



# Read-Aloud The View From up Here

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I love being a photographer. I travel all over the country and take pictures of a lot of breathtaking sights. But my favorite part of the job are the different people I get to meet.

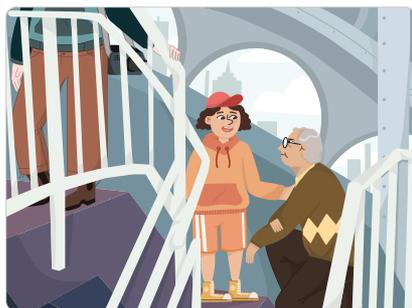
 **Ask:** “What do you notice? What do you wonder?”

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Once I was in New York City to take pictures of the world-famous Statue of Liberty. When I was there, I saw a little boy and his grandfather climbing up the stairs. They were trying to get to the crown to look out at the harbor. But it was a hard climb — even for me.

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The further up we went, the boy got more and more tired. I thought they would turn back. There were still so many more steps until the top. But the grandfather took the boy’s hand. “Come on,” he said. “Let’s try walking up together,” he said.

 **Ask:** “What do you notice? What do you wonder?”

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It was a small thing but it got me thinking about my mom. When I was starting out as a photographer, I didn't know if I would be successful. But she was always there encouraging me.

When I got to the top, I saw the boy and his grandfather again. I was glad to see they made it.

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Then there was my trip to Niagara Falls. The Falls were amazing, but the part I remember most was meeting Nicole.

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I was hiking down a trail to Niagara Gorge when I came across a woman in a bright yellow vest. She was searching around the bushes for her walkie-talkie. Somehow she'd lost it.

I decided to help her look. As we were walking, we got to talking. Her job, I learned, was to help repair and maintain the hiking paths in the park—the very paths we were walking on!

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“I love it here,” Nicole said, standing by the gorge. “You can really appreciate the beauty and power of nature. That’s why I want everyone to be able to enjoy it for years to come.”

The way Nicole talked about her job made me think a lot about my own work. Taking photos of these beautiful landmarks was a way for me to share the sights of the world with other people.

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I’ve been really lucky! I’ve traveled to so many places, seen so many sights: the Gateway Arch, the Washington Monument, Hoover Dam, the Golden Gate Bridge... But in spite of all the cool things I’ve seen and people I’ve met, I still get homesick sometimes.

 **Ask:** “What do you notice? What do you wonder?”

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There’s only one city I call home. That’s Seattle, in Washington State.

One of the first things I do every time I’m there is visit the Space Needle. The observation deck up there is one of my all-time favorite places.

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I went there a lot with my mom when I was little. As a kid, the view from up there was amazing. I could see everything: the city, the mountains, the bay and the rivers... It felt like the whole world was waiting for me.

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Now that I'm older, I see things a little differently. The more photos I take, the more I realize it's not about what's in the pictures. It's about the people I get to share them with.

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I've been up at the observation deck more times than I can count. And though I've traveled hundreds of thousands of miles, it still feels like the whole world is still waiting for me.