

# 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.

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

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

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## 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**.

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### 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?

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8. Show that Belfast's murals are changing.

What subjects can now be represented?

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What does this suggest about Belfast today?

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### 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**.

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#### 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*

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