Reader Response

1. Why do you think the author wrote this book?

2. What did you know about cities before you read this book? What did you learn about cities from this book? Make a chart to show what you knew and what you learned.

3. Find the word commerce in the book. What clue in the book helps you understand what commerce means?

4. Look at the headings in dark print in the book. How can they help you understand what the book is about?
Introduction

Cities are places where a large number of people live, work, and play. Some cities are very big. Some are small. What do you know about the city you live in? Let’s take a walk around my city!
Many People Live in Cities

Imagine millions of people living in one city. I live in New York City. More than 8 million people live there. Take a walk around my city and you will see all kinds of places where people live.

Some people live in buildings so tall they are called skyscrapers. Some live in smaller apartment buildings with long flights of stairs between floors.

You might see neighbors sitting on their front stoops, or porches, talking about the news of the day. On hot days, they might share a pitcher of lemonade.

People in cities live in many different kinds of buildings.
Some people ride the train to their jobs in the city.

**People Work in Cities**

Millions of people work in cities. They might travel to their jobs by car, train, bus, or they might walk.

People in the city work in many different jobs. Some work as city employees. Police officers, firefighters, the mayor, and city-council members are all city employees. They help to keep the city working.

Take a walk around your city. You will see people working in bakeries and in all kinds of stores. In a school there are teachers and librarians. In a hospital there are nurses and doctors. People work at all kinds of jobs in the city.
People Buy and Sell Things in Cities

Cities are centers of commerce, or business. Businesses in a city buy and sell goods and services. Some businesses sell clothes, books, or food. Look around you. Cardboard boxes filled with goods move in and out of buildings. Let’s hope they don’t get ruined in the rain.

Restaurants are a very popular business. Many people enjoy a feast with family and friends in a restaurant. Still other businesses offer services like printing, car repair, or banking. In cities, most businesses involve buying and selling.
People enjoy many different kinds of activities in public spaces.

**People Have Fun in Cities**

All cities offer things for people to do for fun. Usually, near the center of a city, you can find museums, zoos, and parks.

Museums display art and all kinds of treasures from around the world. At the parks, people swim, play ball, go horseback riding, or picnic in the sun. On special days in the city you might see people celebrating at a street fair.
A city must be strong. A city must be tough. At times, a city may seem fierce. Yet cities hold many treasures: homes, parks, museums, schools, and stores. But the city’s most valuable treasure is its people.

Some museums show how people and animals lived long ago.

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