

Building Our House

Recommended for Grades K-3

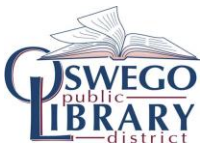
Book Summary: Building Our House

A girl and her family move from the city to the country where they begin building their own house. They work together to slowly raise their home. When winter comes early, they move into their new house and begin building it from the inside. When the house is complete, a moving party brings their furniture and they spend the first night in their new house.

Author Biography: Jonathan Bean

Jonathan Bean grew up in Fleetwood, Pennsylvania until he moved to New York where he completed his Master of Fine Arts at The School of Visual Arts. His first job was illustrating for Cricket in 2004. He has also worked for The New York Times and for several publishing companies. His first book, *At Night*, won several awards including the 2008 Boston Globe-Horn Book and the 2008 Charlotte Zolotow Honor. He continues to work as both illustrator for other authors' books and as author/illustrator for his own.

He currently lives in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.



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Discussion Questions: Building Our House

1. The girl and her family move from the city to the country. Why do you think they decided to move?
2. What are some benefits of living in the country? What are some benefits of living in the city? Which one do you prefer? Why?
3. What are some things the girl and her family had to think about before building their new house? How would you plan to build a house? What kinds of things would you include in your house?
4. What do you think would be some benefits of building your own house?
5. How did everyone in the family work together to build the house? How were they a good team? What kind of building team would your family make?
6. Why were the frame-raising party and the moving party so important? Why do you think so many people came to the parties?
7. Why does the house need to be finished before winter? Why do you think building a house in winter would be a bad idea?
8. What are some ways that time is shown passing in the story?
9. A lot of equipment is used to build the house. Which parts of the house do you think are the most important? Why?
10. Did you find the pictures helpful? Why or why not? How would the story be different if the author had illustrated the story with photographs instead of drawings?
11. Why do you think the author chose to tell the story from his older sister's point of view? If you were telling this story, how would you tell it?
12. Although the story is based on a real experience, it is still considered fictional. What would the author have to do differently in order for the story to be considered a real story (nonfiction)?



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