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Activity Guide

800-788-1121

The Journey

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ABOUT THE STORY

Hannah, an Amish girl, is visiting the city for the first time. Each night she writes in her diary, describing what she has seen and comparing it to her daily life on the farm. Despite the joys and excitement of the city, Hannah realizes by her last day that she misses her family and the simple life they lead.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sarah Stewart grew up in Texas and now lives in Michigan with her husband, David Small. She and Mr. Small have collaborated on several other picture books, including *The Gardener* and *The Library*, available as Live Oak Media Readalongs and Videos.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

David Small received a Master of Fine Arts degree from Yale and began publishing children's books in 1982. He has written and illustrated many books, including several with his wife, Sarah Stewart. Mr. Small won the Caldecott Medal in 2001 for his illustrations in the picture book *So, You Want to be President?*

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if they have ever visited a city or a farm, whichever is different from the place they live. Have volunteers describe the place they visited, comparing it to their homes. Then explain that the book they will read is about a farm girl who goes to the city for the first time.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "Why does Hannah get to go on the trip to the city?"
- "What does Hannah do in the park that makes her proud of herself?"
- "What question does Hannah answer in the aquarium?"
- "Describe two differences between what Hannah sees in the city and what she does at home." (Compare and contrast)
- "Why does Hannah cry at the art museum?" (Make inferences)
- "How do you think the visit to the city will change Hannah's feelings about home?" (Draw conclusions)

Vocabulary

Write these words and definitions on the chalkboard. Have the children copy them and draw lines matching each word with its definition.

chores	large church
handkerchief	cloth
vendor	small jobs
fabric	seller
skittish	group of singers
cathedral	small square of cloth
choir	easily scared, nervous

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Social Studies: Who Are the Amish?

Explain to children that Hannah is an Amish girl. Have children work in small groups to research the Amish to find out more about their way of life. Have each group focus on one aspect of Amish life, such as work, food, family, or clothing. Groups can report what they learn to the class.

Language Arts: A Diary Entry

Ask children to imagine they are visiting an Amish farm for several days. Based on what they have seen in the book's illustrations, they can write a diary entry describing an activity they might do with their Amish hosts. Encourage them to write the entry as if they have actually experienced the activity.

Science: The World's Oceans

In the aquarium, Hannah answers a question about the number of oceans in the world. Have children find out how many oceans there are. Then divide them into groups and ask each group to research one ocean. Groups can report on the size of the ocean, its location, and some of the animals that live in it.

Art/Language Arts: A Postcard from Hannah

Cut out postcard-sized pieces of cardboard or posterboard and give one to each child. Have children draw a picture of one of the sights Hannah saw in the city on one side of their postcards. Then ask them to write a message from Hannah to her aunt Clara on the other side, explaining the picture and what she did that day.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

Visit the Chicago Art Institute

Using the keywords "Chicago Art Institute", children can access the Institute's website and look at some of the same paintings Hannah might have viewed. Have them tour the Institute and look at the art. If possible, children can print out a copy of the painting they like best and share it with the rest of the class.