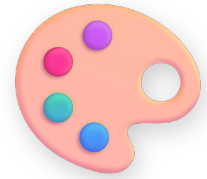




Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions using details from the text.

Frida Kahlo: Painting Her Unique Story



Frida Kahlo was a groundbreaking Mexican artist whose vibrant and deeply personal paintings captured the complexities of her life, identity, and culture. She transformed her physical and emotional pain into powerful works of art, creating a visual diary that continues to resonate with people worldwide. Her unique style made her one of the most recognizable figures in 20th-century art.

Born in 1907, Frida faced immense challenges from a young age. At six, she contracted polio, which left her with a lifelong limp. Later, at eighteen, she suffered a devastating bus accident that caused severe injuries, including a broken spine. During her long recovery, often bedridden, Frida began to paint. Her mother gave her a special easel that allowed her to paint while lying down, and a mirror was placed above her bed, leading to her famous self-portraits. This period marked the beginning of her artistic journey, turning her suffering into creative expression.

Frida's art is instantly recognizable for its bold colors, intricate details, and often surreal imagery. However, she always insisted her work was not surrealism; instead, she painted her own reality. Her many self-portraits, which make up about one-third of her total work, explored themes of identity, pain, loss, and resilience. Each brushstroke was a raw and honest reflection of her inner world, making her paintings incredibly intimate and powerful. She used symbolism extensively, drawing from Mexican folk art and pre-Columbian mythology to convey deeper meanings.



Beyond her personal narrative, Frida Kahlo's art was a profound celebration of Mexican culture and heritage. She often depicted herself in traditional Tehuana



dresses, adorned with indigenous jewelry, asserting her connection to her roots. Her paintings frequently featured native plants, animals, and symbols, weaving a rich tapestry of Mexican identity into her personal stories. She was a proud advocate for her country's artistic traditions during a time when European art often dominated.

Frida Kahlo's legacy extends far beyond her lifetime. Her bravery in depicting her authentic self, her defiance of conventional beauty standards, and her strong connection to her cultural identity have made her an icon. Her work continues to inspire artists, feminists, and cultural enthusiasts, reminding us of the power of art to express truth and endure hardship. She showed the world that even in pain, there is beauty, strength, and a unique story waiting to be told.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) **What is the main idea of this passage?**

- (A) Frida Kahlo used her art to express her unique personal experiences and Mexican identity, leaving a lasting legacy.
- (B) Frida Kahlo painted many self-portraits while recovering from an accident.
- (C) Art is a powerful way for people to express themselves.
- (D) Frida Kahlo was a famous artist who traveled the world.

(2) **Which detail best supports the main idea?**

- (A) She suffered a devastating bus accident at eighteen.
- (B) Her art is instantly recognizable for its bold colors and intricate details.
- (C) Frida Kahlo's house is now a museum in Mexico City.



- D She often depicted herself in traditional Tehuana dresses, asserting her connection to her roots.

(3) What would be the best title for this passage?

- A Frida Kahlo: Art, Identity, and Resilience
- B The Power of Painting
- C Frida Kahlo's Self-Portraits
- D Mexican History Through Art

(4) Which sentence does NOT belong in this passage?

- A Her paintings frequently featured native plants, animals, and symbols.
- B Frida Kahlo also enjoyed writing poetry in her spare time.
- C She transformed her physical and emotional pain into powerful works of art.
- D Her unique style made her one of the most recognizable figures in 20th-century art.

(5) Write the main idea in TWO sentences. Include one supporting detail.

