



Hey, Wall: A Story of Art and Community

Susan Verde , John Parra (Illustrations)

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One creative boy.

One bare, abandoned wall.

One BIG idea.

There is a wall in Ángel's neighborhood. Around it, the community bustles with life: music, dancing, laughing. Not the wall. It is bleak. One boy decides to change that. But he can't do it alone.

Hey, Wall: A Story of Art and Community Details

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Author : Susan Verde , John Parra (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Hey, Wall: A Story of Art and Community for online ebook

Barbara says

Angel's neighborhood has fallen on hard times as one of the buildings has been abandoned, leaving an ugly concrete wall to blight the area's appearance. Angel and his friends focus on the delights of the neighborhood, barely noticing the wall as they play and wait for flowers to grow through the cracks in the sidewalk. After hearing his grandmother's stories about how the area once was attractive, Angel decides to do something about that wall. He gathers his art materials and those around him, and they paint a street mural featuring larger-than-life size individuals engaging in activities, scenes drawn from everyday life. The final double-page spread shows the mural and how it has revitalized the area with a movie theater open for business and various vendors on the street. Not only do I love the idea that one person--in this case, a boy with paints and a desire to make something positive happen--can make a difference, but I also love that the change is wrought through art. Created with acrylics, the illustrations are filled with life, and the bleak wall becomes a canvas for self-expression and inspiration. Perhaps, after all, what matters is what someone sees when he/she approaches that wall. Is it something depressing that adds to the depressing neighborhood or is it a blank page on which something wonderful can bloom? This would be a good read aloud to highlight that concept or to serve as a simple example of how change can occur.

Deb (Readerbuzz) Nance says

A boy and his neighbors work together to make a beautiful mural of neighborhood memories on an old wall. It's a story of community spirit, and working together, and pride, and remembrance, of making something ugly into something beautiful.

Ms. Arca says

I like the concept, especially as a refocusing on positive ways that we can think about walls. This is an example of a positive wall and a positive example of community working together to create something they can all enjoy. I think I must be becoming a picture book snob because I found the writing/ storytelling to be just ok. That being said, I would read this with kids for the example of working together and getting them excited about an uplifting communal project.

Cindy Mitchell *Kiss the Book* says

Hey, Wall : A story of Art and Community by Susan Verde, illustrated by John Para, PICTURE BOOK
Simon and Schuster, 201.8 \$18. 9781481453134

BUYING ADVISORY: EL (K-3) - OPTIONAL
AUDIENCE APPEAL: AVERAGE

There is a large wall in the neighborhood - as big as a city block. Life goes on around it, but it stays the same. One day, a boy decides to turn the wall into a mural - something that tells everyone about who they are and what is special to them. But he can't do it alone!

I appreciate the author and illustrator's notes at the end - it helps to put the book in perspective. The way everyone avoided the wall at the beginning, I wondered what the wall had to do with all the glimpses of community life - they bought their ice cream and went far from the wall to eat it; they built their snowmen on other sidewalks; the wall can't dance? There are several great picture books about a community gathering together to improve by making art, this one just seemed too ordinary.

Lisa Librarian

<https://kissthebookjr.blogspot.com/20...>

Vicki says

For a book about art, the artwork and pictures do the story themes justice. It would be interesting to pair with *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman and *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Pena for a discussion about kid-led activism and experiences in urban communities.

Jillian Heise says

Loved this picture book on building community, celebrating street art, empowering kids to use their voice, pride in their neighborhoods, and showing the value of coming together to support each other. The illustrations are fantastic. I'd pair with *Last Stop on Market Street* and *Maybe Something Beautiful*.

Laura says

I am a HUGE fan of street art and murals. The way murals can change the feel and look of an area dazzles me! The colors jump off the walls to brighten your day. The images or words speak to you with heart and meaning. A piece can contain such raw power!

Hey, *Wall* by Susan Verde lets the reader in on one boy's talk with a rundown community wall.

**“No one looks up at you.
There is nothing to cheer for.
You are only lonely concrete.”**

This young boy is an artist though. A changer and motivator! By bringing people together, he transforms the wall and whole community with color and life. He takes the wall back with art and stories!

A beautiful story about turning something negative into something uplifting and memorable.

Recommended read. Check it out!

Edward Sullivan says

Great story about neighbors coming together to make a wall a community canvas. Lovely illustrations by John Parra.

Linda says

Susan Verde and John Parra have collaborated to create this wonderful book to celebrate street art and artists. A young boy strolls through his streets, often by this worn out wall, calling "Hey, Wall" telling how no one looks at it anymore, once 'full of style', but now 'cold, old, empty.' He speaks of the community, shown wonderfully by John Parra: alive and happy all through the seasons, inside cooking and eating and laughing with love and joy. He asks the wall: "Can you hear our music? We are salsa dancing. We are hip-hopping." And he has an idea, gathers everyone with stories and sketches, and they paint that wall, telling the story of the diverse and alive community. It's a call to action, and the letters from both Verde and Parra pay tribute to other cities they've known with vibrant art to see "outdoors"!

Margaret Boling says

12/1/2018 ~ A celebration of community - making our home more beautiful. I also loved the child activism here.

Tabatha Krieger says

The neighborhood is full of friends, music, food, dancing, memories, and joy. The ugly, crumbling, brick wall is gloom. But one boy has a plan to change all that. He dreams and draws and then, with the help of the whole neighborhood, transforms the wall into a magnificent piece of art; now a true reflection of their collective home.

I thought the message of coming together to make something beautiful in your community was inspiring.

happilyeverreading.com

Tasha says

This picture book tells the story of a large, blank wall and a boy who sees the possibilities in it. The wall is cold and empty, ignored. People walk past, skateboard by. In the winter, dirty snow is shoveled up against it.

Though flowers poke up through the sidewalk, they don't visit the wall. Then the boy decides to change things. He and his friends come together to create a plan for the wall that with a lot of creativity and hard work becomes a new mural that reflects all of the action in the community around it.

Verde uses the feeling of free verse and spoken word here. It works particularly well with the urban setting. In the story she shows the importance of art, both street art like community murals and art that comes from children and communities. In today's world, there can't be a picture book simply about a wall. This book shows that walls can be more than dividers, instead bringing a community together.

Parra's illustrations have a great organic quality to them, filled with textures. He shows an urban community full of diversity and gatherings together. There is a folk art aspect to his work that translates beautifully into the mural the children create.

A picture book about walls that bring us closer to one another and the power of art to create community. Appropriate for ages 4-6.

Rebecca says

A young boy talks about his diverse neighborhood's stories and closeness, then works with his friends & family to design a mural depicting it on a blank wall. Acrylic paint illustrations are by John Parra, and notes from both creators talk about the difference between street art and graffiti, and the power of community murals. I love the author's dedication: "To street artists everywhere: thank you for your creativity, bravery, activism, and ability to start a conversation."

This make me think of another book from this year, "Imagine!", by Raul Colon, and also "Make Something Beautiful." I made a new Goodreads shelf for street art/murals. What else could go on this shelf??

Ms. B says

Picture book about kids creating street art. I loved that the author's note at the end of the book explained the difference between street art and graffiti.

Christine Turner says

Storytime theme: Community, Change, Imagination, etc...

One creative boy.
One bare, abandoned wall.
One BIG idea.

A boy takes on a community art project in order to make his neighborhood more beautiful in this empowering and inspiring picture book by Susan Verde, stunningly illustrated by award-winning artist John

Parra.

There is a wall in Ángel's neighborhood. Around it, the community bustles with life: music, dancing, laughing. Not the wall. It is bleak. One boy decides to change that. But he can't do it alone. Told in elegant verse by Susan Verde and vibrantly illustrated by John Parra, this inspiring picture book celebrates the power of art to tell a story and bring a community together.
