



## ***Where I Live: Poems About My Home, My Street, and My Town***

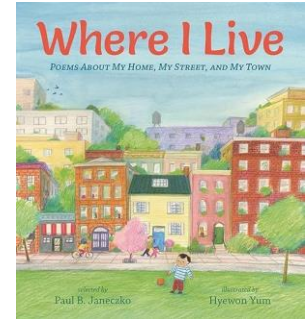
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Grades K-5

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Reading Guide by Barbara Petersmeyer, L.A. Conservancy Volunteer

### **Discussion Questions**

#### **HOME Chapter**

HOME by X.J. Kennedy

1. "...any old place that's your home base is where you want to be." What makes a place feel like "home base" to you? Is it a room, an apartment/house, certain people, something else? Is "home base" the same or different on the weekends? Why?

THE BREAKFAST BOSS by Janet Wong

2. Who is the "breakfast boss?" Where does she live and why does she ring the doorbell? Does someone help you with your breakfast on school days, or do you make it yourself? On school days, what do you usually have for breakfast? What are your favorite breakfast foods?

OUR ROOFTOP by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater

3. Why does the person in the poem go up to the rooftop? Do you have a place where you can "feel free"? Where is it and what does it look like? What do you do there? Do you share it with someone else?

ODE TO MY SHOES by Francisco X. Alarcón



**LOS ANGELES  
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4. The poem imagines shoes dreaming of the places they went during the day. Tell us where your shoes went today. Describe three different surfaces they walked on. Describe three different ways they moved. Where do they usually go on Saturday or Sunday? Where do you think your mother's, father's, brother's, sister's shoes went today? Describe your favorite shoes and how they make you feel.

### **TOWN chapter**

#### IF I COULD BUILD A TOWN by Betsy Franco

5. If you built a town, what three places would be the most important? Why? Make a drawing of one of those places. Add as much detail as you want. Add yourself in the drawing, too.

#### PEOPLE by Lois Lenski

6. This poem describes how different types of people make up a town. Your town has a school where you are a student. Describe three people you always see on your way to school or as you enter school. Describe one way in which they are different from one another. Describe one way in which they are alike. Draw a picture of yourself on your way to school or as you enter school. If you want, you can also draw one of the three people you always see.

