From a Small Town to a Big City

by Brooke Walls
Illustrated by Dan Grant
Question of the Week
How does city life compare to life in the country?

Key Comprehension Skill
Author's Purpose

Concept Words
few    taxi

Learning Goals
• City life and country life are very different.
• Cities are noisy.
• Schools are small in the country.
Josh and his family are moving. They have put all their things in cardboard boxes. They have put their boxes in a van. Until today, Josh and his family lived in a small town. Today, they are moving to a big city. Small towns and big cities can be different. Life will be different for Josh and his family.

In the small town where Josh lived, his family lived in a house. The house was on a quiet street. The house had a big yard. There were lots of trees. Josh and his sister played in the yard. Josh’s mom planted a flower garden in the yard.
The town had three schools. There was one elementary school, one middle school, and one high school. All the elementary school children in the town went to the same elementary school. All the middle school students went to the same middle school. All the high school students went to the same high school.

There were few stores in the town where Josh lived. His family used a car to go to the store, or to most of the other places they visited.

The town had one park. The town also had one police station, one fire station, and one library.

few: not many
Now Josh’s family lives in the big city. They live in an apartment building. Many other families live in the same building.

Josh had to make new friends when he moved to the city. There is no yard behind Josh’s apartment building. People sit on their front stoops to meet and talk. When Josh and his friends want to play outside, they go to a park.

Josh and his family were surprised by how noisy the city is. The neighborhood in their small town was very quiet. In the city, the streets are noisy and busy. You can hear cars honking all day long: Honk! Honk! Honk! Honk! Honk!
The city Josh moved to has many schools. Josh’s parents picked a school for Josh near their apartment. It is much bigger than Josh’s old school. Josh’s mom says that he is lucky. There are more students to make friends with!

Josh’s family sold their car. They don’t need a car in the city. There are many stores near their apartment. They can walk where they need to go. Sometimes they take a city bus or a taxi.

taxi: a car that people pay to ride in
Sometimes Josh goes shopping with his mother. He helps her carry the bags. There are so many stores in the city. Josh’s mom likes all the different stores. There were not so many stores in Josh’s old town.

Josh likes to visit the parks and museums in the city. He likes to see the animals in the zoo, especially the lions! There wasn’t a zoo in his old town.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Josh’s Small Town and Josh’s Big City</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>home</strong></td>
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<td><strong>school</strong></td>
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<td><strong>stores</strong></td>
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<td><strong>museums, parks, zoos</strong></td>
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Josh likes living in the city now. He sees more people every day. He visits more places. He hears more noise! But some things are the same. Josh is with his family. And he still has to help clean up after dinner!

**Talk About It**
1. Do you think the writer of this book would like to live in a city? Explain your answer.
2. Write about where you live. Compare it to the places Josh lived. How is it the same or different?

**Write About It**
3. On a separate sheet of paper, write about a surprise that you would like to give to someone.

**Extend Language**
There are many buildings mentioned in the story. For example, a school is a building. What other buildings does the book tell about?