



Read-Aloud Ying's New Town

2



Ying and Zora are best friends. They did everything together. Their favorite thing was to explore the city and see the sights.

3



They would go to the aquarium and pretend to be deep sea explorers, counting all the sea creatures they saw.

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

4



Or they would visit different bookstores and pick out stories to read to each other.

5



Even riding on the subway was its own adventure.

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

6



One day, Ying's family moved away. The only way Ying and Zora could spend time together was online.

"Hi, Ying!" Zora said through the screen. "I made something for you!"

7



Zora held up a big posterboard.

"It's stuff from the places we used to hang out together," Zora said. Ying looked closely. There were ticket stubs from their favorite museums; bookmarks from their favorite bookstore; flower petals from their favorite park; even old subway passes were scattered all over the board.

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

8



“That’s really cool,” Ying said glumly. Right away Zora could tell something was wrong.

“What’s the matter, Ying?” she asked.

“I miss my old life. There’s nothing to do here!” Ying said. “There’s no aquarium. There’re no bookstores. There’s not even a subway. I can’t do any of the cool things we used to do.”

Zora thought for a moment.

“Maybe you just need to get to know your town better,” Zora said. “Tell me what you did today.”

9



“Nothing! Nothing interesting anyway. Dad dragged me to an antique store this morning.”

“An antique store? What’s that?” Zora asked.

“It’s where old people buy old things nobody wants. Like stuffy furniture and weird bracelets and dirty old coins. Dad went to buy some rocks.”

10



Ying brought her tablet to her father’s rock collection so Zora could see. Zora was amazed. Instead of some boring, old pebbles, there were colorful stones of all different patterns and sizes.

“Ooooh,” Zora whispered. “Look at all the crystalline ones.”

“They’re my dad’s favorites. That’s why there are so many more of those than the others,” Ying said.

“They’re beautiful!” Zora said.

Ying looked again at the stones. “Maybe a few are *kind of* pretty.”

11



“What did you do after?” Zora asked.

“Mom wanted to have a picnic by this boring lake near our house. *Blech!*” Ying stuck out her tongue.

Zora’s eyes widened. “You live near a lake? Were there any boats?”

Ying tried to remember. “Now that I think about it, yes there were. There were motor boats and canoes. And there were lots of sailboats.”

12



“Ying! You *love* boats! Remember how we always wanted to sail one ourselves?”

“That’s true . . .” Ying said.

Just then Ying’s mom called from the hall. “Don’t be too long with Zora. We have to get ready for the fair.”

“A fair?” Zora asked.

“Oh that’s right. There’s a fair tonight. There’ll be snacks and games. There’ll even be a butter sculpture contest.”

Zora’s mouth dropped open. “A WHAT?”

13



“A butter sculpture contest. There are artists that make statues—but instead of clay they use butter. The person who gets the most votes even gets to have their picture in the newspaper.”

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

14



“Ying, everything you’ve told me about your town sounds amazing!”

Ying thought for a moment. “I guess this place can be pretty interesting. But you know what would make this town perfect?”

“What?” Zora asked.

Ying gave her friend a big smile. “If you came for a visit!”