



Leave Your Mark

“Oh no!” said Ruby. “Someone wrote ‘Casey was here’ in this library book!”

“That’s a shame,” said her mom. “Why would someone want to do that?”

“Well, just the other day, you showed me where you and Dad carved on a tree, and you said you thought the graffiti on the freight train looked cool.” Ruby said. “What’s the difference?”

“Hmm,” said Mom, “You have got me thinking. Sometimes I like to see people leave their mark on something and sometimes I don’t.”

“Me too,” Ruby agreed. “I am sort of confused about it.”

Leaving Your Mark

People have always wanted to leave messages on walls for other people to see. This kind of writing on walls without permission is called “graffiti.”

Someone scratched this funny picture of a politician on a wall in a town called Pompeii. Pompeii was near the volcano Mount Vesuvius in Italy. Pompeii was buried by a volcanic eruption in the year 79. That means this graffiti is over 1,940 years old!



Photo By Jebulon - Own work, CC <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=4576229>



Leave Your Mark

American soldiers during World War II used to make graffiti of "Kilroy." "KILROY WAS HERE" was so special to people that he is carved onto the WWII Memorial in Washington DC.

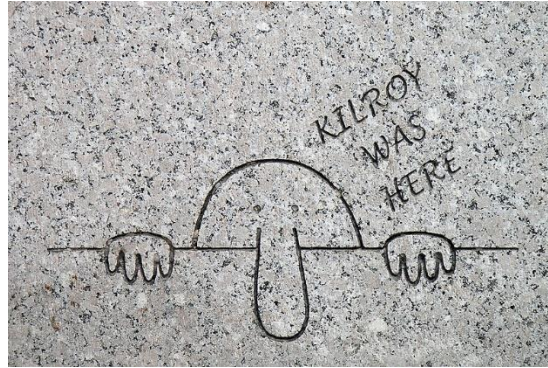


Image by MEUH1246

French artist CLET adds images to street signs to make art. Sometimes he gets in trouble for doing this because it is illegal.



Here is an example of street art by Banksy.






Leave Your Mark



Ruby and her mom talked a lot about graffiti. Here are some of the questions they discussed:

- Are we glad there is some graffiti, like from a long time ago?
- If everybody did graffiti, would it be a problem
- Why do people want to do it?
- **What is a good way to your leave your mark?** 

Ruby decided that she wanted to leave her mark sometimes, but in a way that would not be permanent. She also wanted to leave her mark for good causes, like Banksy did for the hospital. Here is what Ruby decided:

“If I do a nice surprise for someone, I will leave a note. I want to be mysterious, like Banksy.”

So, Ruby folded the clean laundry. Under a stack of shirts she left this note.



She thinks her mom can figure out that “MLF” means “Mysterious Laundry Folder.”

See if you can guess what these other notes stand for.

Ruby’s sister liked this game. She dressed all Ruby’s dolls in their best clothes and arranged them nicely on her pillow. She left this note.



Their mom bought Ruby and her sister new hair clips with butterflies on them.

She left this note.

