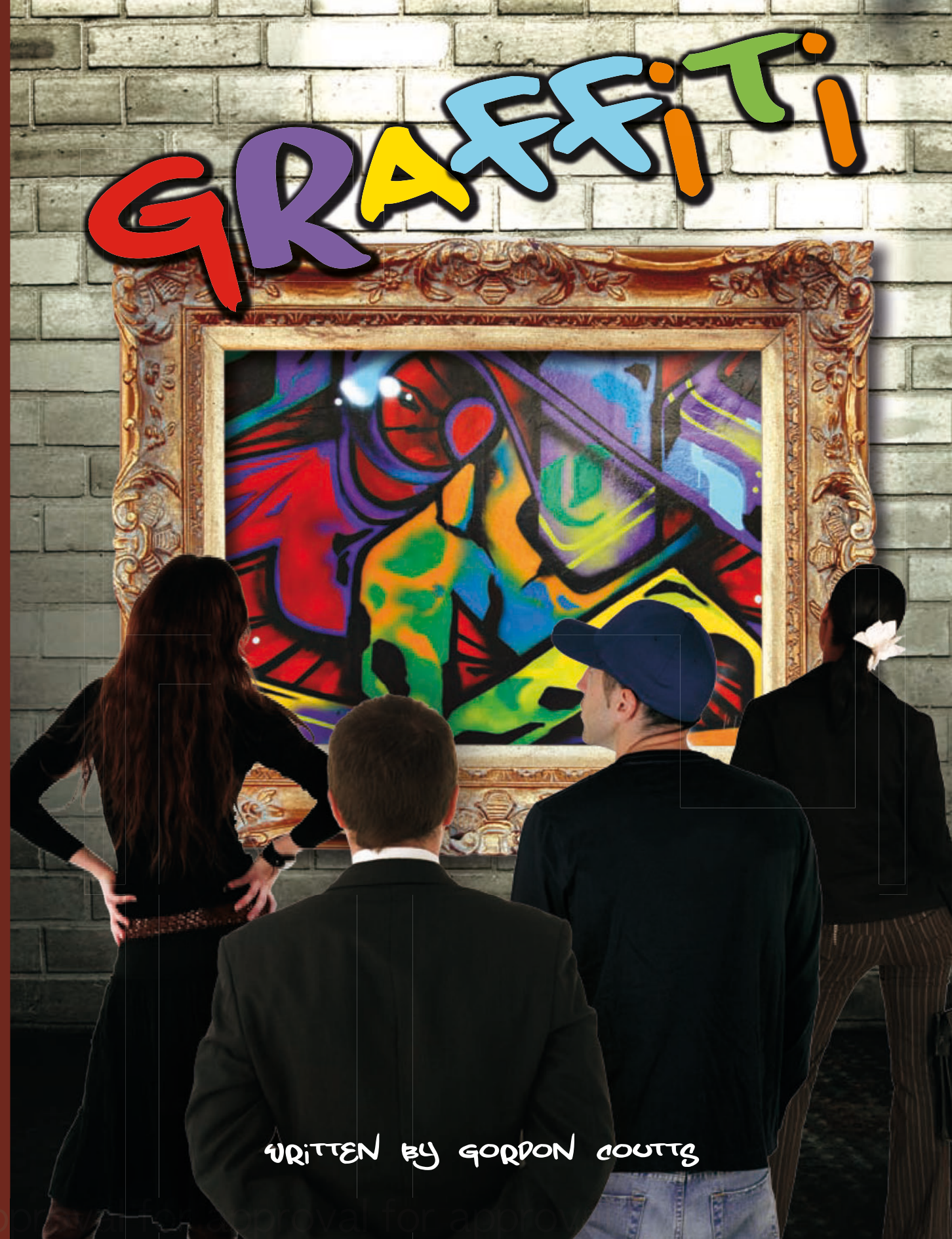


Springboard^{into} Comprehension 4

Main Idea	Religions Green All Around
Sequencing	Leading the Field in Green Camp Cavendish
Compare and Contrast	Crying Wolf Sun Tales
Fact and Opinion	This Ad's for You What Really Happened?
Cause and Effect	Water and Food Programs around the World Inventions and Discoveries That Changed the World
Bias and Prejudice	Graffiti Diamonds Forever

RA 9.5–10.5



WRITTEN BY GORDON COUTTS



GRAFFITI



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WRITTEN BY GORDON COUTTS

Introduction

Glencoe Heights is a town locked in battle. On one side are graffiti artists, who see every wall, bridge, fence, and building as a blank canvas for their work. On the other side are those who think graffiti artists needlessly damage other people's property, or are **vandals**. In some parts of town, you cannot go out for a walk without seeing someone's spray-painted name or nickname – their **tag**. Graffiti culture has become very popular amongst young people, some of whom see it as a form of art. However, many people hate the sight of the young people's work. They think these young people should not get away with trespassing or writing their tag on property that does not belong to them. There are many different views on this issue. Here are some of them.

Graffiti artists have spray-painted many walls in Glencoe Heights.



Glencoe Heights residents' views on graffiti are divided.



Post by Monkeyface

I do graffiti and so do all my mates. It's something we've been into for a couple of years. We take it seriously. It's not vandalism to us. We think we're actually making the town look a lot better. If we see a blank wall under a bridge or something, it's fair game. If it's just grey and dull, what's wrong with making it more colourful? What's wrong with doing a cool tag or a picture? It's not as if we're writing or drawing anything offensive. You should see my mate Dev's stuff. Some of it is amazing!



My friend Dev doing graffiti on a wall last weekend

I don't understand how anyone could have a problem with what we do. I think a lot of people have got us wrong. We're not delinquents trying to cause trouble. We just love graffiti. One of our teachers, Mrs Roth – she's cool – found out about our hobby and thought it was good, so she arranged for us to paint some shop fronts on McConaughey Street. The shopkeepers loved it! They thought the shops looked much better than they did before. It's good to see our stuff up there and know no one's going to moan about it, too. Some of my friends say they're going to stop spraying other people's property without their permission, or **consent**, but I'm not going to stop tagging wherever I like. It's too much fun. My parents don't know what I'm doing when I'm out at night, which is part of the fun. I think it's good to brighten up the place without all the hassle of having to check with people first. And a lot of the time, people say they really like our stuff.

Profile



Rating



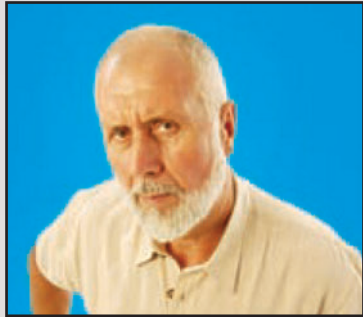
Name: Monkeyface

Occupation: Student

Age: 14

Posts: 4

THE DAILY NEWS



Column by Ron Rackham

Once again, the good people of Glencoe Heights woke up on a Sunday morning to find their town covered in paint scribbles. Once again, the hard-working people of this town will spend their weekend scrubbing so-called *tags* off their property.

And once again, the taggers will probably get away with it. Make no mistake – these taggers are vandals and criminals, and nothing more. They're an absolute blight on this town, and no one in their right mind could say they do the place any good!



The tags on this seat are an absolute eyesore!

So they call it art, do they? Art is what most people hang on their walls. Art is what normal people look at in galleries. Why *should* some spotty teenager get away with splashing paint all over the wall next to my local shops? Do any people have *art* like this hanging in their homes? I doubt it. If they do, they're clearly fools who know nothing about real art!

I'm not saying these taggers have no natural skill, or *talent*, but they're misusing what little talent they have. They should put their energy to good use instead. Maybe if they learned how to paint some proper wildlife or still life scenes they'd realize that what they do doesn't remotely resemble real art – not by any stretch of the imagination.



A still-life painting of a vase of flowers