

Summary

Tor is visiting his aunt in the city. He discovers that city life is completely different from his home in the desert.

Features of the Text

- Third-person narrative
- Dialogue
- Interaction between the characters
- Sequence of events
- Descriptive language

Purpose

City Lights can be used for the following purposes:

- introducing the ideas and vocabulary in the associated nonfiction title;
- discussing the importance of sequence in a narrative;
- making personal connections with the text;
- exploring dialogue;
- responding to the text.

Following Up

The students can:

- use the copy master on page 67 to explore Tor's reactions to his experiences
- locate the places on a map of the United States where a large telescope could be used
- write a postcard from Tor to his mom describing his day in the city.

Guided Reading Summary

Introducing the text

Discuss the illustration on the cover of the book.

- *How do you think the boy is feeling?*
- *Do you think he lives in the city? Why?*

Look at the title page with the students.

- *Why do you think there are binoculars on this page?*

Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read to the end of page 5, then discuss the two settings in the story.

- *How does Tor feel about visiting the city?*
- *What are his first impressions?*
- *Have you ever felt uncomfortable in an unfamiliar environment?*

Encourage the students to share their experiences of an unfamiliar place.

The students can now read to the end of page 9. Discuss the ways in which the author has created the atmosphere of a busy city.

- *How do we know that Tor is feeling nervous about being in the city?*

The students can now read the rest of the story.

- *How do you think Tor is feeling about going home? Why?*
- *Do you think he will feel differently about his home in the desert when he's older? Why?*

Discuss the pros and cons of living in the city and living in the desert.