

A Thousand Words

Listen and decide which mural each speaker is talking about.

Speaker 1

The first thing I notice is this hand in the top corner - I think it's helping the girl somehow. And what's this animal? It looks like a dog with three heads - like a creature from an ancient myth. Is the dog attacking the girl or ...protecting her? I can't tell. Someone is trying to help her - they're holding her hand. But there's also a hand holding her foot, trying to keep her trapped maybe? The colours are very intense and powerful. To me, they represent danger - very close danger...like fire, flames. But I like how the colour changes - this yellow in the top right corner is more positive - like a feeling of light. Maybe it means the girl will escape and her future will be fine.

Speaker 2

Her eyes are so powerful. I wonder what she is thinking - I get the feeling she doesn't trust us. It's like she is waiting to see what we will say or do. I like the way the words and her hair cover the whole building. And, to me these birds symbolize freedom - and the blue of building is like the blue of the sky. I think it's a message of hope, yes - hope. It's a powerful message to survivors. I wonder what traffickers or clients think when they see this mural. How do they feel? What if it was their daughter, or their sister or their wife? Do they even care? Maybe not.

Speaker 3

I love this mural for two reasons. First of all - it's in a public place so everyone can see it. Human trafficking is an invisible crime. It's hidden behind closed doors, so maybe people will start talking about trafficking when they see this art. Secondly, the artist has created a message of hope and of freedom. A lot of art about human trafficking shows violent images like chains, and tape over people's mouths and beaten up victims. But this woman, who was a survivor herself, well look at her, she's flying, she's smiling - like she's happy and free. But I wonder who's holding her foot? Maybe that represents a memory - a memory of when the traffickers controlled her life in the past.

Speaker 4

Well, this huge hand in the top right corner is the first thing I saw - then I started to notice all the little details. I mean - look at those small lines on the left - they're like those lines that prisoners make on the walls of a prison - like counting the days or months - or maybe years. Oh! I've only just noticed these skulls. I guess they represent people who have died in slavery. A really powerful image, but so sad. There's definitely a feeling of violence too - see that shape of a man - like a shadow - with a stick. The colours are interesting. To me - they are sad, unhappy colours - like dirt or mud - nothing cheerful and bright. I don't think this art has a message of hope. I guess the artist wants us to stop and to think about the millions of people - especially kids, in slavery. I mean we are always concerned about our own life and our own problems - it's easy to forget that millions of people are really suffering like this.