The City Mouse and the Country Mouse

About the Tale
Aesop is widely credited with originating this story and dozens more. Although little is known about this wise and witty storyteller, scholars believe he was born into slavery in 620 B.C., somewhere in Greece. Upon being freed by his master, he became part of the court of King Croesus. It was there that he wove his timeless tales, including “The Tortoise and the Hare,” “The Lion and the Mouse,” and, of course, “The City Mouse and the Country Mouse.” Aesop’s stories qualify as fables because they are short, humorous, and teach important lessons by way of example. Despite being created thousands of years ago, they remain as relevant today as they were then.

Discussion Questions
1. Why does the country mouse decide to go to the city?
2. Why does the country mouse decide to go back to the country?
3. What lesson is the author trying to teach us in this tale?

Notable Retellings
- *Bernally and Harriet* by Elizabeth Dahlie (Little Brown 2002). In this perky twist on the favorite tale, two mouse cousins come to discover that there is no place like home.
- *Town Mouse City Mouse* by Jan Brett (Putnam, 2003). Brett applies her unique style of illustration to the classic tale, with winning results.

Companion Reproducible
Focus Skills: Comparing and Contrasting, Making Personal Connections, Writing

Distribute copies of the reproducible of page 92. Then invite children to fill in the T chart to compare the benefits of country and city living.
What are some good things about living in the country? What are some good things about living in the city? Fill in the T chart. Then tell which place you would rather live and why.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Good Things About the Country</th>
<th>Good Things About the City</th>
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I would choose to live in the ____________________________ country/city

because ____________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________
Quick as a wink, the mice jumped off the table and ran into a little hole. The country mouse had never been so scared. “I’m going back home,” he said.

One day, his city friend came to visit. “Welcome,” said the country mouse. “Glad to be here,” said the city mouse.
Once upon a time, there was a little mouse. He lived in the country.

The two mice had a great time. They played tag. They climbed trees. They took long hikes. All of this made them very hungry.

"Do you really want to leave all this fine food?" asked the city mouse.
"The city is nice, but corn and safety are better than cherry pie and danger," said the country mouse.
The two mice hugged good-bye.
The two mice had a great time. They listened to music. They played games. They ran from room to room. All of this made them very hungry.

“Mmmm!” said the city mouse. “Mmmm!” said the country mouse. But just as they started to nibble the food . . .

So they went into the fields and began to nibble some corn and beans. But after a while, the city mouse wrinkled up his nose.

The next day, the two mice jumped on a train and went to the city.
They walked to a tall building and took an elevator to the tippy top. This was where the city mouse lived.

“This food is so boring. In the city, I eat the finest meat, cheese, and pie. Do you want to go there with me?” asked the city mouse. The country mouse licked his lips. “Oh, yes!” he said.

The home was fit for a king! It was big and very fancy.

So they went into the dining room. There stood a table filled with meat and cheese and a whole cherry pie!

“Welcome,” said the city mouse. “Glad to be here,” said the country mouse.
1. Make double-sided copies of the mini-book pages. (You should have two double-sided copies for each one.)

2. Cut the pages in half along the dashed line.

3. Position the pages so that the lettered spreads (A, B, C, D) are face up. Place the B spread on top of the A spread. Then, place the C and D spreads on top of those in sequence.

4. Fold the pages in half along the solid line. Make sure all the pages are in the proper order. Staple them together along the book’s spine.

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Book Badge Reproducibles

Let me read ____________________________ to you!

Let’s read ____________________________ together!