

Name: _____ Date Due: _____

8th Grade Language Arts



Assignment	Points Earned
Article Analysis – “This was my form of language...”	
Article Annotation & Quiz	
BookBlog #19 – Character Interview	
Grammar #09 – Nouns: Compounds, Plurals, & ...	
No GL This Week	fyi
No Journals This Week	fyi
BookBlog #18 due 4/22	fyi

Total=>

"This was my form of language": The artist who draws cities from memory

By Rhiannon Lucy Cosslett, The Guardian on 03.22.18

Word Count **1,287**

Level **MAX**



Image 1. Stephen Wiltshire is a world-famous artist from London, England. Since 2005, he has drawn large-scale cityscapes of Tokyo, Japan; Rome, Italy; Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Shanghai, China; and New York City, United States, purely from memory. Image courtesy of The Stephen Wiltshire Gallery

Stephen Wiltshire's meticulously detailed panoramas are so intricate that you would be forgiven for thinking that he spent weeks closely studying the architecture of our cities. His work becomes all the more impressive when you discover that Wiltshire gazes at an urban vista just once to memorize it.

Sometimes, he takes a whistle-stop tour of a city's skyline by helicopter, only to produce a finished impression in a matter of days. A 2001 BBC documentary showed him completing a complex but perfectly scaled aerial illustration of London - with 12 historic landmarks and 200 other buildings - in three hours.

He works rapidly, with headphones in, his pencil skimming the surface of the canvas (some of the larger panoramic canvases are curved and span 13 feet), and using the finger of his other hand for perspective. He then goes over the sketches in pen, filling in the details of the buildings, and a city emerges before your eyes.

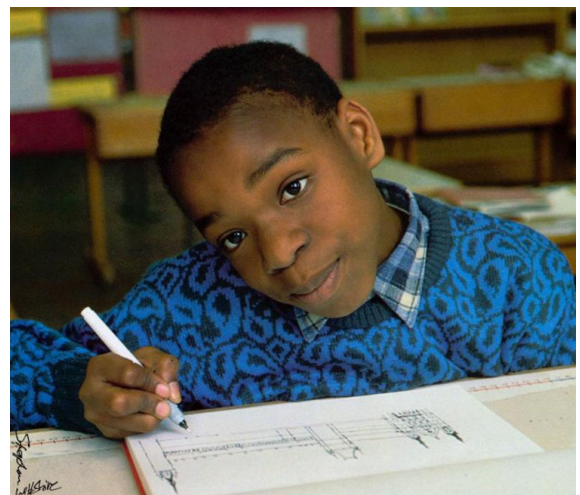
His sister Annette Wiltshire has described watching him work as like watching fine embroidery - each dart of the pen is a stitch in the intricate tapestry. His drawings - which also show New York, Paris, Moscow, Venice, Edinburgh and Amsterdam - sell for thousands of pounds to clients all over the world.



It feels a shame to mention that Wiltshire has an autism diagnosis, because he deserves to be seen as an artist in his own right, regardless of his condition. Indeed, the gallery he works with in central London are keen to stress that his autism is not the most notable thing about him, saying, "we wish to highlight his creative talent and focus on purely artistic context only," - though it is mentioned in the press documents about his work.

"Stephen has no understanding of autism," adds Annette. "However, he does understand that he is an artist, an artist in his own right and [should] not be labeled with this title. It's important to concentrate on his talent and how he has overcome his hurdles."

And while early media appearances - like this one on BBC's QED series in 1986 - focused on his autism, over the years the decision was made by his family to align Wiltshire's profile with his own self-perception. "Stephen chose to profile himself this way because he sees himself as an artist," says Annette. Which he is: he has a Ph.D. in drawing and printmaking from the City & Guilds of London Art School, and in 2006 he was awarded an MBE for services to art.



But Wiltshire's autism is of note, if only to highlight his precocious development as a highly talented artist. "I started drawing at the age of 3, as communication was not an option for me at the time until the age of 5, so this was my form of language," he says through Annette, who interviewed him on my behalf.

His first words were paper and pencil. At primary school, his teachers used his interest in drawing as a way of encouraging him to communicate; one in particular took him out on drawing excursions and entered his work in competitions. He flourished.

"I first started having an interest in cities and buildings when I was around 7 or 8 years old," he says. "I always liked high-rise buildings, the many windows and lots of details. I particularly like how it can change the skyline when new developments are added over the years." Once, he says, he watched a hospital "get bulldozed down ... intrigued to know what would be built afterwards".

The artist sold his first picture for £1,500 (\$2,100) at the age of 7, and has since been in high demand. A career highlight remains his first visit to New York when he was 13, a city he loves and often visits. "It's such a great city, so many skyscrapers, it's intense and busy, a lot of things happening in one go, full of buzz and excitement."

It was there where he met the late author and neurologist Oliver Sacks. The two became lifelong friends, and Sacks wrote extensively about him. "His limitations, paradoxically, can serve as strengths, too," Sacks wrote in the *New Yorker* in 1995. "His vision is valuable, it seems to me, precisely because it conveys a wonderfully direct, unconceptualized view of the world."



Personally, I disagree: I see interpretation throughout his work. Despite the detail there is often a sketchy, figurative quality to his images that verges on cartoon-like. The artist he most admires is Richard Estes, but his own style is nowhere near as photorealistic; Wiltshire's personality is present in his drawings.

The best cityscape artists capture something of the place that is not necessarily tangible: Yvonne Jacquette lends New York a twilight glamour, while Frans Koppelaar renders an Amsterdam of muted, mousy gloom. LS Lowry's industrial

Manchester is a playful stage for the matchstick people in the foreground. Wiltshire, for his part, works frequently in monochrome, stripping the architecture back to its bare bones while retaining a sense of the city's character.

Of New York - his "spiritual home" - he says: "I love the chaos and the order of the city at the same time, the rush hour traffic v the square avenues." But he also draws the classic and intricate architecture of Venice and Cologne. The most challenging city to draw, he says, was Amsterdam, because of the many details he had to remember in such a short space of time (as well as the names of the buildings, which were difficult to retain).

In 2005, he was commissioned by a range of companies and private collectors to undertake vast panoramic drawings of 10 world cities starting with a 10 meter-long drawing of the Tokyo skyline, then Hong Kong, Rome, Frankfurt, Madrid, Dubai, Jerusalem, London and New York. He is keen to visit Montreal, Canada, which he is yet to draw.



The best thing about his success, Wiltshire says, is all the people he gets to meet. Wherever he works, people stop agape to watch him draw. In Singapore, he had 150,000 visitors to his gallery and live performance space in just five days.

"It makes me feel good and happy because it makes people smile, when they smile I smile. I also like going up in the helicopter and seeing the cityscape from a bird's eye view."

"Most autists are not artists," Sacks wrote, "as most artists are not autists." The fascination with "savants" adds little to our interpretation of Wiltshire's work, except perhaps a hint at the unique cognitive processes at play. Similarities can be seen with Gilles Trehin, the French architectural artist who also happens to be autistic, though his cities are wholly imaginary. But the value is not in the biography of the artist, but in the art itself.

"Stephen may be ... autistic," Sacks wrote, "but it is given him to achieve what few of us do, a significant representation and investigation of the world."

Quiz

- 1 Read the list of phrases from the first four paragraphs of the article.

meticulously detailed

perfectly scaled

fine embroidery

intricate tapestry

How do these phrases contribute to the tone of the article?

- (A) They convey a sense of difficulty and strain going into Wiltshire's work.
 - (B) They convey a sense of familiarity and boredom with Wiltshire's work.
 - (C) They convey a sense of awe and admiration for Wiltshire's skills.
 - (D) They convey a sense of surprise and disbelief about Wiltshire's skills.
- 2 Read the sentence from the article.

But Wiltshire's autism is of note, if only to highlight his precocious development as a highly talented artist.

Which sentence from the article helps explain what the word "precocious" means?

- (A) Once, he says, he watched a hospital "get bulldozed down ... intrigued to know what would be built afterwards."
- (B) The artist sold his first picture for £1,500 (\$2,100) at the age of 7, and has since been in high demand.
- (C) "It's such a great city, so many skyscrapers, it's intense and busy, a lot of things happening in one go, full of buzz and excitement."
- (D) "His vision is valuable, it seems to me, precisely because it conveys a wonderfully direct, unconceptualized view of the world."

- 3 Which option provides an accurate and objective summary of the article?
- (A) Stephen Wiltshire is an artist who is hired by many cities to create panoramas after flying above them in a helicopter. He worked hard to become an artist before earning his degree in drawing and printmaking. However, it was only after he was interviewed on television that people began to pay attention to his work.
 - (B) Stephen Wiltshire is an artist who was diagnosed as autistic at an early age and used art to overcome his challenges. He should be admired for taking something so difficult and using it to create beautiful works of art. The sketchy, figurative quality of his images gives them a feeling of personal interpretation.
 - (C) Stephen Wiltshire is an artist who draws panoramas of cities around the world. He cites New York City as his favorite place to visit and to draw, but his best and most popular drawings are of London and Mexico City. His monochrome images rank him among the best cityscape artists in the world.
 - (D) Stephen Wiltshire is an artist who draws detailed cityscapes from memory. His talent developed early, in part as a way for him to communicate without words. Though he is autistic, he prefers to be known simply as an artist, and his work has become very popular with the public.

- 4 Read the selection from the end of the article.

But the value is not in the biography of the artist, but in the art itself.

“Stephen may be ... autistic,” Sacks wrote, “but it is given him to achieve what few of us do, a significant representation and investigation of the world.”

How does this selection support the central idea of the article?

- (A) It reiterates the view that the focus of the public should be on Wiltshire's unique talent rather than his autism diagnosis.
- (B) It refines the perspective that too much focus was given to Wiltshire's autism diagnosis early in his public career.
- (C) It develops the understanding that Wiltshire's talent emerged out of his need to communicate when he could not use words.
- (D) It demonstrates the fact that Wiltshire continues to have many people who admire and want to buy his cityscapes.

Name: _____

Book Title: _____

Book #19 – Character Interview

Interview a character from your book. Write at least ten questions that will give the character the opportunity to discuss his/her thoughts and feelings about his/her role in the story. Answer the questions from the character's point of view.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Lesson 9**Nouns: Compounds, Plurals, and Possessives**

Compound nouns are nouns that are made up of two or more words. Compound nouns can be one word, like the word *football*, or more than one word, like *rocking chair*. Other compound nouns have two or more words that are joined by hyphens, such as *hand-me-down*.

To form the plural of most compound nouns written as one word, add *-s* or *-es*. To form the plural of compound nouns that are hyphenated or written as more than one word, make the most important part of the noun plural.

ONE WORD

snowmobile**s**, baseball**s**, grandfather**s**

HYPHENATED

fathers**s**-in-law baby-sitters**s** runners**s**-up

MORE THAN ONE WORD

home runs music boxes quarter horses surgeons general

A **possessive noun** names who or what has something. Possessive nouns can be common or proper nouns, singular or plural, compound or not. To form the possessive of all singular nouns and of plural nouns not ending in *-s*, add an apostrophe and *-s*. To form the possessive of plural nouns already ending in *-s*, add only an apostrophe.

boy**'s** boss**'s** Luis**'s** women**'s** puppies**'**

► **Exercise 1** Write in the blank the plural form of each compound noun.

jelly bean **jelly beans** _____

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. fund-raiser _____ | 8. motor home _____ |
| 2. attorney-at-law _____ | 9. sergeant at arms _____ |
| 3. sister-in-law _____ | 10. beehive _____ |
| 4. nutcracker _____ | 11. color guard _____ |
| 5. stomachache _____ | 12. steam iron _____ |
| 6. funny bone _____ | 13. farmhand _____ |
| 7. sweatshirt _____ | 14. workshop _____ |

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

15. stepfather _____ 18. minute hand _____

16. mailbox _____ 19. drawstring _____

17. bill of health _____ 20. field trip _____

► **Exercise 2** Complete each sentence by writing the correct possessive form of the noun in parentheses.

_____ **Marietta's** hands felt cold and clammy. (Marietta)

1. The young sailor sounded the _____ horn. (ship)
2. The _____ performance during the big game was not good enough to win. (players)
3. _____ test scores improved dramatically. (Dennis)
4. The _____ teeth were sharp as razors. (bobcat)
5. The _____ vacation was relaxing and fun. (Ramoses)
6. I can do a lot of my homework on my _____ computer. (parents)
7. The _____ loud and persistent chirping caused Cole to wake up. (birds)
8. The teacher enjoyed the sound of the _____ laughter. (children)
9. During autumn, the _____ colors change. (leaves)
10. The _____ weight is more than one ton. (Liberty Bell)
11. The _____ movement began to gain momentum. (women)
12. After the touchdown, the _____ cheering was deafening. (fans)
13. The hook caught in the _____ mouth. (fish)
14. In the sunlight, the _____ leaves grew wildly. (plant)
15. The _____ soup was piping hot and delicious. (cook)
16. _____ largest city is Chicago. (Illinois)
17. The _____ route never changed. (bus)
18. _____ reign was one of the longest in Great Britain's history. (Queen Victoria)