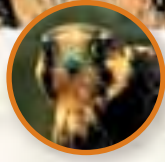
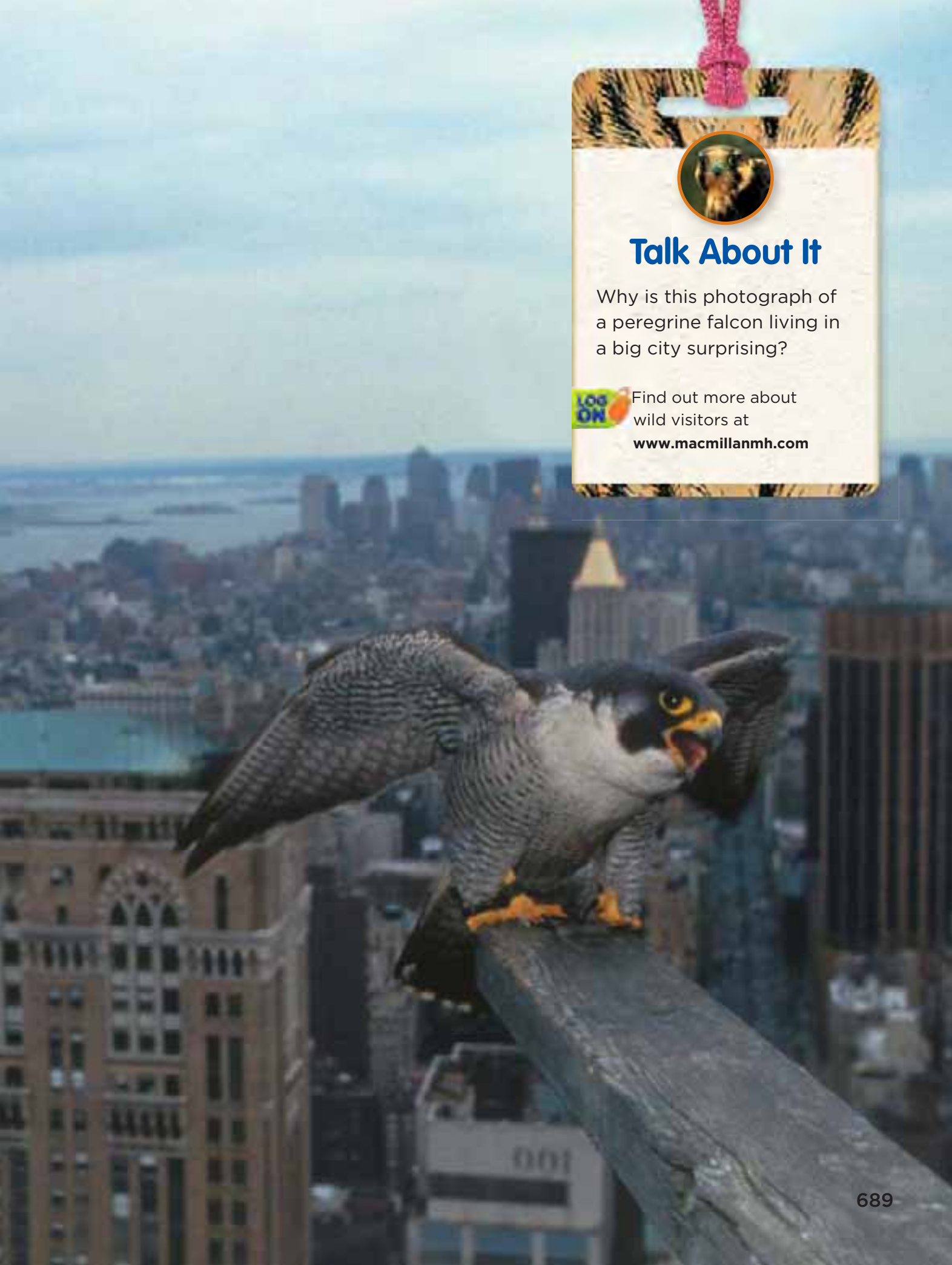


# WILD VISITORS

An aerial photograph of New York City, featuring the Empire State Building as the central focus on the right side. The city's dense urban landscape is visible, with various skyscrapers and buildings. In the background, the Hudson River and the New York Harbor are visible under a cloudy sky. The title 'WILD VISITORS' is overlaid in large, red, distressed font in the upper left quadrant.



## Talk About It

Why is this photograph of a peregrine falcon living in a big city surprising?



Find out more about wild visitors at

[www.macmillanmh.com](http://www.macmillanmh.com)

## Vocabulary

wistfully                      jumble  
eavesdropping      scornfully  
scuffling                      logical  
acquaintance

## Context Clues

**Paragraph Clues** can help you figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words.

Find *jumble* in the story. Use clues within the paragraph to figure out its meaning.



# The Country Mouse and the City Mouse

*retold by Jeff Banner*

One day Country Mouse invited an old friend from the city to visit her. Country Mouse welcomed City Mouse with a delicious meal of fresh barley and corn. City Mouse was very quiet, so Country Mouse asked her whether anything was wrong.

“I was just missing the city,” she replied **wistfully**. “You must come visit one day. There are lots of good things to eat.”

Country Mouse thought this was a very good idea, so a few weeks later she traveled to the city. City Mouse invited her friend for dinner at her favorite restaurant. Country Mouse followed City Mouse as she tiptoed quietly into a cupboard and listened.

“So, what are we doing?” asked Country Mouse.

“Shhh. We’re doing a bit of **eavesdropping**,” City Mouse whispered. “When the cook leaves for the night, we can help ourselves to that lovely bag of sugar over there.”



A light went out, and it grew quiet. City Mouse nibbled a hole in the bag, and Country Mouse took the tiniest taste.

“I’ve never tasted anything so wonderful in all my life!” she cried.

Just then, the mice heard a **scuffling** sound coming from behind the cupboard door. “Run for your life!” screamed City Mouse.

“That’s Esperanza, the cook’s rotten cat,” City Mouse explained when they were safe. “You don’t ever want to make her **acquaintance**. One swipe from her claws and it’s curtains. When she’s asleep again, we can go back for more sugar.”

But Country Mouse was too frightened to go back, so they went down to the basement instead. There they found a **jumble** of grain bags stacked randomly against the wall.

Country Mouse happily nibbled this and that. Then she saw something that made her mouth water—a hunk of cheese! Country Mouse was about to bite it when. . .

“STOP!” yelled City Mouse. “Can’t you see that’s a trap?” she said **scornfully**. “One nibble and that big metal thing comes crashing down.”

Country Mouse was horrified. The city was not the safest, most **logical** place for a mouse to live—or visit! So Country Mouse went home and never visited the city again.



## Reread for Comprehension



### Analyze Story Structure

**Theme** In a fable the theme may be expressed as the moral. To identify the theme, think about the story structure. Think about what the characters do and say and what happens as a result. Finally, ask yourself, “What lesson, or moral, does the author want the readers to learn?”

A Theme Map can help you identify an author’s theme. Reread the story to find the theme.

