

# Peace at the State Fair

Revised selection – original text by Byung Song, Plymouth  
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Photo courtesy of Patty Adams  
from Bryan Adams Blog

## Pre-reading

### Questions:

- What do you know about state fairs?
- How do you think peace could be found at the fair?

### Definitions:

- Admission – the price to enter an event
- Intrigue – to make curious or interested
- Unique – different from all others
- Sensation – a feeling

## Reading

In 2003, one beautiful August day, my family and I went to the Minnesota State Fair.

16 There were large crowds of people and many cars near the fairgrounds. We parked about eight  
32 blocks away and walked to the entrance gate to pay our admission.

44 We saw many amusement rides and many food stands. The fair's food specialty is anything  
59 on a stick: fish on a stick, banana on a stick, cheesecake on a stick, etc. There were over forty  
79 kinds of food on a stick at the fair. There was also live music and lots of **exhibits**.

97 My family and I were most interested in the farm animals. I grew up in a large city that I  
117 often refer to as "the concrete jungle." There was not much green space and very few animals. I  
135 only saw high-rises, streets and sidewalks. So the farm animals were a real joy to watch.

151 The animals were all arranged by stalls. There were horse stalls, cattle stalls, dairy cow  
166 stalls, sheep stalls, rabbit stalls, pig stalls, et cetera. The cow stall intrigued me. It was there that I  
184 saw a young girl sleeping with her cows. She was lying on a bed of hay.

200 This scene gave me a unique sensation. I had a feeling of true peace. As I was thinking  
218 about the word "peace," an ancient Hebrew saying came to my mind: "...the calf and the lion and  
236 yearling together, and a little child will lead them."

245 My visit to the Minnesota State Fair gave me a new understanding of the state, of its  
262 resources, agriculture, and animals. I also gained a new insight about peace and what it looks like  
279 to me.

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Level 4.5

## Understanding

1. How does the author refer to the city in which he grew up? Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. What was so unique about the food at the fair? \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. What is an **exhibit**? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Was the fair a free event? How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How did the author witness peace at the fair? \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Writing

Choice A: Retell the story in your own words.

Choice B: Write about a fair you've visited.

Choice C: Write about what peace would look like for you.

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