



# SPROUT STREET NEIGHBORS

## Bon Voyage

### Curriculum Guide & Activities

Sprout Street Neighbors: Bon Voyage  
By Anna Alter

Published by Random House Children's Books  
ISBN: 978-1-5247-0054-6 (Hardcover Library Binding)  
ISBN: 978-1-5247-0053-9 (Paperback)  
Chapter book for Ages 4-8

### About the Book

Join the Sprout Street neighbors on a trip to Paris!

Mili is happy in her new home at 24 Sprout Street, but she misses the excitement of traveling. So she convinces her neighbors to go on a trip with her to Paris.

Henry has never traveled and is all nerves. Emma is thrilled to go someplace new and, in her excitement, packs everything she owns. Fernando wonders if Parisians will be like him. Wilbur is excited to explore the gardens of France, and Violet can't wait to look at all the beautiful paintings at the Louvre museum.

Together these neighbors and friends soak up the joys of a new culture, but by the time their trip comes to an end, they'll learn that nothing can compare to the comfort of a loving home.

\* *A Junior Library Guild Selection* \*



### About the Author/Illustrator:



Anna has lived in many apartment buildings and come across a variety of interesting characters along the way. She is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design and the author and illustrator of many treasured books, including *A Photo for Greta*, *Disappearing Desmond*, and *Abigail Spells*. Her books have been a CCBC Choice best book of the year, Bank Street College best book of the year, Junior Library Guild selections, and Texas 2x2 Recommended Reading. Anna lives in Western Massachusetts, but travels around the country to visit schools and talk about her work.

## SPROUT STREET NEIGHBORS: Bon Voyage Curriculum Guide & Activities p.1

The Sprout Street books bring up a variety of social and emotional issues that explore friendship, discovery, and kindness. Here are some tips for guiding conversations with students.

**BEFORE READING:** Talk about what it feels like to travel to a new place.

**Ask children:** How do you feel about going somewhere new?  
Can you describe some places you've visited? Were there things that reminded you of home? What did you notice that was different?  
Did you try any new foods?  
Did you make new friends?  
Did you see anything you'd never seen before?

### **AFTER READING - DISCUSSION STARTERS AND ACTIVITIES:**

In chapter one, Mili longs to travel to Paris, France and see the Mona Lisa.

**Ask children:** Is there anything you've always wanted to see?  
Is there a place you've always wanted to visit?  
If you could go anywhere, where would it be and who would you travel with?

**Activity:** Draw a picture of a place you would like to visit. Include details about the kind of buildings you might see, foods you might eat, and people you might meet. With younger children, this can involve imagining what a place is like. With older children, they might do some simple research on the computer or in the library to learn about the place they want to visit.

In chapter two, Henry is nervous about leaving home. He doesn't want to be away from his things and worries he won't have what he needs.

**Ask children:** Do you worry about anything when you go somewhere new?  
What helps you feel comfortable in a new place?  
What could you bring with you, on a trip, to remind yourself of home?

**Activity:** Have children make a "comfort collage." Divide a piece of paper into two columns. In the first column, children can collage images of things that might worry them. In the second column, they can collage images of things that give them comfort when they feel worried.

Visit Anna at [www.annaalter.com](http://www.annaalter.com)!

## SPROUT STREET NEIGHBORS: Bon Voyage Curriculum Guide & Activities p.2

In chapter three, Emma is so excited to travel that she packs everything she owns, including a pigeon! She is disappointed when she can't bring it all with her, but learns that the most important thing to have when you travel is a good friend.

**Ask children:** What are the most important things that you bring on a trip?  
How do you get ready to travel? Are there books you might read? People you might talk to when getting ready?  
How can you help a friend who is going to travel?

**Activity:** Do a "travel interview." Find someone who has travelled someplace interesting and ask them questions about their experience. What did they learn? Who did they meet? How was the place they visited different from where they live? How was it the same?

In chapter four, Fernando wonders if Parisians will be like him and if they'll be able to understand each other. He finds he has a lot in common with them, even if they don't speak the same language.

**Ask children:** What languages do you know?  
Have you ever been to a place where you couldn't speak the language? How did that feel?  
If you are from a country that doesn't speak English, how did you learn when you arrived in the United States?  
If you were born in the United States, how do you think people from other countries feel when they come to the United States and can't speak English?

**Activity:** Have children pick a language they're curious about. Then have them make a list of words they'd like to know in that language. With younger children, you can read them the translations while they write them down. With older children, they can then look them up or research the words themselves. When everyone has their list of words, have them take turns teaching a new word to the rest of the class.

In chapter five, Wilbur explores a botanical garden with Fernando and discovers a French gardener just like him. His new friend teaches him how to cut topiary.

**Ask children:** Do your friends teach you to do new things?  
Have you ever taught a friend how to do something new to them?  
Is there something you'd like to learn from someone in another country?

Visit Anna at [www.annaalter.com](http://www.annaalter.com)!

## SPROUT STREET NEIGHBORS: Bon Voyage Curriculum Guide & Activities p.3

**Activity:** Cut out many green leaf shapes from some construction paper in advance of the activity. Show children pictures of French topiary, then have them glue the leaves on a piece of paper to create their own topiary portraits.

In chapter six, Violet wonders if she'll ever create artwork as inspired as the paintings she sees at the Louvre museum. Then she realizes what inspires her are the friends she cares about.

**Ask children:** What does it mean to feel inspired  
What makes you feel inspired?  
Do you ever make something inspired by someone you know? How about someone you don't know?

**Activity:** Have children make a painting of someone who inspires them. It could be someone they know, like a member of their family or a friend. It could also be someone they don't know, such as a person who they look up to or hope to be like. Include in the painting a word or sentence about what about why this person is special to them.