (Paragraph 7) _____