



Read-Aloud Through Piho's Eyes

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Piho lived all her life on the sea ice of Greenland. She had never known anything except its icebergs and glaciers.

Her best friend was a tern named Taka. Every year, Taka would come and visit, but soon would be off again.

Piho never understood why. "Wouldn't it be better to stay at home like I do?" Piho asked him one day.

Taka scratched his beak. "You should travel yourself," he suggested. "Then you'd understand."

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So one day, Piho took Taka's advice and built herself a hot air balloon. She made a plan to see the world outside her Northern home. Taka was overjoyed when he heard. As a gift, he gave Piho a map of his favorite places.

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Following Taka's map, Piho set sail across the ocean. She came to a great stretch of green below her. According to Taka's map, this was the continent of Africa.

She saw rolling hills and golden beaches. She'd traveled so far. Beneath her was a river, where people were spreading colorful fabrics along its banks.

"What are those?" Piho asked a passing duck.

"These are African wax prints. They're very popular here in Togo," the duck answered.

Ask: "What do you notice? What do you wonder?"

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Piho looked closer at the prints. The shapes and patterns were so detailed and pretty. She didn't know such beautiful things existed in the world.

Was this why Taka liked traveling so much? To see these beautiful things?

What other sights awaited her, Piho wondered.

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Piho continued on, crossing the ocean yet again. Soon, she passed over mountains, forests, and deserts. This, she realized, was the continent of South America.

Off in the distance, she saw an impressive wall of jagged stones. What a sight, she thought.

Just then a condor flew by. "Excuse me," Piho called. "Can you tell me what those are?"

The condor gave a laugh. "These are the famous Chankillo towers of Peru."

Ask: "What do you notice? What do you wonder?"

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"What are they for?" Piho asked.

"They were built centuries ago by ancient astronomers. People say they used it as a calendar, to track the way the sun moves across the sky."

Piho listened, fascinated. She had no idea people could be this inventive. Was this why Taka traveled? To see impressive things and learn about the people who built them?

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Piho continued on, following Taka's map. Along the way, she stopped at many places.

In Antarctica, she saw Scott's Hut, where British explorers made camp during their dangerous journey to the South Pole.

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In Asia, Piho explored the beautiful and calming grounds of the Angkor Wat temple in Cambodia.

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Over Europe, she saw the dazzling tulip fields of the Netherlands.

🗨️ **Ask:** "What do you notice? What do you wonder?"

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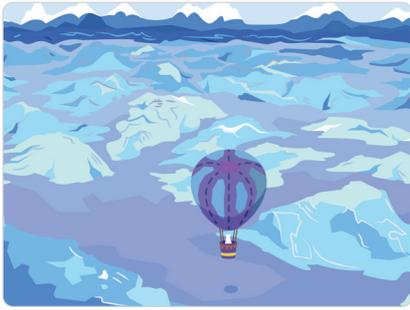


At every stop, she felt closer and closer to understanding what Taka experienced when he traveled himself.

The world, Piho realized, was full of wondrous things. There was art and history. There were breath-taking monuments and ingenious inventions. There were people to meet and experiences to share.

She wouldn't have seen any of these things if she simply stayed at home.

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When it was time to return home, Piho was both sad and relieved. She raised the balloon and made her way back North.

The sea ice appeared in the distance. Suddenly, a strange feeling filled her heart. She had never noticed how magnificent the glaciers could be, or how interesting their shapes.

Maybe this, too, was why Taka traveled, Piho thought. To be able to return home.

 **Ask:** "What do you notice? What do you wonder?"