# Lesson Plan - Read a Transportation Story

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning elements</th>
<th>Reading, Thinking, Geography, Relationships</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributes to these Educational Standards</td>
<td>Reading, Relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supports these CRLs</td>
<td>Reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning Environment requirements:</td>
<td>Central focus space to set the stage and manage discussions. Individual reading space and a copy of the book for each reader. <em>The Thumb in the Box</em> by Ken Roberts, Leanne Franson (Illustrator)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Publisher: Groundwood Books ISBN-13: 9780888994219 Age Range: 9 to 12 64pp</td>
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**Synopsis by Amazon.com:**

Leon and his friend Susan live in New Auckland, an isolated village on the northwest coast of British Columbia. One day, the village receives an unexpected gift from the government — a fire truck. The problem is that mountains surround the village. There are no roads, no cars, and no fire hydrants. The man who comes to build the fire station brings with him a practical joke that scares the wits out of Leon and Susan — a real live wiggling thumb. It’s a toss-up as to which object will leave a bigger impact on the villagers — the first vehicle they’ve ever seen or the bizarre appendage.

**Review on Amazon.com:**

Leon Mazzei lives in the fishing village of New Auckland British Columbia. It is a small village with no road and few houses. Everyone travels by boat. One day the town's pet lion roars a warning. Realizing something is wrong, the townspeople, including Leon, work furiously to put out a fire in a shed. Unable to get much water just using a bucket brigade, the town leaders request a pump from their Member of Parliament. Instead of just filling their request, the MP (Member of Parliament) sends word they will receive an entire fire truck. Now most towns would celebrate their good fortune, however, this means the town must build a fire station and a road that they don't need. The town hires Little Charlie who, in reality, isn't so little, to build the firehouse. Along with his tools, Little Charlie brings a surprise that captures the imagination of the entire village and leads to Leon's plan, which in turn makes the whole town happy. Ken Roberts has created a fun story centered on an age-old trick. While written for beginning readers, Mr. Roberts effectively portrays New Auckland and the events that precede the receipt of the fire truck and includes an unexpected and fun ending. Leanne Franson's illustrations help bring clarity to the events. Reviewer: John D. Orsborn
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Time (minutes)</th>
<th>Teaching Points</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
<th>Vocabulary Words</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1 Read about efforts to build a road in New Aukland, a town where folks have never seen a car.</td>
<td>Variable, depending on reading speed and class discussions--64 pp book</td>
<td>What is it like, to prepare for something you have never seen before? How do the townspeople accept Little Charlie? What does Little Charlie do to help meet the people of New Aukland? How do Leon and Susan help the town adjust to the changes?</td>
<td>The Thumb in the Box book</td>
<td></td>
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<td>#2 Review cultural aspects of a fishing town, where driving is not part of their daily life.</td>
<td>35 min</td>
<td>They are receiving a vehicle to improve town safety. Will exposure to this vehicle promote adoption of other vehicles in the future? What will this road be used for, besides providing access for the fire truck? What changes might occur as a result of the road being built?</td>
<td>New Aukland Parliament</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>#3 Review maps of the new road route.</td>
<td>35 min</td>
<td>Encourage the learners to imagine what they would find along the route. Is there anything they would change if they could?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>35 -210 min, depending on objective(s) explored, and amount of discussion encouraged.</td>
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Story Problems Tips:

Look for these key words to help decide whether to add, subtract, multiply, or divide:

**ADDITION**
- Sum
- All
- Together
- Total
- In all
- Altogether

**SUBTRACTION**
- Difference
- Left
- Less than
- Fewer than
- Greater than
- More than
- How many more?
- How many less?

**MULTIPLICATION**
- Product
- In all
- Times
- All
- If each one costs $5, how much will 10 cost?

**DIVISION**
- Quotient
- Each
- Divide equally
- Per
- Average
- If 10 cost $50, how much will one cost?

Draw a picture as you read the story. For example, if a truck driver loads 35 boxes into the truck, then delivers 20 of them, how many boxes are still in the truck?

35 boxes

35 - 20

15 boxes are still in the truck...

Adapted from *Teaching Thinking and Problem Solving in Math* by Char Forsten (Scholastic Professional Book, 1992)