



Home Is a Window

by Stephanie Parsley Ledyard
illustrated by Chris Sasaki

NEAL PORTER BOOKS

HC: 978-0-8234-4156-3 • Ages 4–8

- ★ **A BookPage Best Book of the Year**
- ★ **A Bank Street Best Book of the Year**
- ★ **A Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People**

About the Book

A family learns what home really means, as they leave one behind and make a new home in another.

Home can be many things—a window, a doorway, a rug . . . or a hug. At home, everything always feels the same: comfortable and safe. But sometimes things change, and a home must be left behind.

Follow a family as they move out of their familiar house and learn that they can bring everything they love about their old home to the new one, because they still have one another.

Classroom Discussion Questions

Identification—Discuss the difference between a house and a home. Name five things that could help turn a house into a home. How does a home make one feel?

Setting—Describe the city street on the opening endpapers. How many places of business are there? Point out the homes. What do the homes have in common? How are they different?

Windows—Windows allow people to see out, and others to see in. Consider the title of the book. What do you think the girl sees out her window? What do you notice looking in the window? Take a look at the double-page spread of the title page. What do the people looking out their windows see?



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Emotions—The girl is walking into her house on the first page of the story. How does the open door invite readers to come inside? How do you know that the girl is happy to be home? Turn the page to the next double-page spread. How do you know that the girl’s mother is happy to see her? Describe the living room. What makes it a cozy room—a place that feels like home? How does the mirror on the wall allow readers to see into another room of the house?

Familial Relationship—Describe the girl’s extended family. How many generations are around the dinner table? Discuss how the family enjoys doing things together. Take a look at the illustration with the broken dish. Why does the illustrator only show the two people from the waist down? How does this place emphasis on the task they are doing?

Light—Point out the shadows created by Ms. Vera’s lamp. How does this reveal how close the neighbors live to one another? Explain how the lamplight gives the girl comfort. Point out other uses of light in the illustrations. What does the

light shining through windows and on doorways reveal about a home?

Change and Symbolism—The girl’s family is moving. What will she miss about her old home? How does her pillow remind her of home? Discuss how her brother gives her comfort. What is the dog’s role in making the move easier? Look at the illustration that shows the rear view of the car. How does it symbolize leaving and the beginning of a new journey?

Distance—Look at the two pages where the family is in the car pulling a trailer with their belongings. Explain how the illustration reveals that the family is moving far away.

Compare and Contrast—Describe the new neighborhood. How is it different from the old one? How do you know the new neighborhood is friendly?

New Beginnings—What does the girl find when she enters the door of her new house? Identify clues that this house will indeed be a home.

Guide prepared by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.

About the Creators



Stephanie Parsley Ledyard is a writer, poet, and teacher, and the author of *Home Is a Window*. Stephanie’s first picture book, *Pie Is for Sharing*, illustrated by Jason Chin, was published to wide acclaim, receiving four starred reviews. She lives in Dallas, Texas with her family.

Chris Sasaki is the illustrator of *Home Is a Window* and an art director living in Oakland, California. Formerly, he worked at Pixar, where he did character design on *Monsters University* and *Inside Out*. His illustrations for Julie Leung’s *Paper Son* won the Dilys Evans Founder Award, celebrating the year’s most promising new talent.

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