A Library Comes to Town

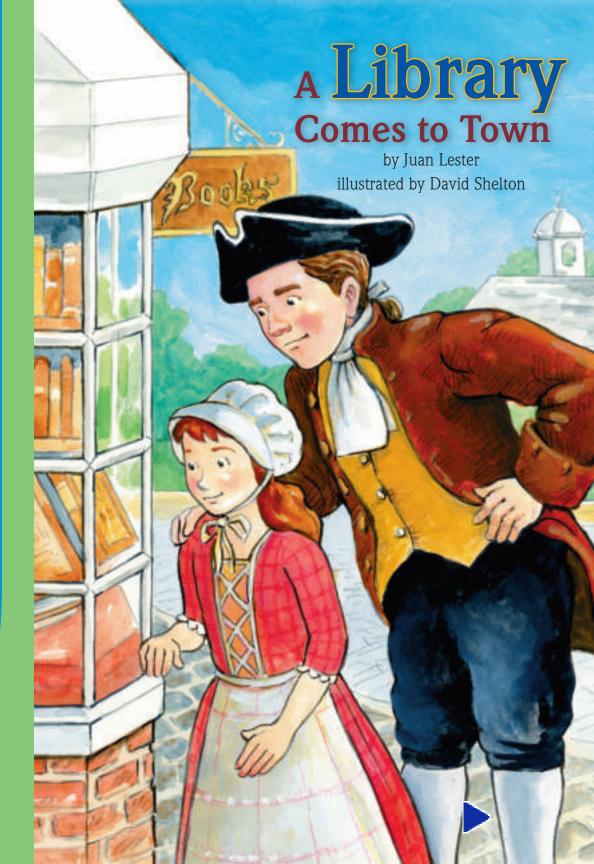by Juan Lester

illustrated by David Shelton

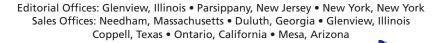| Genre	Comprehension Skills and Strategy
Historical fiction	• Theme • Sequence • Ask Questions

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Comes to Town

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Jane and her father looked in a bookstore window. Father sighed. "Why are you unhappy?" asked Jane.

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"Oh, child, I love to read all different kinds of books," answered Father. "But books cost a lot of money. "

"Are we too poor to buy books?" asked Jane.

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"No, but we are not rich enough to buy most books," said Father.

"I wish there were a way that everyone could have books to read," said Jane.

A week later, Jane was helping her brothers repaint some old chairs. She could hear some neighbors talking.

What she heard made her happy. She went running to tell her father.

"Father!" she cried. "A man named Ben Franklin is going to open a library. Now even people who are not rich can borrow books and carry them home to read!"

Ben Franklin opened up the first public library in the United States. This was more than 200 years ago. He wanted to make sure that everyone could have books to read. He also came up with other "firsts."

Ben Franklin invented swimming fins, a stove, and a special kind of reading glasses. All these are things that people still use today.

🔊 Think and Share Read Together

1. What is the big idea of this story?

2. What questions would you ask Ben Franklin about his idea for a library?

3. On a separate sheet of paper, write the words from the story that begin with *un-*. Use the words in a sentence.

4. Benjamin Franklin started the first library in the United States. How do people use libraries today? Fill in a web like this one.

How people use libraries