



Objective:

Students will practice making text-to-self connections.

Materials:

Pen, notebook

Preparation for Read-Aloud:

- Teachers can read the Notes for Teachers to be better prepared with questions kids may ask during the read-aloud.
- Ask students to come and sit in the read-aloud area with a notebook and a pen each.

Before Reading

• **Objective:**

Readers often make connections between what they read and their own lives. One type of connection they make is called a text-to-self connection. These are personal connections a reader makes between a text and their own life experience. An example of a text-to-self connection might be, "The character in the story is facing the same problem as I did when I joined a new school." Making these types of connections helps us understand the characters and the story better. They also make the story more enjoyable.

• **Ask children to think-turn-talk/ stop-and-jot:**

Have you ever changed schools or moved places? How did the people in that new school or city make you feel welcome? Have you made someone feel "at home" in a new place? How?

• **Show the cover of the book, read the title and introduce the setting:**

Today, we are going to read a story set in the city of Mumbai, India. It's a densely populated city with more than 18 million people. It is in India's west coast, so it's hot and humid, and receives heavy rains during the monsoon. It is full of color and tall buildings.

While Mumbai is near the sea, Ladakh is a region in the north of India. It is a cold, mountainous place with a much smaller population. The two places are extremely different from each other.

- Teachers can project Google images from Ladakh and Mumbai on a screen to show students what the places look like in real life.

After Reading

• Class discussion questions:

- What did you think of the story? What questions do you have?
- Think about the city we live in. What makes it beautiful to you?

• Restating the objective:

Today, we read the book and made connections between the story and our own lives. One theme/topic in the book was that friends help each other feel at home, and are kind to each other. We thought of times we had been kind to each other or someone else had been kind to us. Another theme in the book is how we can use our imagination to find beauty in the world around us, and we thought of and discussed what makes our city beautiful to us.

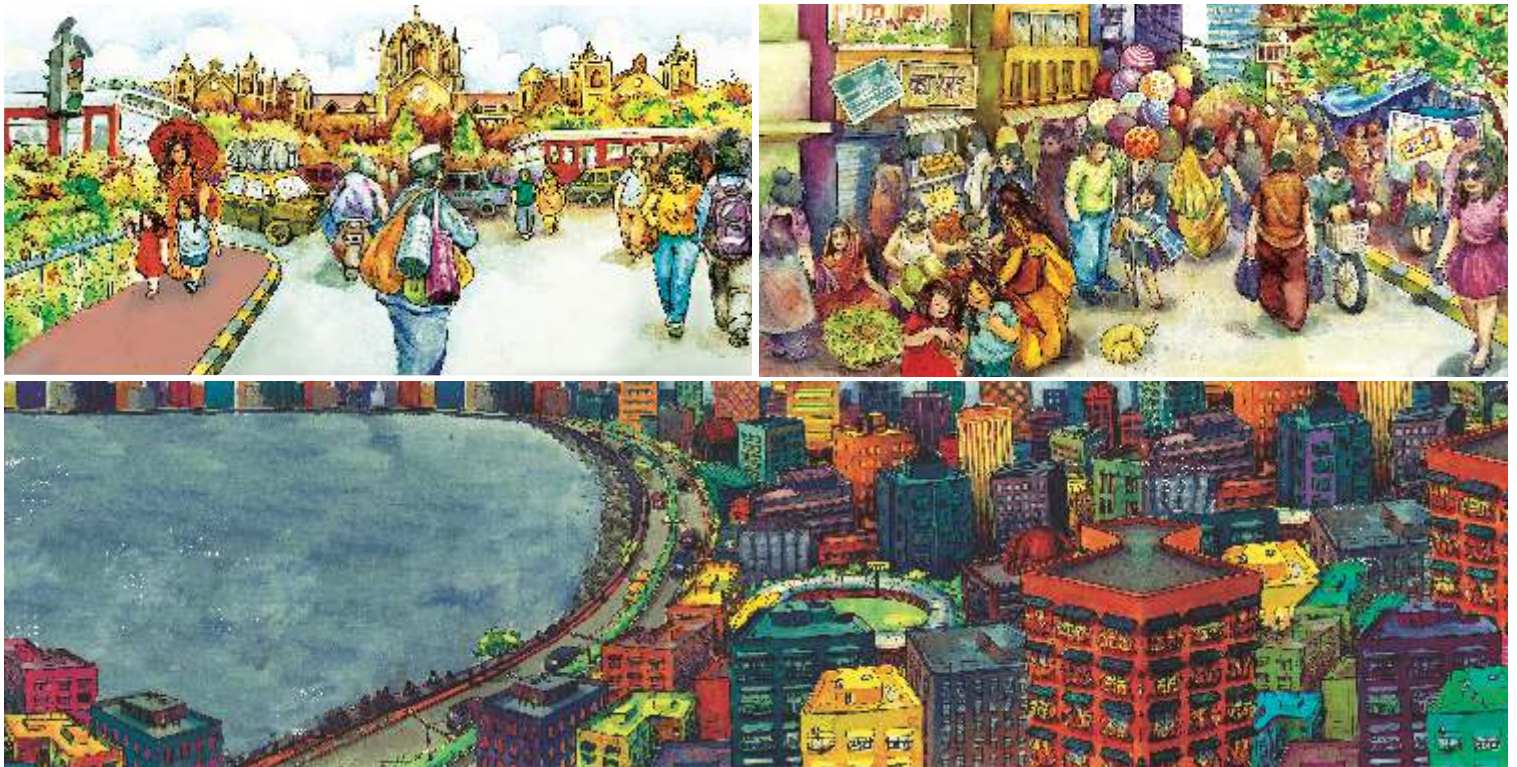
Writing Activity

Objective: Students will practice descriptive writing using sensory details.

Prompt: Describe what makes this city beautiful to you.

Writing tip: Writers use the five senses to engage a reader's interest. They include **sensory details** related to sight, sound, touch, smell and taste in their writing. Today, **show** the reader what you see in the city by using sensory details. For example, Labanya Ghosh describes the mountains of Mumbai as having “all the seven colors of the rainbow”, which is a detail related to sight. She uses words like “Have your cheeks turned red? Is your heart beating as loud as the drums during the Ganpati festival?”, which create images related to sight and sound in the reader's mind. Other examples (not from the book) are - the silver undersides of the pigeon's wings glinted; a bead of sweat trickled down my back; the wind tasted gritty on my tongue; fallen leaves scratched along the cement.

Follow-up: Once the pieces are completed, students leave their work on their respective desks. Students circulate in the classroom, from one desk to another, and read each other's work. After reading a piece, they can leave compliments (not critical comments) about what they liked/resonated with them on sticky notes or slips of paper.



Notes for Teachers

Spread 1 shows the characters on the sidewalk with the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, also known by its former name Victoria Terminus, in the background. The terminal train station is a historic monument and a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Mumbai.

Spreads 2 and 3 depict a crowded market street somewhere north of Bandra, a coastal suburb and important commercial hub. They also feature vada-pav with green chillies and hot chai and bhel-puri—popular snacks in Mumbai.

Spread 4 has an illustration of the Bandra-Worli Sea Link, a cable-stayed bridge that links Bandra in the Western suburbs of Mumbai to Worli in South Mumbai.

Spread 7 has a sketch of an auto, a popular 3-wheeled mode of transportation in Mumbai.

Ganpati or Ganesha Chaturthi is a Hindu festival in honor of Ganesha, especially popular in Maharashtra. It is marked by the installation of Ganesh/Ganpati idols in homes and pandals. The processions to immerse the idols in water bodies are accompanied by music and dance.

Hemis Tsechu is a Buddhist festival celebrated at Hemis Monastery, Ladakh. It commemorates the birth of the renowned Indian guru, Padmasambhava, and is famous for dances performed by lamas in colorful masks and silks to the beat of drums.