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All Aboard for the Bobo Road

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Big Ali is driving his minibus to Bobo Road, the most beautiful road in the world. His two children ride atop the bus and help all the passengers load their cargo. The bus drives by hippos, beautiful waterfalls, rock domes, a forest, and finally into the city. All the while, Ali’s children help load bikes, food, luggage, and even animals onto the bus. When the passengers arrive in the city, they take their belongings to the market to sell them, and Ali surprises his children with a special present for all their hard work: a pot of rice, beans, and fried fish.

Young children have the opportunity to travel with Ali and his children through the varying landscapes and cultures of Africa in All Aboard for the Bobo Road. Learning about different cultures and parts of the world is important for opening minds and fostering empathy. The author attempts to incorporate numbers into the story for an additional learning opportunity, although it is a bit sloppy. When the children are loading and unloading the passenger’s cargo, the readers are invited to count along with Ali’s children, but the numbers aren’t a strong theme throughout and are more of a side note. Regardless, All Aboard for the Bobo Road provides an excellent learning opportunity for young readers in culture and geography.