

Communities Then and Now



Communities Then and Now

Student Objectives

I will be able to:

- Read and analyze fiction and narrative nonfiction texts about communities.
- Share ideas with my peers.
- Build my vocabulary knowledge.
- Write informational, narrative, and opinion texts.

Tips for Text Annotation

As you read closely for different purposes, remember to annotate the text. Use the symbols below. Add new symbols in the spaces provided.

Symbol	Purpose
<u>underline</u>	Identify a key detail.
★	Star an important idea in the margin.
① ② ③	Mark a sequence of events.
○magma○	Circle a key word or phrase.
?	Mark a question you have about information in the text. Write your question in the margin.
!	Indicate an idea in the text you find interesting. Comment on this idea in the margin.

Your annotations might look like this.

Notes

I like the way Cinderella expresses herself.

I wonder why Cinderella puts up with her mean stepsisters?

2 Next, I ran to add kindling to the fires in their rooms. I would not have heard the end of it if my stepsisters' large, ugly feet touched a cold floor. There was no kindling in either room, so I had to run to the backyard to gather up twigs and sticks. Thorns cut my fingers and briars stuck in my hair.

3 My older stepsister demanded soft-boiled eggs. My younger stepsister yelled for medium-boiled eggs. I flew to the kitchen to make their breakfasts. I toil round the clock.

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Essential Question

What is a community?





Remember
to annotate
as you read.

Notes

Exploring My Community

by Lisa Benjamin

As the sun rises, my little city begins to wake. The 13,679 residents (as of 2013) start their day. Downtown, construction workers repair an old building. Meanwhile, off the coast, fishermen catch shrimp. All around St. Augustine, Florida, restaurant and hotel workers welcome tourists and other visitors.



St. Augustine is a small city in the northeastern part of Florida.

- 1 That's what a day is like in my community. A community is any place that people call home. Mine is on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. We have beaches and wetland areas. Today is cool for December: 18 degrees Celsius (65 degrees Fahrenheit). (I know, lucky me!) The sun is out, so I am going to take pictures of my city's sights.

Some people say the beach is the best part of the city!





St. Augustine is not just a home for people. Alligators live in the area, too!

Notes

2 I am proud of St. Augustine. It is the oldest city in the United States, founded in 1565 by Pedro Menéndez de Avilés. He was an explorer from Spain.

3 History is important in my community. The local government does a really great job of taking care of the older buildings because tourists come



Some buildings were constructed when Spanish settlers lived in the city.

here to see them. Keeping the old buildings in good shape keeps the past alive and makes sense for business, too.

4 As the sun sets, another day ends in St. Augustine. I wonder what I will do tomorrow.

Remember
to annotate
as you read.

Notes

A New Life in Vermont

an excerpt from

How Tía Lola Came to Visit Stay

by Julia Alvarez

Miguel's parents have divorced and Miguel, age ten, his mother, and his younger sister, Juanita, have moved from New York City to Vermont. Miguel finds life in Vermont very different. His aunt, Tía Lola, is coming from the Dominican Republic to visit. Miguel knows that things are unpredictable when Tía Lola visits. What will happen when she comes to Vermont?

- 1 “Why can’t we just call her Aunt Lola?” Miguel asks his mother. Tomorrow their aunt is coming from the Dominican Republic to visit with them in their new home in Vermont. Tonight they are unpacking the last of the kitchen boxes before dinner.
- 2 “Because she doesn’t know any English,” his mother explains.
- 3 “Tía is the word for aunt in Spanish, right, Mami?” Juanita asks. When their mother’s back is turned, Juanita beams Miguel a know-it-all smile.
- 4 Their mother is gazing sadly at a blue bowl she has just unpacked. “So you see, Miguel, if you call her Aunt, she won’t know you’re talking to her.”

Notes

5 That's fine, Miguel thinks, I won't have much to say to her except "¡Adios!" Goodbye! But he keeps his mouth shut. He knows why his mother is staring at the blue bowl, and he doesn't want to upset her in the middle of a memory.

6 "So, please, Miguel," his mother is saying, "just call her Tía Lola. Okay?"

7 Miguel kind of nods, kind of just jerks his head to get his hair out of his eyes. It can go either way.



- 8 It is the last day of January. Four weeks ago, during Christmas break, they moved from New York City into a farmhouse Mami rented from a Realtor by phone. Miguel and Juanita's parents are getting a divorce, and Mami has been hired to be a counselor in a small college in Vermont. Papi is a painter who sets up department store windows at night in the city.
- 9 Every morning, instead of walking to school as they used to do in New York City, Miguel and Juanita wait for the school bus by the mailbox. It is still dark when they board and drive down the dirt road, past their neighbor's sheep farm to town. It is again dark when they get home at the end of the day and let themselves into the chilly house. Mami does not like the idea of Miguel and Juanita being alone without an adult, and that in large part is why she has invited Tía Lola to come for a visit.



Notes

10 Why not ask Papi to come up and stay with them instead? Miguel wants to suggest. He doesn't really understand why his parents can't stay married even if they don't get along. After all, he doesn't get along great with his little sister, but his mother always says, "Juanita's your *familia*, Miguel!" Why can't she say the same thing to herself about Papi? But Miguel doesn't dare suggest this to her. These days, Mami bursts out crying at anything. When they first drove up to the old house with its peeling white paint, Mami's eyes filled with tears.

11 "It looks haunted," Juanita gasped.

12 "It looks like a dump," Miguel corrected his little sister. "Even Dracula wouldn't live here." But then, catching a glimpse of his mother's sad face, he added quickly, "So you don't have to worry about ghosts, Nita!"

13 His mother smiled through her tears, grateful to him for being a good sport.

14 After some of the boxes have been cleared away, the family sits down to eat dinner. They each get to pick the can they want to bring to the table: Juanita chooses SpaghettiOs, their mother chooses red beans, and Miguel chooses a can of Pringles. "Only this one night, so we can finish getting settled for Tía Lola," their mother explains about their peculiar dinner.

*Remember
to annotate
as you read.*

Notes

The Mission District

- 1 Let's take a trip to the Mission District of San Francisco, California! It is a community in the center of the city, named for the old mission there. It is home to many Latinos, who have been moving there for decades. Today the Mission District draws visitors from around the world. Food is a main attraction. In the streets, the rich scent of Mexican food fills the air. Restaurants serve traditional tamales and tacos. Bakers and grocers offer tasty Mexican treats.
- 2 Special events also draw visitors to the Mission District. Each year during the first week of November, the community holds a cultural festival. As festivalgoers stroll along the streets, they can see the work of local painters or sculptors. In May, a large carnival draws thousands of people. Carnival-goers enjoy food from street vendors. Musicians, dancers, and actors entertain the crowds.
- 3 Yet the Mission District is more than food and festivals. It's also a neighborhood. Workers, business owners, and families make it their home. At Mission Dolores Park, Latinos gather to play soccer. While watching the players, others sip sweet chocolate and discuss current events. Murals and artwork by and about Latinos fill outdoor spaces. Shops sell Spanish-language books. The Mission District is a thriving community and home to people proud of their roots.

BuildReflectWrite

Build Knowledge

Compare and contrast the fictional Vermont community in “A New Life in Vermont” to the actual community of St. Augustine, Florida, as described in “Exploring My Community.” Include details about town size, types of businesses present, and attitudes of the main characters.

Florida vs. Vermont	
Life in Florida	Life in Vermont

Reflect

What is a community?

Based on this week’s texts, write down new ideas and questions you have about the essential question.

Writing to Sources

Informative/Explanatory

“Exploring My Community,” “How Tía Lola Came to Visit Stay,” and the Unit 1 text “Working Together” all present different pictures of what a community is. Write an essay in which you compare and contrast these different pictures of community.

Remember
to annotate
as you read.

Notes

All Kinds of Communities

by Lisa Benjamin

- 1 People across the world live in all kinds of communities. A community is the place where you live. It can be a crowded city, a tiny town, or a suburb somewhere in between.
- 2 Communities across the United States vary in many ways besides size. Sometimes, it is the land or the physical environment that makes the difference. Some communities are in the middle of the country. Others are on the coasts. Some communities are cold most of the year. Others have warm weather year-round. Some communities are rainy wetlands, while others are dry deserts.
- 3 Sometimes, it is the type of jobs that makes a community different. For instance, many people in Gloucester, Massachusetts, make their living catching fish. Eugene, Oregon, is in an area with forests. Lumber mills are a big business there.



Millions of people live in this community.



Only a few thousand people live in this community.

Notes

- 4 Sometimes, it is the population, or the people, that can make a community different. In some towns, many residents were born and raised in the area. They have their traditions, or special ways of doing things. In some cities, many residents are new. They have come from all over the world to live there. They bring their own culture, or way of doing things.
- 5 However, all communities have one thing in common. Each one is a place that people call home.
- 6 Meet three people from different communities across the United States. Let them tell you why their hometowns are special.



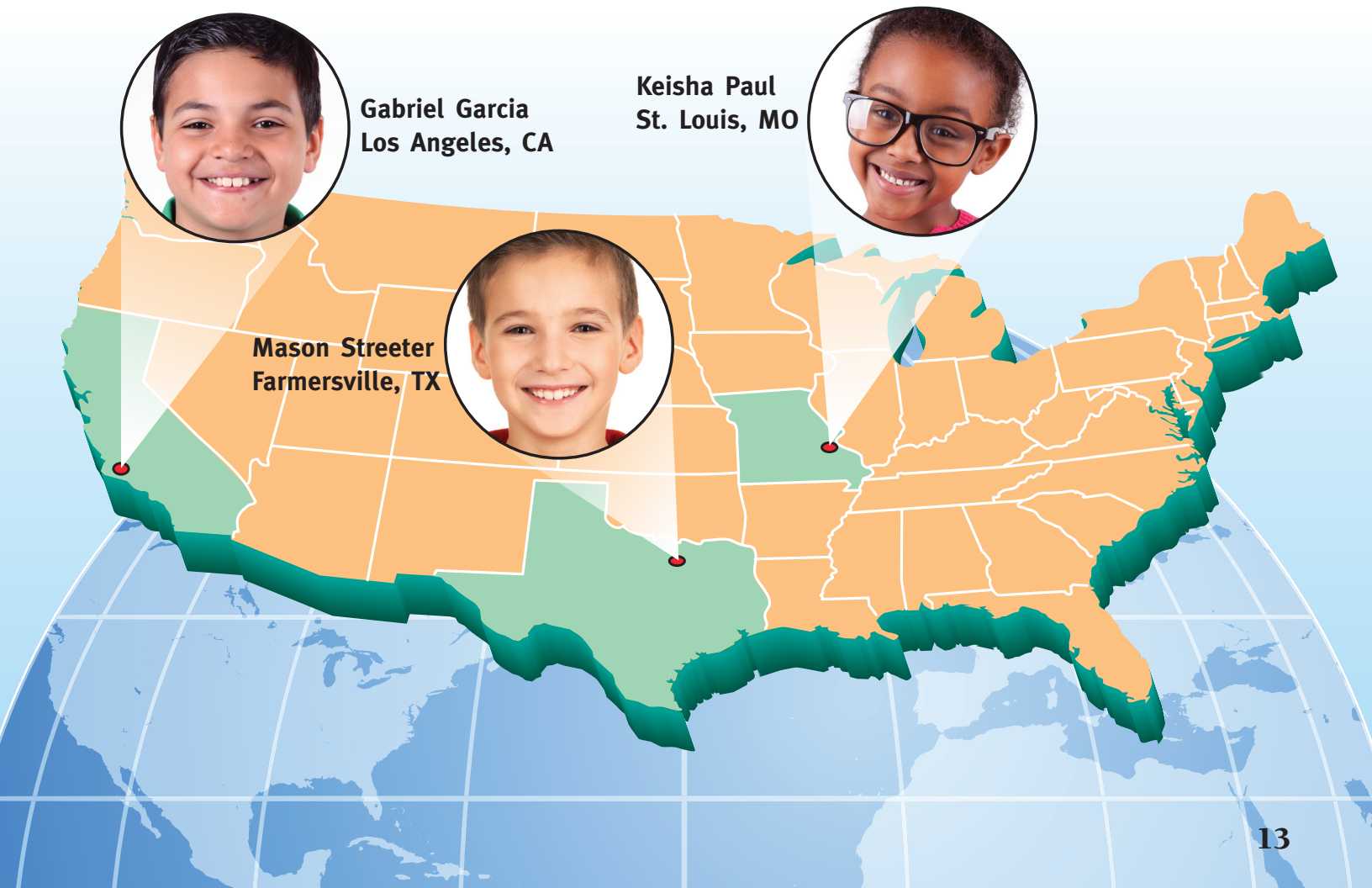
Gabriel Garcia
Los Angeles, CA



Keisha Paul
St. Louis, MO



Mason Streeter
Farmersville, TX



Farmersville, a Rural Community

by Mason Streeter

7 My town, Farmersville, is in a rural area of northern Texas. Rural means it is in the country. But Dallas is only thirty-five miles away. We can drive there in half an hour.



Farmersville is a rural town in northern Texas. In 2012, the population was 3,414 people.

8 As the name of my town says, we have a lot of farms here. Farmers have called this place home since 1849. My great-great-great (and maybe one more great) granddaddy came here then. The area's fertile, black soil was perfect for growing crops. Those first settlers planted cotton, which became a big part of the area's economy. An economy includes all the businesses and workers in an area.

There are many fields in Farmersville.





Football and cheerleading are popular in Farmersville.

Notes

9 Cotton was king here until 1925. Then one farmer planted onions, and that turned into a bumper crop! Soon, other farmers planted onions. Onions became so big that the community started an “Onion Festival” in 1935. Now we have “Old Time Saturday” once a year. People dress up, go to the festival, and spend the day as they would have back in the times before TV.

10 Today, many people in Farmersville still work in farming. Onions remain a major crop, along with cotton and corn. The first Saturday of each month, farmers from the area sell their goods at a local market called the Onion Shed. People come from all over—even big city Dallas—to buy my community’s fresh-grown food.

St. Louis, a River Community

by Keisha Paul

- 11 The Mississippi River flows through the middle of the United States. Many communities have grown along the banks of this mighty river. St. Louis, in Missouri, is one of the biggest. Almost three million people live in or around this city. I am one of those people!



St. Louis is a major city in the eastern part of Missouri.

- 12 The Mississippi River cuts through the middle of my city. With such easy access to water, it's no wonder many people here enjoy boating and fishing.

The Gateway Arch is the most famous sight in the city.



Notes

13 The Mississippi has affected the community in other ways, too. It brought many people into the area, beginning in the 1700s. The river was also the starting point for people moving west in the 1800s. That's how St. Louis got the nickname "Gateway to the West." Today, people call St. Louis the "Gateway City." Natives like me prefer the shorter "St. Louie."

14 The Mississippi River also helped create businesses. People built factories along the riverbanks. Also, ships could travel in and out of the city to deliver goods. As a result, manufacturing and shipping became two major industries in the community.

15 Factories still produce cars and other products. Ships still transport oil, coal, and other goods. Banking, science, and medicine are important to the local economy, too.



Factory work is an important part of the economy in St. Louis.

16 Tourism is another important business. Visitors come from all over the world to see the mighty Mississippi and other sights, like the famous Gateway Arch. Baseball fans from far and near (like me!) come to watch our team, the Cardinals. Go Redbirds!

Los Angeles, a Diverse Community

by Gabriel Garcia

17 Los Angeles is one of the biggest cities in the country. More than four million people live in the city. About six million more reside in the surrounding areas. Many of them work in creative industries, such as film and television.



Los Angeles is a large city in the southern part of California.

18 The population of Los Angeles (L.A.) is not only big. It is also diverse! That means many different kinds of people live in the community. More than 200 languages are spoken in L.A.

19 Native Americans were the first people to make this area their home. Spanish settlers came in the 1700s. They named this place “Los Angeles.” (That means “the Angels.”) Since then, many other groups have moved here. Why not? The weather here is awesome! It is sunny and warm year-round.

Los Angeles is a sprawling city that covers a large area.

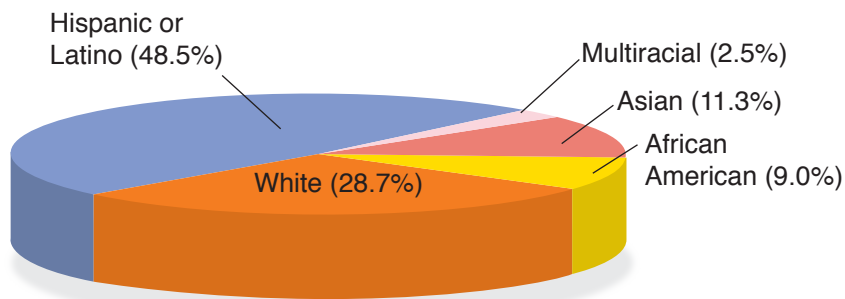




Each May, Los Angeles holds Cinco de Mayo celebrations.

Notes

20 Today, Latinos make up the biggest group. A lot of Latino residents were born and raised in L.A.—including me. My family came from Mexico long ago. Other newer residents have come from Central America and other places. As a result, the city has a thriving immigrant population. Immigrants have brought their culture to this community and helped make it a fun place.



This circle graph shows different groups of people living in Los Angeles.

21 Throughout the year, “Angelinos” enjoy all kinds of parades and festivals. For instance, Cinco de Mayo honors the traditions of Mexico. The Golden Dragon Parade celebrates the Chinese New Year. These events reflect the rich culture in my diverse community.

Word Study Read

*Remember
to annotate
as you read.*

Notes

The Levi Coffin House

- 1 On a street in what is now Fountain City, Indiana, there is a redbrick house. The house is old and simple, but it is an important part of America's past. The house is the Levi Coffin House. It was a main stop along the Underground Railroad.
- 2 The Underground Railroad was a network that helped enslaved people escape to freedom in the 1800s. The network was called "underground" because it was secret. It had "stations," or safe places, where escapees could hide. As people passed from one station to another, they were given shelter and aid. Levi Coffin was an important part of this network. Although he knew it was illegal, Coffin began helping escapees in 1826. He would pay little heed to the dangers. He opposed slavery, so he'd take many risks for his beliefs.
- 3 In 1839, Coffin and his wife moved to the redbrick house. The house was perfect for their needs. It had eight rooms, many with two exits. It had storage places where people could hide, and a big attic, too. Coffin's neighbors would sew new clothes for the escapees to wear. The escapees ate and slept in safety. Then after days or weeks, they moved on. It is said that everyone who hid in Levi Coffin's house made it to freedom. Today the Levi Coffin House is a National Historic Landmark.

BuildReflectWrite

Build Knowledge

Compare the three communities you read about and then develop an argument about which one you would want to live in. Include specific facts to support your opinion.

How Communities Differ			
City	Farmersville	St. Louis	Los Angeles
Area of Country			
Type of Community/ Size			
Businesses			
People/Culture			
The best place to live is _____ because _____.			

Reflect

What is a community?

Based on this week's texts, write down new ideas and questions you have about the essential question.

Writing to Sources

Narrative

Imagine that Miguel from "How Tía Lola Came to Visit Stay," Lisa Benjamin from "Exploring My Community," and one of the students from "All Kinds of Communities" met up to talk about their communities. How would each person describe his or her community? Write a dramatic scene in which these characters talk about their communities. Use details from each text to help you write your play.

Remember
to annotate
as you read.

Notes

Sarah and the Chickens

an excerpt from *Sarah, Plain and Tall*

by Patricia MacLachlan

It is the late 1800s in the newly developed farmland of the west. Sarah, a young woman from Maine, answers an ad to become a wife for Jacob, a widower. Caleb and Anna, Jacob's children, fall in love with Sarah. Life on the prairie is different and demanding, and Sarah misses the sea. Will she stay longer than the one month to which she has agreed?

- 1 The dandelions in the fields had gone by, their heads soft as feathers. The summer roses were opening.
- 2 Our neighbors, Matthew and Maggie, came to help Papa plow up a new field for corn. Sarah stood with us on the porch, watching their wagon wind up the road, two horses pulling it and one tied in back. I remembered the last time we had stood here alone, Caleb and I, waiting for Sarah.
- 3 Sarah's hair was in thick braids that circled her head, wild daisies tucked here and there. Papa had picked them for her.
- 4 Old Bess and Jack ran along the inside of the fence, whickering at the new horses.

Notes

5 “Papa needs five horses for the big gang
plow,” Caleb told Sarah. “Prairie grass is hard.”

6 Matthew and Maggie came with their two
children and a sackful of chickens. Maggie
emptied the sack into the yard and three red
banty chickens clucked and scattered.

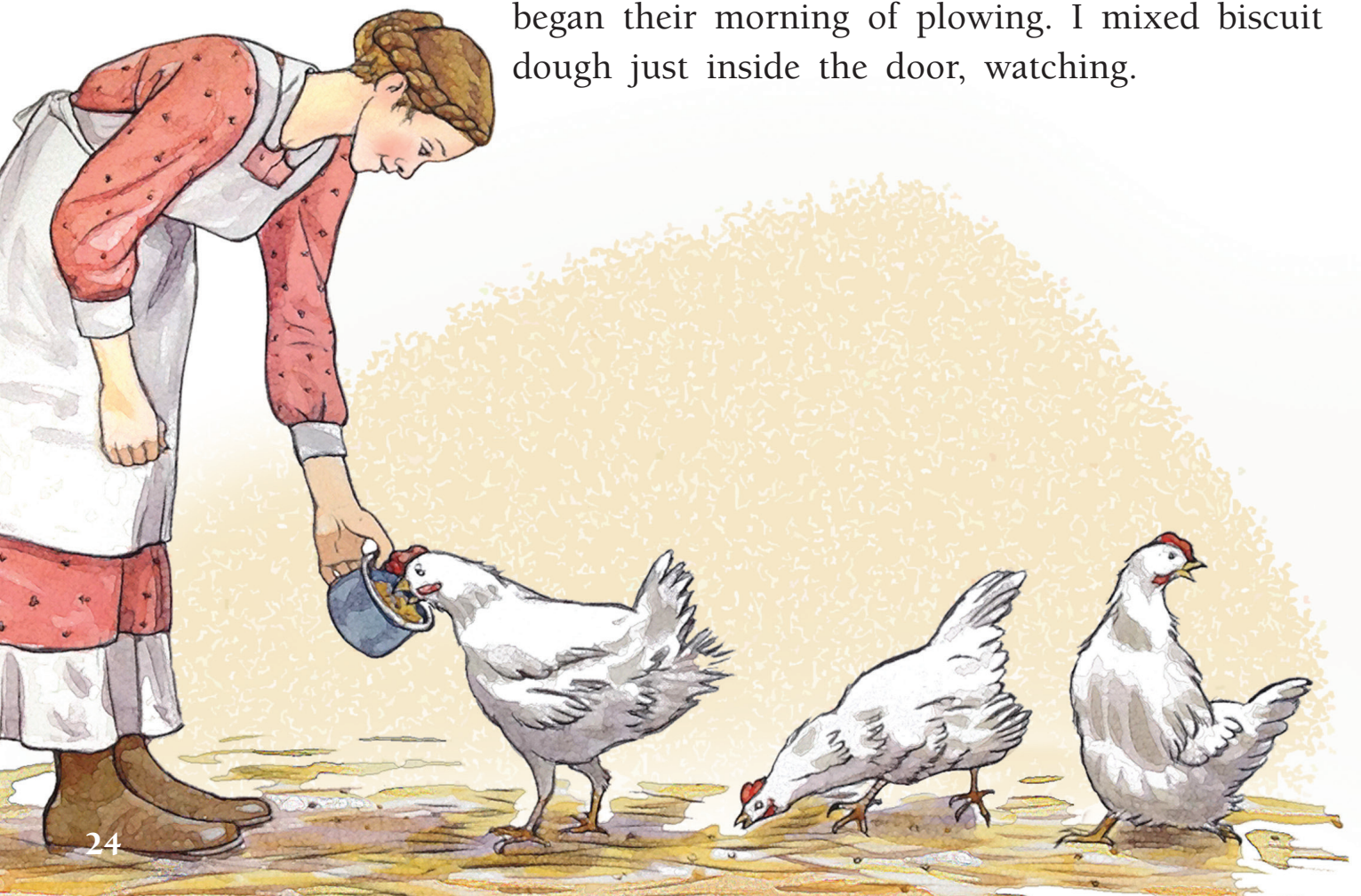
7 “They are for you,” she told Sarah. “For
eating.”



8 Sarah loved the chickens. She clucked back to them and fed them grain. They followed her, shuffling and scratching primly in the dirt. I knew they would not be for eating.

9 The children were young and named Rose and Violet, after flowers. They hooted and laughed and chased the chickens, who flew up to the porch roof, then the dogs, who crept quietly under the porch. Seal had long ago fled to the barn to sleep in cool hay.

10 Sarah and Maggie helped hitch the horses to the plow, then they set up a big table in the shade of the barn, covering it with a quilt and a kettle of flowers in the middle. They sat on the porch while Caleb and Matthew and Papa began their morning of plowing. I mixed biscuit dough just inside the door, watching.



Notes

11 “You are lonely, yes?” asked Maggie in her
soft voice.

12 Sarah’s eyes filled with tears. Slowly I stirred
the dough.

13 Maggie reached over and took Sarah’s hand.

14 “I miss the hills of Tennessee sometimes,”
she said.

15 Do not miss the hills, Maggie, I thought.

16 “I miss the sea,” said Sarah.

17 *Do not miss the hills. Do not miss the sea.*

18 I stirred and stirred the dough.

19 “I miss my brother William,” said Sarah.
“But he is married. The house is hers now.
Not mine any longer. There are three old aunts
who all squawk together like crows at dawn. I
miss them, too.”

20 “There are always things to miss,” said
Maggie. “No matter where you are.”

21 I looked out and saw Papa and Matthew
and Caleb working. Rose and Violet ran in
the fields. I felt something brush my legs and
looked down at Nick, wagging his tail.

22 “I would miss you, Nick,” I whispered. “I would.” I knelt down and scratched his ears. “I miss Mama.”

23 “I nearly forgot,” said Maggie on the porch. “I have something more for you.”

24 I carried the bowl outside and watched Maggie lift a low wooden box out of the wagon.

25 “Plants,” she said to Sarah. “For your garden.”

26 “My garden?” Sarah bent down to touch the plants.

27 “Zinnias and marigolds and wild feverfew,” said Maggie. “You must have a garden. Wherever you are.”

28 Sarah smiled. “I had a garden in Maine with dahlias and columbine. And nasturtiums the color of the sun when it sets. I don’t know if nasturtiums would grow here.”

29 “Try,” said Maggie. “You must have a garden.”

30 We planted the flowers by the porch, turning over the soil and patting it around them, and watering. Lottie and Nick came to sniff, and the chickens walked in the dirt, leaving prints. In the fields, the horses pulled the plow up and down under the hot summer sun.

Notes

31 Maggie wiped her face, leaving a streak of dirt.

32 “Soon you can drive your wagon over to my house and I will give you more. I have tansy.”

33 Sarah frowned. “I have never driven a wagon.”

34 “I can teach you,” said Maggie. “And so can Anna and Caleb. And Jacob.”

35 Sarah turned to me.

36 “Can you?” she asked. “Can you drive a wagon?”

37 I nodded.

38 “And Caleb?”

39 “Yes.”



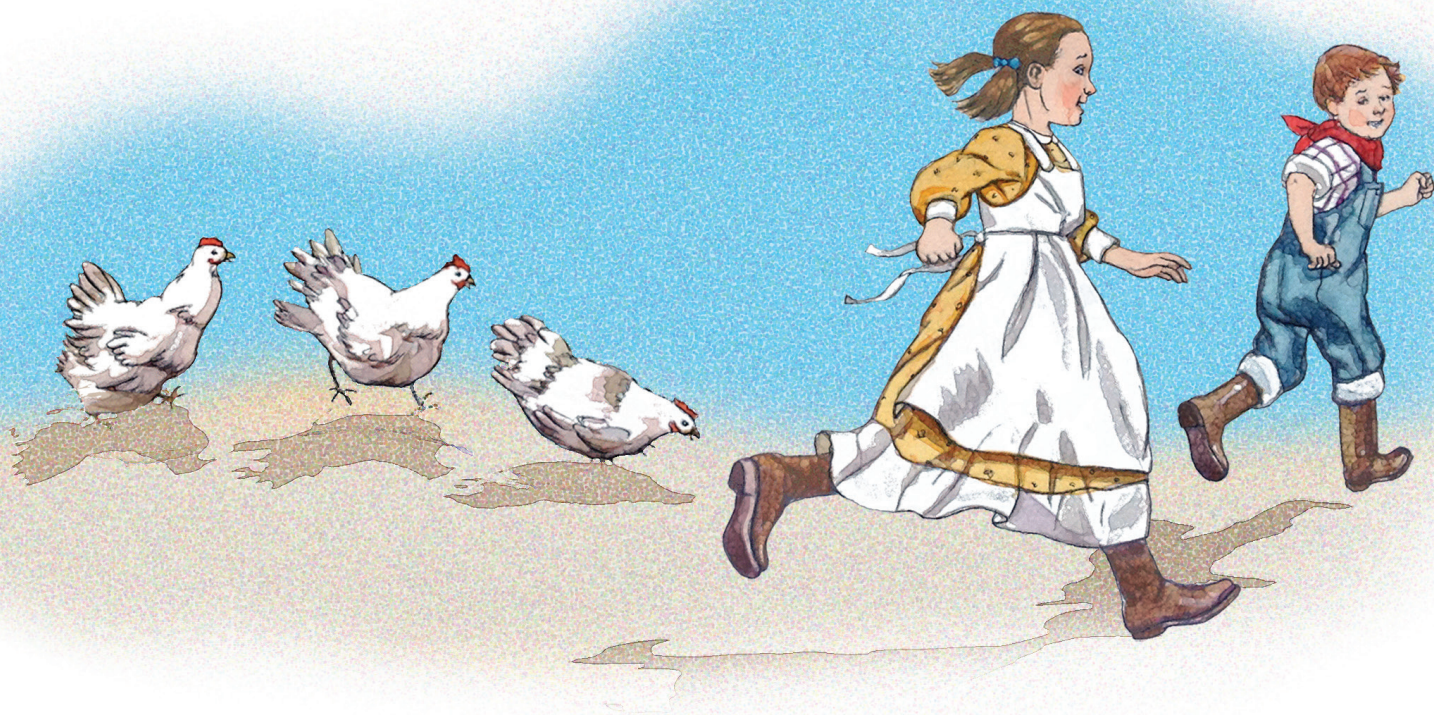
40 “In Maine,” said Sarah, “I would walk to town.”

41 “Here it is different,” said Maggie. “Here you will drive.”

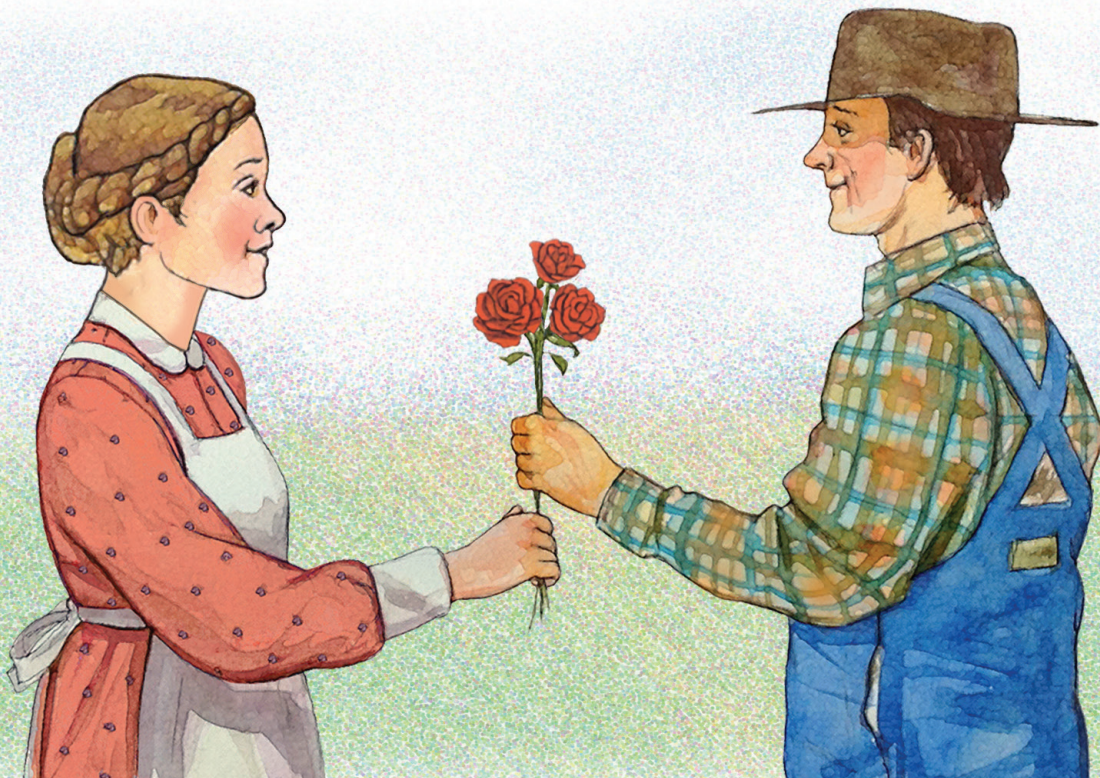
42 Way off in the sky, clouds gathered. Matthew and Papa and Caleb came in from the fields, their work done. We all ate in the shade.

43 “We are glad you are here,” said Matthew to Sarah. “A new friend. Maggie misses her friends sometimes.”

44 Sarah nodded. “There is always something to miss, no matter where you are,” she said, smiling at Maggie.



- 45 Rose and Violet fell asleep in the grass, their bellies full of meat and greens and biscuits. And when it was time to go, Papa and Matthew lifted them into the wagon to sleep on blankets.
- 46 Sarah walked slowly behind the wagon for a long time, waving, watching it disappear. Caleb and I ran to bring her back, the chickens running wildly behind us.
- 47 “What shall we name them?” asked Sarah, laughing as the chickens followed us into the house.
- 48 I smiled. I was right. The chickens would not be for eating.
- 49 And then Papa came, just before the rain, bringing Sarah the first roses of summer.



Remember
to annotate
as you read.

Notes

Wind and Wildflowers

- 1 The tall grass is gently waving in the wind. I can see colorful wildflowers peeking out between the stalks. Spring is beautiful on the prairie. It almost makes me forget about the awful winter that just passed.
- 2 It was my first winter on the prairie. Father and Uncle Paul had come out here before Mother and me. They built a sod house for us to live in. Some neighbors lent them a plow so they could cut bricks of prairie grass, roots and all. They needed about 3,000 bricks! They stacked the sod bricks to form walls. Even the roof of the house was made from sod. When Mother and I arrived, the small “soddy” house was ready for us. And when cold weather came, it was surprisingly warm inside. A neighbor, Mrs. Jacobs, taught Mother how to gather cow chips and burn them for heat. Then, when the snow began to fall, Mother called on Mrs. Jacobs and her daughters. She made sure the family had enough food. Neighbors do that for each other out here.
- 3 The ground is finally thawing now, and summer will soon be here. If we’re lucky, we’ll get the rain we need for our crops. But hot weather also brings storms, and maybe even a tornado or two. The wind never stops blowing! It is not easy to live here. Yet, when I pause to gaze out at the prairie at dawn, I know this place has captured my heart.

BuildReflectWrite

Build Knowledge

Answer questions 1–4 below to help organize your thoughts about Sarah’s move from Maine to the farm on the western prairie.

Sarah’s Thoughts on Community	
1. What type of community has Sarah moved to?	2. What type of community did Sarah move from?
3. How are the communities similar? How are they different?	4. What are Sarah’s opinions about each?

Reflect

What is a community?

Based on this week’s texts, write down new ideas and questions you have about the essential question.

Writing to Sources

Opinion

In “Exploring My Community,” “How Tía Lola Came to Visit Stay,” “Sarah and the Chickens,” and the Unit 1 text “Working Together,” you have learned about different types of communities. Which of these communities would you prefer to visit? Write an opinion essay in which you use details from the texts to explain your choice.

Support for Collaborative Conversation

Discussion Prompts

Share a new idea or opinion ...

I think that _____.

I notice that _____.

My opinion is _____.

An important event was when _____.

Gain the floor ...

I would like to add _____.

Excuse me for interrupting, but _____.

That made me think of _____.

Build on a peer's idea or opinion ...

I also think that _____.

In addition, _____.

Another idea is _____.

Express agreement with a peer's idea ...

I agree with [Name] because _____.

I agree that _____.

I think that is important because _____.

Respectfully express disagreement ...

I disagree with [Name] because _____.

I understand your point of view, but I think _____.

Have you considered that _____?

Ask a clarifying question ...

What did you mean when you said _____?

Are you saying that _____?

Can you explain what you mean by _____?

Clarify for others ...

I meant that _____.

I am trying to say that _____.

Group Roles

Discussion Facilitator:

Your role is to guide the group discussion and make sure that everyone has the chance to participate.

Scribe:

Your job is to record the ideas and comments your group members share.

Timekeeper:

You will keep track of how much time has passed and help keep the discussion moving along.

Encourager:

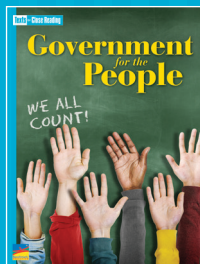
Your role is to motivate and support your group members.

Making Meaning with Words

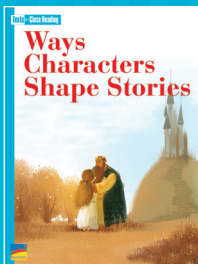
Word	My Definition	My Sentence
demanding (p. 22)		
diverse (p. 18)		
gathered (p. 28)		
grateful (p. 9)		
immigrant (p. 19)		
scattered (p. 23)		
sprawling (p. 18)		
traditions (p. 13)		
tucked (p. 22)		
unpredictable (p. 6)		

Build Knowledge Across 10 Topic Strands

Government and Citizenship



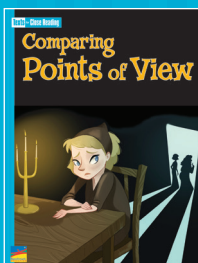
Character



Life Science



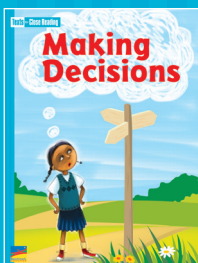
Point of View



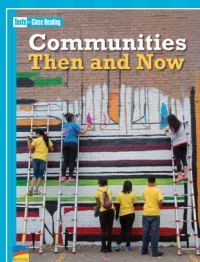
Technology and Society



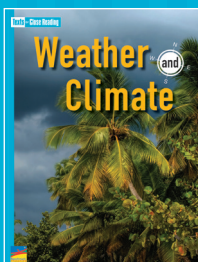
Theme



History and Culture



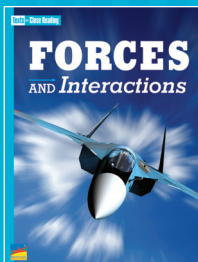
Earth Science



Economics



Physical Science



Grade 3 • Unit 7

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