Frida Kahlo

Frida Kahlo was a famous artist from Mexico. She is known for her striking self-portraits, or paintings she made of herself.

Frida was born in 1907 and grew up in Mexico. She had a difficult childhood. When she was six, she became ill with a disease called polio. This disease damaged her right leg and foot. After that, Frida wore long skirts to hide her legs. In fact, her paintings almost always show her wearing a long skirt.

When Frida was a teenager, she was in a serious bus accident. She had to stay in bed to recover from her injuries. She began painting from her bed to pass the time. Within a year, she had painted her first self-portrait. It is called *"Self-Portrait in a Velvet Dress."* This painting was the first of many self-portraits to come.

Frida's self-portraits are sometimes called "Surrealist". Surrealist artwork was realistic and fantastical or dream-like at the same time. This can be seen in some of Frida's paintings. In

one self-portrait, two Fridas are sitting next to each other. Both of their hearts can be seen through their bodies. In another painting, vines grow out of Frida's stomach.

But Frida did not think of her paintings as fantastical. She felt she was showing her own truth. Her paintings often showed the things that were troubling her. Some showed the things that were important to her. In some of them, she is surrounded by birds or animals. In others, she is wearing traditional Mexican clothing, showing her connection to her country.

Over the course of her life, Frida painted fifty-five self-portraits! She is remembered as a talented artist and an important figure.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1. Frida Kahlo was a famous artist from Mexico. What kind of artwork is she known for?

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2. Frida Kahlo had a difficult childhood. What information from the text supports this statement?

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3. Describe Frida Kahlo's self-portraits using at least three pieces of information from the text.

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4. Explain why Frida Kahlo did not think of her paintings as fantastical. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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5. What is the main idea of this text?

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