

Who doesn't love a trip to the big city where buildings shoot into the sky, streets are busy with people going about their lives, and cultures run wild? Throughout the world, cities are centers for economic opportunity, culture diversity, education, and innovation. With so much potential for human involvement, urban population continues to grow. Unfortunately, growth reaps consequences that our atmosphere must pay for. Those streets full of bustling cars and buildings producing manufactured goods release vehicle emissions and pollution that are the leading contributors for chemicals released into the air. When chemicals mix in the atmosphere such as ozone and nitrogen oxide it creates a cloud of air pollution called smog. When this smog continues to grow it remains lower in the city causing discomfort for those with respiratory issues or underdeveloped lungs. The most common respiratory illness is Asthma which causes inflammation and the tightening of the lungs. This condition is known to be worse at night, during physical activity, and when in an environment that contains triggers including dust, smoke, fumes, and changes in the weather. These triggers in relation to dense smog make cities a prime location for spiked asthma cases especially among children whose lungs are still developing. This story brings to light those people and families who bear witness to the affects air pollution has on those with Asthma.



Lets Take a Trip
By: Abbey Hoffmann

My house has
everything I need...



My mom and dad



My toys

And my little brother,
Lucas



Although my house has everything I
need, soon it will no longer be my
home.



My family is packing up our things
and moving across the country.



Mom says that this move will help
my brother.



Lucas has asthma.

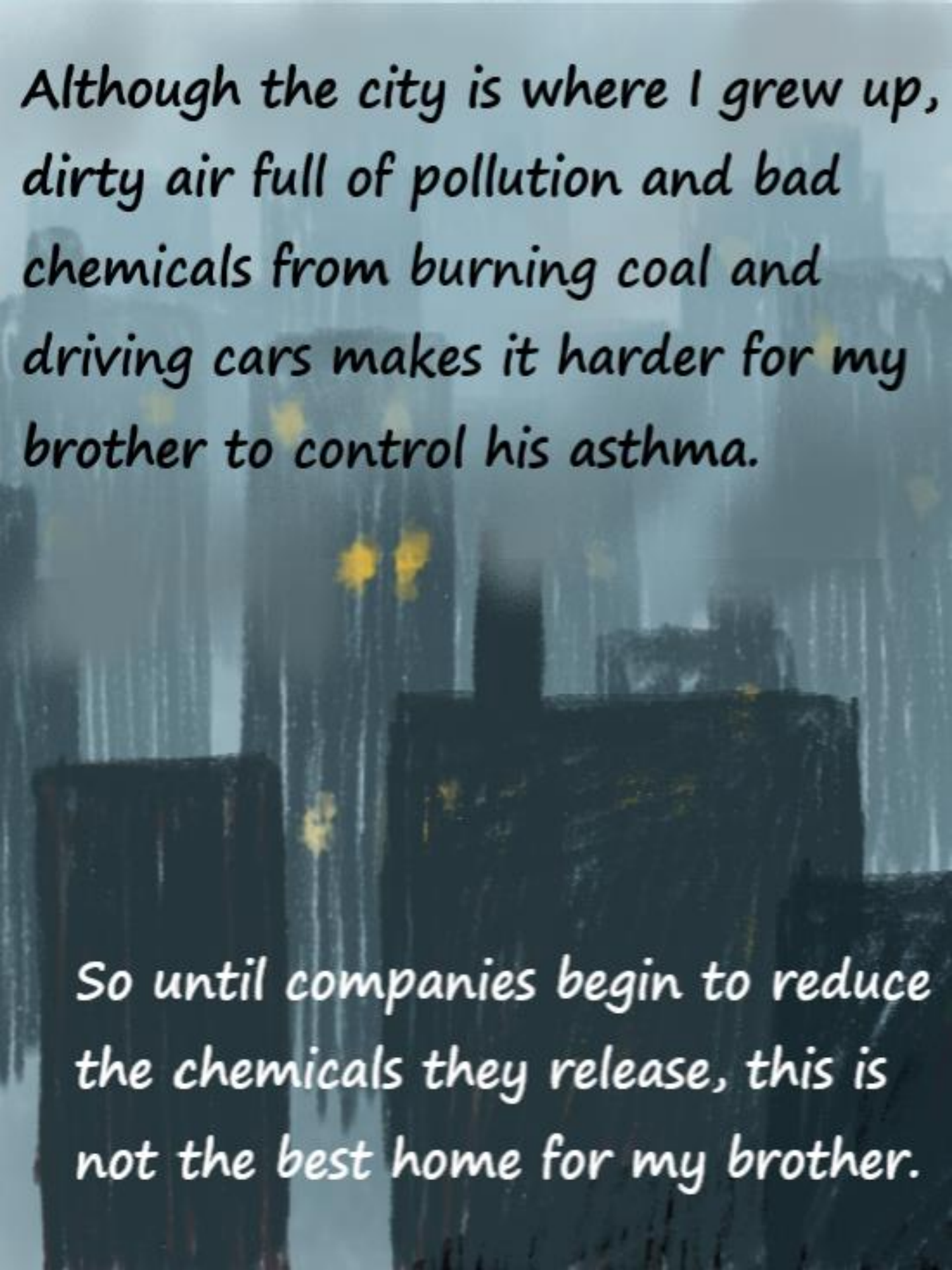
Asthma is a condition that tightens airways, not allowing the air he breathes to get to his lungs.

That means there are times when it is hard for Lucas to breath, so he uses an inhaler that gives him medication to open his airways.



Asthma always made it hard for my brother to play soccer with me, but now he only sits and watches.





Although the city is where I grew up,
dirty air full of pollution and bad
chemicals from burning coal and
driving cars makes it harder for my
brother to control his asthma.

So until companies begin to reduce
the chemicals they release, this is
not the best home for my brother.

Although moving to a new place can be scary, the trip can be fun.



Instead of the steel and brick buildings I saw
everyday...



I now see trees as tall as skyscrapers.

A dark, smoggy cityscape with several yellow stars on the buildings.

Instead of the dark and dirty sky i saw
everyday...

A bright blue sky with fluffy white clouds.

I now see blue skies with fluffy white
clouds.

*Instead of the steady traffic I would
see everyday...*



I now see miles of grass to play.





And instead of seeing my
brother sit down and
watch me play...



He now plays with me.

Making the trip away from the city didn't cure my brother of asthma, but getting away from the harsh chemicals and pollution in the air was the first step to making it easier for him.

So take a trip and see how it might help you.

