Lesson 1: Ready to Hit the Road!

UNIT: Road Trip

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Amy.

When I was a kid, I went on a road trip with my dad from Dallas, Texas, all the way to Baltimore, Maryland.

I loved being in the car. It was like watching the world change outside my window as we drove through different states. We would listen to music for hours and eat lots of good snacks.

But my favorite part wasn't just the drive, it was the stops along the way. We saw so many fun surprising places while driving, like a giant eyeball statue in Texas, a colorful waterfall in Tennessee called Ruby Falls, and a bed and breakfast called the Mother Goose House in Kentucky.

They were the kind of stops that grabbed our attention and made us want to pull over and take a look, maybe even take a picture.

Imagine you were going on a road trip and you could choose which places to stop at along the way.

You could visit the Seven Magic Mountains in Nevada—they're big colorful rocks stacked like rainbow towers in the desert. Or maybe Pinky the Pink Elephant in

Wisconsin. It's a giant pink elephant statue wearing glasses. Or the Cypress Tree Tunnel in California. It's a road where tall twisty trees grow close together, making it look like you're driving through a green leafy tunnel. Or you could even see this structure called Skeleton Man Walking Skeleton Dinosaur in South Dakota. It's exactly what it sounds like—a huge metal man leading a giant dinosaur skeleton. Any of these would be fun stops to pull over and take a picture with.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: If you could stop and take a picture at one of these places, which one would you choose?

HOOK 2

If I could take a picture at one of these stops, I would pick Skeleton Man Walking Skeleton Dinosaur in South Dakota. That way I can pretend to be running away from the huge dinosaur.

By picking a stop that I'm interested in seeing, I'm sharing my *opinion*. An opinion is what you think or feel about something. You might have picked something different because that's your opinion.

Road trips are a great time to express your opinion. You can pick music you enjoy, snacks you like, and even where you want to go based on what you think and feel.

My friend Lane is on a road trip with her aunt. They drove from San Antonio, Texas all the way to Olympia, Washington. On the way, they drove past so many interesting places. They wanted to remember these stops so they took pictures of the billboards along the way.

Now they're on their way back home and they need to plan the stops for their trip. They want to visit a few of the stops on the billboards they took pictures of but they can't decide on which ones to choose so they need your help.

You'll help Lane and her aunt by looking at the billboards for each stop. Then you'll use your opinion to pick the stops that you think they should visit. After you share your opinion, you can write a reason to go with it. That way you can share why you picked that stop.

After you write about where you think they should stop and your reasons for choosing those stops, you'll add it to a plan with a list of stops for Lane's trip.

A plan like this for a trip is called an *itinerary*.

Get ready to help Lane and her aunt pick the best stops for their road trip back home.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

In today's lesson, you'll need someone to share ideas with. This could be a partner or someone you sit near. When everyone knows who their talk partner is, move on to the next step.

STEP 3

Get your Stop #1 worksheet and write your name and date here.

STEP 4

Lane and her aunt need your help deciding on where to stop for the first part of their road trip home.

When they drove through this area the first time, Lane took pictures of these two billboards. Check it out.

The first one is the Fremont Troll in Washington. The Fremont Troll is a giant troll hiding under a bridge. He's 18 feet tall, so if you stand next to him, you'll feel tiny. He's also holding a real car in his hand.

The second one is Sweet Willy in Idaho. This is Sweet Willy, a giant dog that's bigger than a house. You can sleep inside this 30-foot-tall beagle because it's a hotel shaped like a dog.

Wow! Both of these places look so interesting. Think about which of these places Lane and her aunt should stop.

Discuss with a partner: Where do you think Lane and her aunt should stop? You might have a different opinion than your partner and that's okay.

STEP 5

Get your Stop #1 worksheet. Look at the map on the bottom half of your page.

Circle the stop you chose.

STEP 6

Look at the first two lines that say, "Lane should stop in" blank, "to see" blank.

This is where you'll write your opinion or which stop you chose.

Fill in the state here and the name of the stop here, like this. If you need help, you can use the billboards at the top of the worksheet. Here are some things to remember as you write. Make sure to capitalize the state, capitalize the name of the stop, and put a period at the end of your sentence.

STEP 7

Lane's road trip itinerary now shows your first opinion, but it needs a reason saying why you picked the stop. Think about why you chose the stop. Let's look at the billboards again.

The Fremont Troll

- 18 feet tall!
- Stand next to him and feel tiny.
- Come see the giant troll hiding under the bridge.
- He's holding a real car.

Meet Sweet Willy

- the dog that's bigger than a house.
- It's a hotel shaped like a dog!
- Sleep inside a 30-foot-tall beagle.

The facts on these billboards can help you come up with a reason.

Maybe you picked Sweet Willy because it would be awesome to see a dog that's thirty feet tall. Or maybe you picked the Fremont Troll because it would be fun to take a picture with a giant troll hiding under the bridge.

Think about the reason why you chose this stop.

Discuss with a partner: Why did you choose your stop? Try using one of the facts from the billboards.

STEP 8

Write a new sentence about the reason you chose your stop. You can write more than one sentence if you want to. If you're not sure what to write, you can use one of these examples:

- Taking a picture with a giant troll sounds like fun!
- It would be awesome to see a dog that is 30 feet tall!

Continue writing where you left off.

STEP 9

Take turns sharing your writing with your partner. You can make changes if you want to.

STEP 10

The paper shown on the screen is a V.I.P.—a very important paper. Your teacher will tell you where to put it so you have it for the next lesson.

WRAP UP

Amazing job! You started your itinerary for Lane and her aunt's road trip. You looked at two choices for stops along their way, wrote your opinion on what they should choose, and gave a reason why.

Next time, the adventure continues. You'll look at the choices for the next part of their road trip and add to your itinerary for Lane and her aunt. I can't wait to see what other stops you'll choose along the way. See you next time.