

Presentation of Our Project — 5e SIB

We are the students of 5e SIB at Collège Georges Braque, and this year we created a collective artwork called *The River Speaks* for the *River of Hope* festival. This international festival links schools across the world through art and poetry, using rivers as a symbol of life, fragility, and hope for the future. As part of the project, we also exchanged with a partner class in Norwich, sharing ideas and inspiration.

Our journey began with a walk along the Robec River in Rouen. We observed the light on the water, listened to birdsong, and felt how nature could inspire us. At the Musée des Beaux-Arts, we discovered paintings of rivers and reflections by artists like Monet, Dufy, and Signac, which enriched our imagination. We also watched the animated film *The Red Turtle*, where silence and nature spoke louder than words.

We had the chance to meet watercolor artist Elvine Comelet, who told us the fascinating history of the colour blue in art and taught us environmentally friendly painting techniques. This experience encouraged us to look at colours differently and to create with respect for nature.

Throughout this project, we explored many themes across different subjects: in history and geography, we learned how rivers shape human life and cities; in environmental studies, we reflected on water as a fragile and precious resource; in literature and poetry, we gave the river a voice; and in cinema, we discovered how images and silence can tell a story.

Inspired by all these perspectives, each of us wrote a poem in English and painted a watercolor. We chose watercolor because it flows like a river and captures light like a dream. Some poems were written with our senses, others from memory, and some as if we were the river itself.

We then brought our works together. Our poems were written by hand on transparent coloured sheets, and placed over one another's paintings so that every image found the voice of another. Finally, we assembled our pieces into one shared artwork—fifteen voices becoming one.

Through words, colours, and images, our river speaks of beauty, fragility, and hope.