

The Big City

by John Berry



Sam looked out the window. Texas was fading away. His dad was reading a paper. His mom was reading a book.

Sam's family was moving to New York City. Sam was sad. He missed Texas already.

READ & RESPOND

Theme

How does Sam feel about moving to New York City?



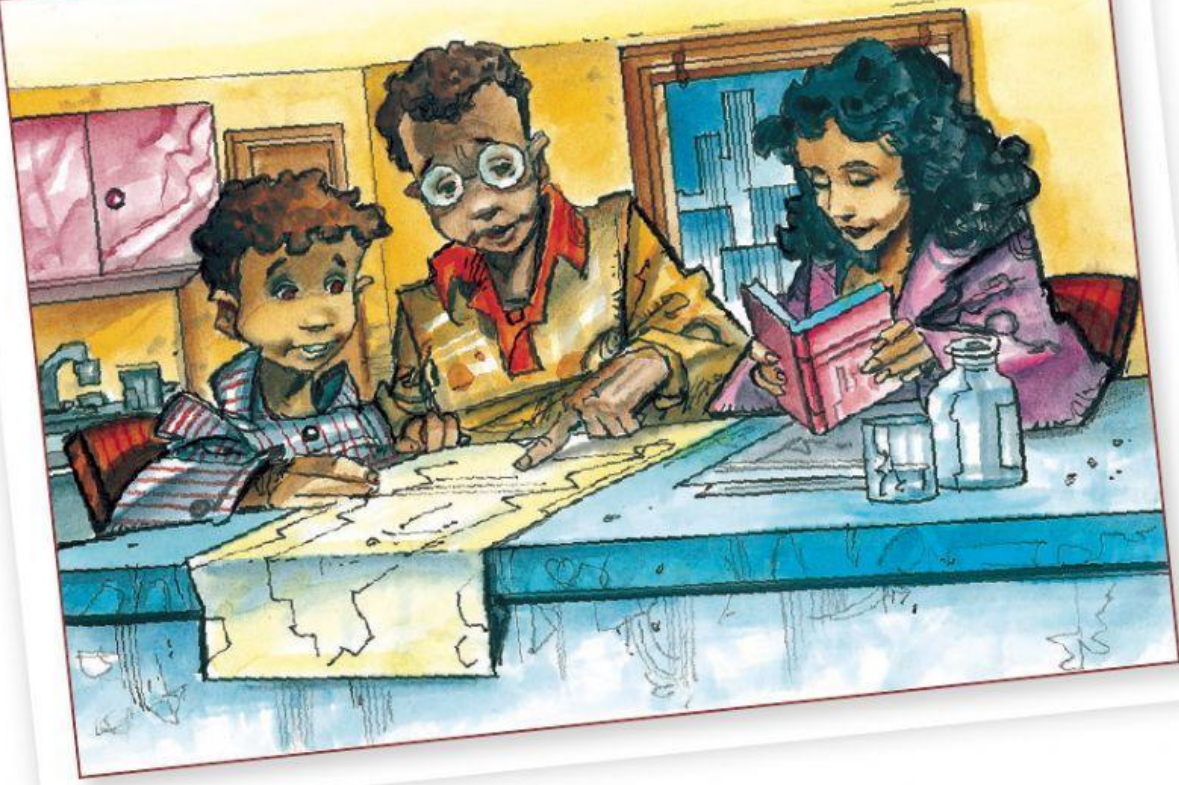
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At last the plane landed. New York City looked very tall. Sam stared. He did not know this city. He did not have friends here. He might have trouble feeling at home.

READ & RESPOND

Theme

Why does Sam think he might have trouble “feeling at home”?



They went to their new home. Sam couldn't sleep that night. He heard horns. He heard sirens. His mom and dad were awake, too.

"What shall we do tomorrow?" said his mom. "Let's plan."

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READ & RESPOND

Retell

Why can't Sam and his family sleep?



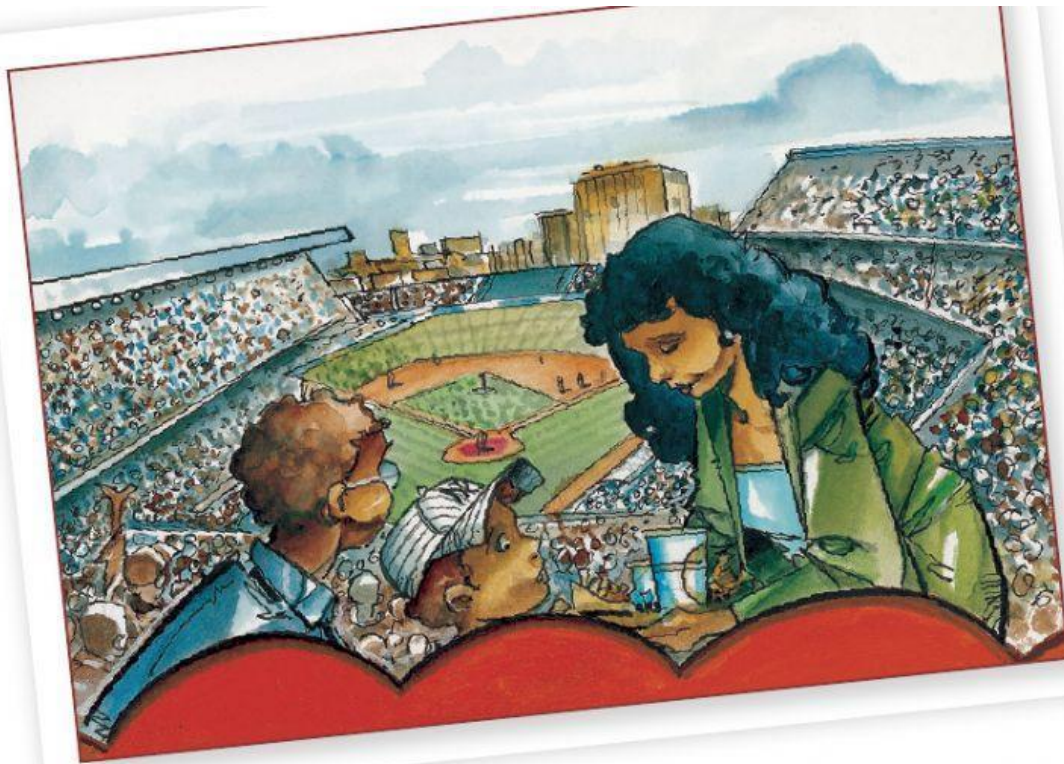
The next day, they got on the subway. Sam's dad wanted to go to a hardware store. They failed to get there. They were on the wrong subway. "Next stop, Yankee Stadium," said a voice.

"The baseball stadium?" said Sam.
"Wow!"

READ & RESPOND

Theme

Is Sam excited about the baseball stadium? How do you know?



Sam's mom and dad looked at him. They looked at each other. They smiled.

"Shall we go to the game?" asked his mom.

"Yes!" said Sam.

His dad agreed. They bought tickets. It was a great game. It was a great day.

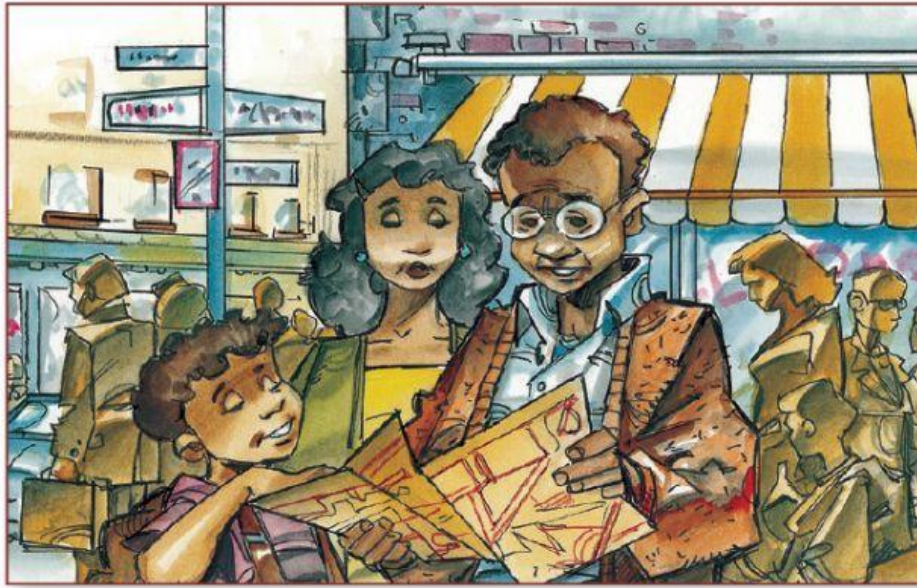


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READ & RESPOND

Theme

How do you think Sam feels about New York City now?



They took a subway the next day, too. Sam's mom wanted to shop for curtains. They got on the wrong subway again.

They looked at the map. A polite man helped. "Are you new here?" he said. "You're near a good museum. You should go there."

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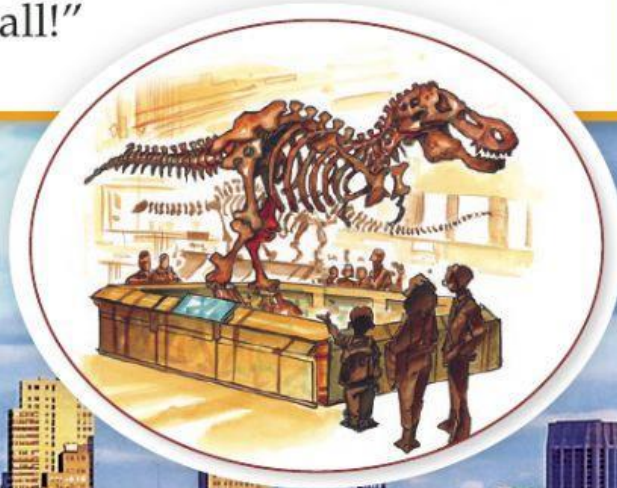
READ & RESPOND

Retell

What has happened in the story so far?

Sam and his family found the museum.
They saw a blue whale. They saw rocks and
gems. They saw bugs and snakes.

They walked into a big room. Sam stared.
Dinosaurs! "Wow," said Sam. "New York
isn't so bad after all!"

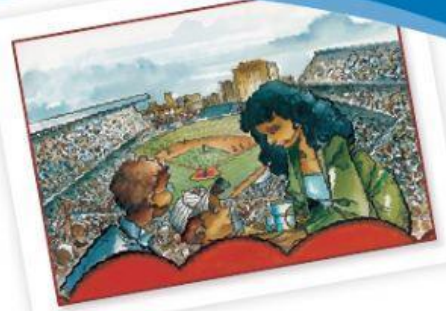


READ & RESPOND

Theme

What did Sam learn by the end of the story? Does that help you understand the theme of the story?

Reread and Respond



Retell the story in your own words.

Hint

For help, reread the story.

How does Sam's opinion of New York change?

Hint

For clues, see pages 67, 70, and 72.

Is "The Big City" a good title for the story? Explain.

Hint

There are clues on almost every page!