Explore New York: Imagine Your Story

Picture Books

Annie Edson Taylor hopes that being the first person to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel will bring her fame and fortune.
NON-FICTION

Read and sing-a-long to the tune of The Twelve Days of Christmas while taking a journey through the streets of New York during a class sightseeing trip.
FICTION

Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton were united as patriots during the Revolutionary War, but their inability to deal effectively with their political differences afterward led to disastrous results for both men.
NON-FICTION

In 1775, when the British occupied Boston, a young bookseller named Henry Knox convinced General George Washington that he could bring him much-needed cannons. The tricky part was that he had to fetch them from Fort Ticonderoga, NY, more than 300 miles away, and in the dead of winter.
NON-FICTION
A bilingual storybook biography of the life of Celia Cruz, the Cuban-Born Queen of Salsa (English/Spanish).
*2004 Americas Book Award*
*2006 Pura Belpré Honor*
NON-FICTION

Brown, Monica. **Tito Puente, Mambo King / Tito Puente, El Rey de Mambo.** Illus. by Rafael Lopez. New York: Rayo, an imprint of Harper Collings Publisher, 2013.
This colorful bilingual biography follows the life of musical legend Tito Puente from his Spanish Harlem childhood to his stellar career as the “King of Latin jazz.” Puente played multiple instruments, wrote many compositions in various genres and led a world-renown orchestra. He made more than 100 musical recordings in his lifetime and won numerous awards, including five Grammys.
NON-FICTION
Online read-aloud in Spanish available on YouTube at https://youtu.be/7HbFm761Jqc
Downloadable Format: DBC14965

According to an old Iroquois folktale, Rabbit once had a long, beautiful tail. But one winter, his tendency toward impatience and love of snow caused him to lose this tail. Today Rabbit has a short tail and he has learned to be more patient.
FOLKLORE

As a child growing up in Goshen, New York, in the late 1800s, Horace Pippin loved to draw: He loved the feel of the charcoal as it slid across the floor. He loved looking at something in the room and making it come alive again in front of him. He drew pictures for his sisters, his classmates, his co-workers. Even during W.W.I, Horace filled his notebooks with drawings from the trenches.
*2014 Schneider Family Book Award*
NON-FICTION
Downloadable Format: DB 078033

Country music is often associated with cowboy songs, accompanied by string instruments and a harmonica. This musical style is rooted in Appalachian folk lyrics and Irish fiddle melodies of European immigrant communities, a similar set of rural traditions that influenced the “folk music revival” in New York City. Eye-catching photographs, easy-to-read text, and embedded weblinks, show young readers other amusing facts of country music.
NON-FICTION
New York City has been a thriving home to jazz musicians! The musical style that developed from New York's big jazz bands became known as “swing music” and was played by a great variety of African American orchestras. Eye-catching photographs, easy-to-read text, and embedded weblinks, show young readers the elements of jazz and its many contributions to the music culture.
NON-FICTION

New York City’s pop-music concerts are known to set the stage for breathtaking singers, musicians, and dancers. Eye-catching photographs, easy-to-read text, and embedded weblinks, show young readers how Pop music has often borrowed elements from different musical styles including rock, Latin, and country.
NON-FICTION

Rap is usually performed with an instrumental track and is often associated with the hip-hop music established in New York City. Rap also introduces the creative use of language and musical styles comparable to West African oral traditions. Eye-catching photographs, easy-to-read text, and embedded weblinks, show young readers the way a rapper talks with the beat called “flow”.
NON-FICTION

Since the very beginning, New York City became a vital force in the shaping rock music and songs. Rock songs often express romantic love, social or political themes. Eye-catching photographs, easy-to-read text, and embedded weblinks, show how Rock music has developed from an extremely diverse background, including country music and African-American rhythms.
NON-FICTION

Castillo, Lauren. **Nana in the City.** New York: Clarion Books, 2014.
A young boy spends an overnight visit with his nana in New York City.
*2015 Caldecott Honor*
FICTION

Discover the vibrant world of NYC’s Harlem as seen through the eyes of one little boy.
*2001 Ezra Jack Keats Award*
FICTION

What will it take for the Bronx to feel like home? For young Gabriella, newly arrived from Havana after fleeing Cuba’s communist revolution, life just isn’t the same in New York--not the weather, not her surroundings, and certainly not the food.
FICTION
Audio available through Recorded Books (http://www.oneclickaudio.com)
The Brooklyn Bridge is featured on the cover of this picture book that tells the story of a boy who is enchanted by a painting that comes to life, changing how he sees the world.
FICTION
E-book also available

Set against a backdrop of the New York City skyline, ballet dancer Misty Copeland shows a young dancer how to dance like the Firebird. Ms. Copeland is the second African American soloist in the New York City based American Ballet Theatre. Known for her role in The Firebird Ballet, she tells how she too, had once been a young dancer full of dreams and hard work ahead.

*2015 Corretta Scott King Illustrator Award*
NON-FICTION

Jesse eagerly awaits the arrival of the R. Edwards Library and Bookstore boat to visit his town along the Erie Canal.
FICTION

St. Paul’s Chapel has stood in New York City since 1766. Tall buildings, including The Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, grew up beside it, but the little chapel remains unchanged as a place of comfort and rest. Having survived the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, it opened its doors to all who worked so hard to rescue the victims of this tragedy.
FICTION

A young girl growing up in Harlem in the 1950s, whose mother cleans and stitches costumes for a ballet company, dreams of being a prima ballerina one day. She is thrilled to see a performance of Janet Collins, the first “colored” prima ballerina. *2015 Children’s Notable Book*
FICTION

A delightful tour of the Finger Lakes Region of New York State through captivating illustration and descriptive verse.
NON-FICTION
Young Mekhai, better known as Bird, loves to draw. With drawings, he can erase the things that don't turn out right. In real life, problems aren't so easily fixed. As Bird struggles to understand the death of his beloved grandfather and his older brother's drug addiction, he escapes into his art. Drawing is an outlet for Bird's emotions and imagination and provides a path to making sense of his world. In time, with the help of his grandfather’s friend, Bird finds his own special somethin’ and wings to fly.

*Lee & Low’s New Voices honor award 2008*

*Best of the Year by Kirkus, 2008*

*ALA Notable Book, 2009*

*Paterson Prize for Books for Young Readers, 2009*

*West Virginia Children’s Choice Book Award, 2010-2011*

FICTION

A unique and playful look at the making of the Statue of Liberty and the gifting to the US from France. In this fascinating and fun take on nonfiction, Dave Eggers and Shawn Harris investigate a seemingly small trait of America's most emblematic statue. What they find is about more than history, more than art. What they find in the Statue of Liberty's right foot is the powerful message of acceptance that is essential of an entire country's creation.

NON-FICTION

Downloadable Format: DB089686

A lyrical evocation of Philippe Petit's 1974 tightrope walk between the World Trade Center towers. 2004 *Caldecott Medal Winner*

NON-FICTION

Braille Format: BR 015045

During the early days of the Great Depression, New York City's first Puerto Rican librarian, Pura Belpré, introduces the public library to immigrants living in El Barrio and hosts the neighborhood's first Three Kings' Day fiesta.

FICTION

Braille Format: BR 019004


This book chronicles the journey of the “Peekskill meteorite” from outer space to the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

NON-FICTION

Downloadable Format: DB 079410

On a hot day at the end of summer in 1973, Cindy Campbell threw a back-to-school party at a park in the South Bronx. Her brother, Clive Campbell, spun the records. He had a new way of playing the music to make the breaks—the musical interludes between verses—longer for dancing. He called himself DJ Kool Herc and this is *When the Beat Was Born.*

*2014 Coretta Scott King – John Steptoe Award*

NON-FICTION


In 1931, a boy and his father watch as the world's tallest building, the Empire State Building is constructed, step-by-step, near their Manhattan home.

*2007 ALA Notable Children’s Book*

FICTION

Downloadable Format: DB 078118


This wordless alphabet book is illustrated with stunningly imaginative, photo-realistic cityscapes.

*1996 Caldecott Honor*

NON-FICTION


A visual representation of the smash hit song by Billy Joel that brings to life the city that never sleeps for kids of all ages.

FICTION


A little prairie duck is in search of fame. He wants to do his ducky dance on Broadway. The duck tried to do all he could do until his dream came true.

FICTION

Picture Book and Audio CD by Folle Avoine Productions (2003) Story Book and Music CD


Learn all about the excitement at Grand Central Station, the busiest, fastest, biggest place there is. This tribute to Grand Central Station reflects the vibrant nature of the busy hub using color and stories about the people that run and use the station daily.

*2013 National Book Festival – New York State Selection*

FICTION
New York City native Eugenie Clark, 9, fell in love with sharks the moment she set eyes on them during weekend visits to the Battery Park City aquarium. Her curiosity and passion for the animals leads to a prolific long-time career in marine biology. Clarke’s research dispelled myths that sharks are mindless killers and she educated the public on the importance of protecting these fish.
NON-FICTION
Digital audiobook available via Audible
Downloadable Format: DB091498

Waking up to a world of snowy white—what could be better? Young Peter can’t wait to jump in his snowsuit and run out to explore. There are snowmen to build snowballs to pack, mountains to climb and snowbanks to collapse in-to carve a snow angel! And when the day is done, there's a dark night of dreams and drifting snow, and a new snowy day to awake to.
1963 Caldecott Medal
FICTION

A rhyming picture book that details the fun, but sometimes annoying behavior of crows in their winter roost of Troy, NY. Beautiful illustrations give readers a bird’s eye view of the city.
FICTION

In 1888, Owney, a stray terrier puppy, finds a home in the Albany, New York post office and becomes its official mascot as he rides the mail train through the Adirondacks and beyond, crisscrossing the United States, into Canada and Mexico, and eventually traveling around the world by mail boat in 132 days.
FICTION
Braille Format: BR 018034

This takeoff on the familiar “Old MacDonald Had a Farm” song features people growing vegetables and fruits on the tops of their city buildings, in empty lots, and patios. Several cities are featured including New York City, Atlanta, and Chicago.
FICTION
The song by Caspar Babypants that goes along with this book can be heard at http://www.babypantsmusic.com.

A man who sleeps for twenty years in the Catskill Mountains wakes to a much-changed world.
FICTION
Downloadable Format: DB030592
While riding the subway home from the pool with his abuela one day, Julián notices three women spectacularly dressed up. Their hair billows in brilliant hues, their dresses end in fishtails, and their joy fills the train car. When Julián gets home, daydreaming of the magic he’s seen, all he can think about is dressing up just like the ladies in his own fabulous mermaid costume: a butter-yellow curtain for his tail, the fronds of a potted fern for his headdress. But what will Abuela think about the mess he makes — and even more importantly, what will she think about how Julián sees himself?

FICTION

This slice-of-life picture book follows a young boy and his grandmother around their neighborhood of Manhattan’s Chinatown. The vivid watercolors capture many fun scenes in the bustling streets and businesses, such as seafood restaurant, outdoor market and kung fu school. The family also attends a Lunar New Year Parade.

FICTION
Online read-aloud available on YouTube at https://youtu.be/-dQVcX6sASA

Vibrant, realistic portraits and lively poems trace a year in the life of a young immigrant boy as he explores his new home in Manhattan’s Chinatown. Readers get to experience local sights, sounds and foods as well as simple pleasures like window-shopping for a kite, playing Chinese chess or celebrating the Lunar New Year and the Dragon Boat Festival.

FICTION
Downloadable Format: DBC06569

Malaspina focuses on Susan B. Anthony’s defiant act of casting her ballot in Rochester, New York, for the 1872 presidential election. This election occurred prior to the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which gave women the right to vote.

NON-FICTION

A little red schoolhouse near Cato, NY sits sad and lonely until a group of school children come to visit. No audio available.

FICTION

After Luis, a soldier, came back from the war in Iraq, everything was different and ordinary things scared him. Luckily, he had Tuesday, a golden retriever, who stuck by him, helping him every step of the way.

NON-FICTION
Tuesday and Luis, an Iraq War veteran, must travel by boat, bus, train, horse, pedicab and more as they race from New York City to the countryside outside the nation’s capital for an important event.

NON-FICTION

When Bear can't sleep, he goes on an adventure and discovers the wonders of New York City -- a parade, Central Park, hot dogs, and more! But when he finally gets tired and looks for a place to rest, he learns why it's called the city that never sleeps. What's a bear to do?

FICTION

Relates the story of the National Memorial African Bookstore, founded in Harlem by Louis Michaux in 1939, as seen from the perspective of Louis Michaux Jr., who met famous men like Muhammad Ali and Malcolm X while helping there.

*2016 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor*

NON-FICTION

Long before they became one of the most beloved and successful duos of all time, Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel were just two kids growing up in Queens, New York — best friends who met in a sixth-grade production of Alice in Wonderland and bonded over girls, baseball, and rock 'n' roll. As teens, they practiced singing into a tape recorder, building harmonies that blended their now-famous voices until they sounded just right. They wrote songs together, pursued big-time music producers, and dreamed of becoming stars, never imagining how far their music would take them.

NON-FICTION

There is a ship, a navy ship. It is called the USS *New York*. It is big like other navy ships, and it sails like other navy ships, but there is something different about the USS *New York*. Following the events of September 11, 2001, a steel beam from the World Trade Center towers was given to the United States Navy. The beam was driven from New York to a foundry in Louisiana. Metal workers heated the beam, to a high, high temperature. Chippers and grinders, painters and polishers worked on the beam for months. And then, seven and a half tons of steel, which had once been a beam in the World Trade Center, became the bow of a navy ship. This powerful story reveals how something remarkable can emerge from a devastating event.

NON-FICTION

Downloadable Format: DB089176

Molly Williams was the first known female firefighter. Molly, an African American cook for New York City's Fire Company 11, jumped into action to stop a house fire when many volunteers were sick from the 1818 influenza outbreak.

NON-FICTION
FICTION

NON-FICTION

Rappaport, Doreen. To Dare Mighty Things: The Life of Theodore Roosevelt. New York: Disney/Hyperion Books, 2013. The 26th President of the United States is highlighted here, from his earliest days as a sickly young boy, to his experience as a soldier with the “Rough Riders,” to his fearless trust-busting and championing of land conservation.
NON-FICTION

Reisner, Molly. I was a penguin zombie! New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 2011. Skipper goes to the vet for treatment. While he's there, the rest of the team mistakenly believes he has turned into a zombie.
FICTION

1992 Caldecott Honor
1992 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award
FICTION
Braille Format: BR 008940

Rocco, John. Blackout. Disney-Hyperion, 2011. One hot summer night in the city, all the power goes out. The TV shuts off and a boy wails, “Mommmy!” His sister can no longer use the phone, Mom can’t work on her computer, and Dad can’t finish cooking dinner. What’s a family to do? When they go up to the roof to escape the heat, they find the lights—in stars that can be seen for a change—and so many neighbors it’s like a block party in the sky.
2012 Caldecott Honor
FICTION

Sherman, Patrice. The Sun's Daughter. New York: Clarion Books, 2005. Once there was a time when the people of the earth did not have to tend the fields, for the Sun's daughters- Maize, Pumpkin, and Red Bean—walked among them, leaving lush crops wherever they stepped. But then headstrong Maize disobeyed her mother and was trapped by cold, lonely Silver, and the Sun vowed not to touch the earth again until Maize was returned.
FICTION
Blues songs are often about hard times and hope for a better life. They were originated by African Americans in the Deep South of the United States and arose in New York City in the early part of the 20th century. Eye-catching photographs, easy-to-read text, and embedded weblinks, show young readers how Blues continues to be a unique expression of music.
NON-FICTION

The creator of Humans of New York website combines an original narrative with some of his favorite children’s photos from the blog, in addition to all-new exclusive portraits.
NON-FICTION

Jean-Michael Basquiat and his unique, collage-style paintings rocketed to fame in the 1980s as a cultural phenomenon unlike anything the art world had ever seen. But before that, he was a little boy who saw art everywhere: in poetry books and museums, in games and in the words that we speak, and in the pulsing energy of New York City. Now, award-winning illustrator Javaka Steptoe's vivid text and bold artwork echoing Basquiat's own introduce young readers to the powerful message that art doesn't always have to be neat or clean--and definitely not inside the lines--to be beautiful.
2017 Randolph Caldecott Medal
NON-FICTION

Meet Tony Sarg, puppeteer extraordinaire! Brilliant collage illustrations tell the story of the puppeteer Sarg, the man who invented the famous balloons for the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade.
2012 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award
NON-FICTION
Downloadable Format: DB 075815

Rhyming text tells of a boy's birthday at Coney Island, while each turn of the page reveals words or phrases that sound the same but have different spellings and meanings.
FICTION

Watson chronicles the life of African-American singer Florence Mills, the subject of Duke Ellington’s song “Black Beauty.” Mills was born in Washington, DC, in 1896, but upon moving to New York City, she and her sisters became the stars of the performance trio, the Mills Sisters. Florence’s subsequent solo career included memorable roles in the following shows: *Shuffle Along, From Dover Street to Dixie, Dixie to Broadway*, and *Blackbirds*.
NON-FICTION

Wishinsky, Frieda. *How Emily saved the bridge: the story of Emily Warren Roebling and the building of the Brooklyn Bridge*. Groundwood Books. 2019. Emily was not an engineer, but she was educated in math and science. She married Washington Roebling, the chief engineer of the famous bridge. When Washington became ill from decompression sickness, Emily stepped in, doing everything from keeping the books, to carrying messages for her husband, to monitoring the construction of the bridge. FICTION

Woodson, Jacqueline. *The Day You Begin*. Ill. Rafael López. NY: Nancy Paulsen Books, 2018. Angelina is uncomfortable when she first steps into her classroom because she feels different from all the other kids. But it becomes apparent that everyone feels different, sometimes, and we can all find connection by sharing our stories. FICTION

*#1 New York Times Bestseller*

Braille Format: BR022673