A Diverse Community
San Francisco has a significant Asian and Asian-American population, particularly people of Chinese and Japanese descent. Chinatown in San Francisco is the oldest in North America and home to the largest Chinese community outside of Asia. Choose a Chinese or Japanese folktale to read aloud. Have a selection of picture books with Asian and Asian-American characters available for browsing.

Time to Rhyme
The cable cars are one of San Francisco’s most famous attractions. Re-read aloud the rhyme about when Pete and Larry are boarding:

Pete’s parents reminded them, “Don’t wander far”
As they excitedly boarded a cable car.
These vehicles pulled along tracks on the ground
Are a popular way to get around town.

Good as Gold
The Golden Gate Bridge is one of the most famous bridges in the world. Ask readers to imagine that they are a worker who has been asked to fix something at the very top of the bridge. Just suppose that it was a clear day with no fog (unusual in San Francisco!)—have readers write or dictate what their view is like. Can they see the Bay Bridge? Mountains? The ocean? Chinatown?

For the ride Larry sat himself right beside Pete
’Til he saw a glazed donut roll by down the street.

See if readers can come up with five more rhyming words for each of the couplets: rhymes with far/car; ground/town; Pete/street. Later in the book, Larry runs through the Cable Car Museum. Readers can visit their website at CableCarMuseum.org to find out more.