

**Explore New York: Build a Better World  
Picture Books**



**AC - BA**

Ackerman, Peter. The Lonely Phone Booth. David R. Godine Publisher, 2010.

This is the story of a phone booth located on the corner of West End Avenue and 100<sup>th</sup> Street. As cell phones became popular, people stopped using it until a storm short-circuited the cell phone signals. The phone booth still worked and was declared a hero by the mayor. It still stands today.

FICTION

Adler, David A. Lou Gehrig: The Luckiest Man. San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1997.

Traces the life of the Yankees' star ballplayer, focusing on his character and his struggle with the terminal disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

NON-FICTION

Downloadable Format: DB045534

Adler, David and Terry Widener. The Babe and I. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Trade & Reference Publishers, 2004.

It's 1932 and hard times are everywhere, but America still loves baseball, and Babe Ruth is the star. Two boys discover that with some creativity, hard work, and a little help from the Babe himself, they can do their part to help out their own team.

FICTION

Agee, Jon. The Other Side of Town. New York: Michael di Capua Books/Scholastic, 2012.

An unsuspecting New York City cab driver picks up an eccentric little man who takes him on an unexpected journey to the other, unusual, side of town.

FICTION

Allen, Nancy Kelly. Barreling Over Niagara Falls. Illus. Lisa Fields. Gretna, LA: Pelican Pub. Company, 2013.

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

Avi. Silent Movie. Illus. C.B. Mordan. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2003.

In the early years of the twentieth century, a Swedish family encounters separation and other hardships upon immigrating to New York City until the son is cast in a silent movie.

FICTION

Barasch, Lynne. Hiromi's Hands. New York: Lee & Low Books, Inc., 2007.

This picture-book biography of one of the first female sushi chefs in New York City celebrates Hiromi Suzuki's Japanese-American roots and her achievements in the U.S.

NON-FICTION

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**BA – BR**

Barracca, Debra and Sal Barracca. The Adventures of Taxi Dog. New York: Dial, 1990.

A New York City taxi driver adopts a stray dog and their drives and adventures take them all over New York. Maxi loves the fares, the emergencies, and the sights and sounds of the big city.

FICTION

Bildner, Phil. Twenty-One Elephants. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster Books For Young Readers, 2004.

Hannah watched the workers build the Brooklyn Bridge, connecting the small town of Brooklyn to the big city of Manhattan across the East River. When the bridge finally opened, her father believed it was unsafe and would not let her cross it. It was not until after the 21 elephants from P. T. Barnum's Greatest Show on Earth used the bridge, that Hannah's father let her cross it. This fictional story is built around the actual crossing of the Brooklyn Bridge by P. T. Barnum and his parade of elephants on May 17, 1884.

FICTION

Bluemle, Elizabeth. Tap Tap Boom Boom. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2014.

The tap tap boom boom of a thunderstorm in New York City finds people and dogs running for shelter in the subway. Strangers make friends while they congregate undercover, listening to the storm and laughing at the thunder. The storm ends and everyone races back upstairs to find a beautiful rainbow over the city.

FICTION

Bohrer, Maria La Placa. Sofia's Stoop Story: 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn. West Bay Shore, NY: Blue Marlin Publication, 2014.

Sofia is listening to her Uncle Frankie tell a story, but her Nana keeps interrupting to send her to the store.

FICTION

Brown, Don. Aaron and Alexander: the most famous duel in American History. New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2015.

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

Brown, Don. Henry and the Cannons: An Extraordinary True Story of the American Revolution. New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2013.

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

Brown, Marc Tolon. In New York. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2014.

Illustrator Marc Brown takes readers on a grand tour of New York City, from exploring all the sites and even a bit of the city's history.

NON-FICTION

Brown, Monica. My Name is Celia: The Life of Celia Cruz. Illus. Rafael Lopez. Flagstaff, AR: Luna Rising, 2004.

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*

## **Explore New York: Build a Better World Picture Books**

NON-FICTION

**BR - CA**

Bruchac, James and Joseph Bruchac. Rabbit's Snow Dance. New York, NY: Dial Books For Young Readers, 2012.

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. Note: The original land of the Iroquois Native Americans is in upstate New York.

FOLKLORE

Bruchac, Joseph. Turtle's Race with Beaver: A Traditional Seneca Story. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2003.

When Beaver challenges Turtle to a swimming race for ownership of the pond, Turtle outsmarts Beaver, and Beaver learns to share.

FOLKLORE

Bryant, Jen. A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin. New York: Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2014.

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

Burg, Ann E. Times Square: A New York State Number Book. Chelsea, Mich.: Sleeping Bear Press, 2005.

This book takes children across the state using landmarks, historical events and famous faces to count out numbers. From the Finger Lakes to stitches on a baseball, find the numbers they represent and their ties to New York.

NON-FICTION

Burg, Ann E and Maureen Brookfield. E is for Empire: A New York State Alphabet. Illus. Maureen K. Brookfield. Chelsea, MI: Sleeping Bear Press, 2003.

This alphabet book opens New York State's history, culture, and landscape to young readers in a unique two-tiered approach. A quick rhyme offers children a distinct truth about New York from A to Z.

Alongside each rhyme, older elementary students gain a rich understanding of the topic by reading the longer expository information.

NON-FICTION

Burleigh, Robert. Stealing Home: Jackie Robinson Against the Odds. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2007.

Illustrated biography of baseball's Brooklyn Dodger, Jackie Robinson.

NON-FICTION

Cantarano, Tamara. The Adventures of Mac the Dog: Mac 'N Camping. New York. Sillybugs Publishing, 2013.

Mac the dog, a dog living in New York State, explores the wonders of nature on a hiking trail and camping under the stars. Though it was delightful, he appreciates his comfortable doghouse upon return.

The story continues with Mac 'N Circus and Mac 'N Park.

FICTION

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**CA – CU**

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

Charles, Veronika. Maiden of the Mist: A Legend of Niagara Falls. Topeka: Tandem Library Books, 2001.  
Retelling of a Seneca legend wherein a girl takes destiny into her own hands by going over Niagara Falls.  
FOLKLORE/LEGEND

Collier, Brian. Uptown. Jacksonville: Perma-Bound Books, 2000.  
Discover the vibrant world of NYC's Harlem as seen through the eyes of one little boy.  
*2001 Ezra Jack Keats Award*  
FICTION  
Braille Format: BR 013088

Colon, Edie. Good-bye, Havana! Hola, New York! New York: Simon & Schuster, 2011.  
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>)

Cooper, Elisha. Train. New York: Orchard Books, 2013.  
Board a commuter train in New York and travel with it west to see the stations, the scenery and different types of trains and the people who work and travel on railroads.  
FICTION

Copeland, Misty. Firebird: Ballerina Misty Copeland Shows a Young Girl How to Dance Like the Firebird. Illus. by Christopher Myers. New York, NY: G. P. Putnam and Sons, 2014.  
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 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award*  
NON-FICTION

Cotten, Cynthia. The Book Boat's In. Illus. Frane Lessac. New York: Holiday House, 2013.  
Jesse eagerly awaits the arrival of the R. Edwards Library and Bookstore boat to visit his town along the Erie Canal.  
FICTION

Curtiss, A. B. The Little Chapel That Stood. OldCastle Publishing, 2003.  
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

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**DE - EL**

Dempsey, Kristy. *A Dance Like Starlight*. New York: Philomel Books, 2014.

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

Dorros, Arthur. *Abuela*. New York: Puffin Books, 1991.

While riding on a bus with her grandmother, a little girl imagines flying over the sights of New York City.

FICTION

Downing, Johnette. *Today Is Monday in New York*. Gretna, LA: Pelican Publishing, 2011.

Only in New York do they eat apples on Monday, pastrami on Tuesday, and Buffalo wings on Wednesday. A delightful picture book about all the goodies that lucky New York children can enjoy every day of the week.

FICTION

Drummond, Allan. *Liberty!* New York: Frances Foster Books, 2002.

Describes the unveiling of the Statue of Liberty and its importance as a symbol of freedom.

FICTION

Dugan, Joanne. *123 NYC : A Counting Book of New York City*. NY: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2007.

Various New York City scenes are used to illustrate the numbers one to twenty.

NON-FICTION

Dugan, Joanne. *ABC NYC : A Book About Seeing New York City*. NY: Abrams Books for Young Readers., 2005.

A children's picture book illustrating the sights and scenes of New York City.

NON-FICTION

Egielski, Richard. *The Gingerbread Boy*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1997.

The chase is on! When the gingerbread boy rises from butter and molasses, everyone wants him for a snack. But the gingerbread boy has other ideas, sliding down the fire escape and running through the streets of New York City.

FICTION

Elliott, Zetta. *Bird*. Lee &Low Books, Inc., 2008.

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, 2011*

FICTION

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**FE – HA**

Fern, Tracey. Barnum's Bones: How Barnum Brown Discovered the Most Famous Dinosaur in the World. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012.

Barnum Brown was named after the circus icon P.T. Barnum. As a paleontologist for the American Museum of Natural History, he discovered the first documented skeleton of the Tyrannosaurus Rex.  
NON-FICTION

Gamble, Adam. Count to Sleep New York City. Dennis, MA: Our World of Books, 2011.

Counts from one to ten using distinct people, places, and things associated with New York City, ending with ten children sleeping peacefully.

NON-FICTION

Gerstein, Mordicai. The Man Who Walked Between the Towers. New York: Square Fish, 2007.

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

Godin, Thelma Lynn. The Hula-Hoopin' Queen. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2014.

In Harlem, New York, Kameeka yearns to continue her hula hooping competition with her rival, Jamara, rather than help prepare for Miz Adeline's birthday party. But that desire almost ruins the party.

FICTION

Gonzalez, Lucia. Storyteller's Candle. Illus. Lulu Delacre. San Francisco: Children's Book Press, 2008.  
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

Audiobook by Audible, Inc. (2009) Language: Spanish

Granderson, Curtis. All You Can Be. Chicago: Triumph Books, 2011.

Yankee baseball player Curtis Granderson shares important lessons about life, friends, school, family, leadership, positive attitudes, and more.

NON-FICTION

Harness, Cheryl. The Amazing Impossible Erie Canal. New York: Aladdin Picture Books, 1995.

"Impossible!" At first folks didn't really believe the Erie Canal would ever be built--but when it was completed in 1825, people proclaimed it, "Amazing!" Illustrations and maps included.

NON-FICTION

Hartland, Jessie. How the Meteorite Got to the Museum. Maplewood, NJ: Blue Apple Books, 2013.

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

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**HI - JA**

Hill, Laban Carrick. When the Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Hip Hop. Roaring Brook Press, 2013.

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

Himler, Ronald. The Girl on the Yellow Giraffe. New York: Star Bright Books, 2004.

While riding her toy giraffe from her apartment to a city park and back, a girl's fantasies transport her to a land of giants, dragons, and magicians.

FICTION

Holabird, Katharine. Angelina's Big City Ballet. New York, NY: VIKING An Imprint of Penguin Group, 2014.

In this most recent title of the series, Angelina the Ballerina mouse visits the most famous city in Mouseland, The Big Cheese, to perform in a dance show. With the look and feel of New York City, The Big Apple, The Big Cheese includes sights like Parmesan Park Avenue and The Empire Cheddar Building, and cultural experiences like the latest Broadway Mousical Show called River Mouse and the Big City Ballet.

FICTION

Hopkinson, Deborah. Sky Boys: How They Built the Empire State Building. New York: Schwartz & Wade Books, 2006.

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

Hyde, Heidi Smith. Feivel's Flying Horses. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben Publishing, 2010.

A Jewish immigrant who is saving money to bring his wife and children to join him in America creates ornate horses for a carousel on Coney Island, one for each member of his family.

FICTION

Jacobs, Paul DuBois. Count on the Subway. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2014.

A mother and child ride the subway around New York City and count their way from one to ten and back again.

FICTION

Jacobs, Paul DuBois. My Subway Ride. Salt Lake City: Gibbs Smith, 2004.

This book is filled with the sights and sounds of a subway ride through the boroughs of New York City.

FICTION

Jakobsen, Kathy. My New York. NY: Little Brown, 2003.

Becky, a young New Yorker, describes some of her favorite places in New York City in a letter to a friend. Includes fold-out illustrations.

NON-FICTION

## Explore New York: Build a Better World Picture Books

### JO - KE

Johnson, Stephen. Alphabet City. Minneapolis: Sagebrush Education Resources, 1999.  
This wordless alphabet book is illustrated with stunningly imaginative, photo-realistic cityscapes.  
*1996 Caldecott Honor*  
NON-FICTION

Kalman, Maira. Fireboat: The Heroic Adventures of the John J. Harvey. New York: Putnam Juvenile, 2002.  
In 1931, the John J. Harvey fireboat is busy fighting fires up and down the Hudson River. When the fireboat eventually retires, a group of citizens save it from the scrap heap and lovingly have it restored. On September 11, 2001, the fireboat is called upon to fight its biggest blaze ever.  
NON-FICTION  
Braille Format: BR 015004  
Audio book by Live Oak Media (2004)

Kalman, Maira. Next Stop Grand Central. New York: Penguin Young Readers Group, 2001.  
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

Keats, Erza Jack. The Snowy Day. New York: Penguin Young Readers Group, 1962.  
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

Keenan, Sheila. As the Crow Flies. Illus. Kevin Duggan. New York: Feiwel & Friends, 2012.  
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

Kelly, Irene. A Small Dog's Big Life: Around the World with Owney. New York: Holiday House Inc., 2005.  
Letters tell the story of Owney, a dog who became mascot of the Albany, New York, post office in 1888 and traveled around the world.  
FICTION

Kerby, Mona. Owney, the Mail-Pouch Pooch. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2008.  
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, criss-crossing the United States, into Canada and Mexico, and eventually traveling around the world by mail boat in 132 days.  
FICTION  
Braille Format: BR 018034



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**KI - LO**

Kimmel, Elizabeth Cody. The Top Job. New York: Dutton's Children's Books, 2007.

On Career Day, a young girl entertains the class with a description of her father's exciting job as light bulb changer at the top of the Empire State Building. Imagine how special it would be to have a dad responsible for changing the light bulbs at the tippy-top of the Empire State Building!

FICTION

Braille Format: BR 017044

Kimmel, Eric A. Rip Van Winkle's Return. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007.

A man, who sleeps for twenty years in the Catskill Mountains, wakes to a much-changed world. Illustrated adaptation of Washington Irving's *Rip Van Winkle*.

FICTION

Kimmel, Eric A. The Erie Canal Pirates. New York: Holiday House, 2002.

A boat captain and his men battle Bill McGrew and his pirate crew on the Erie Canal in a rhyming tale inspired by a folksong.

FICTION

Kraulis, Julie. An Armadillo in New York. Toronto, Ontario: Tundra Books, 2016.

Arlo is an armadillo who is always up for adventure. His grandfather, Augustin, loved adventure too. When Arlo was born, Augustin wrote travel journals about his favorite places for Arlo to use when he was old enough to go exploring on his own. When Arlo reads about New York and the mysterious Lady Liberty, he decides it's time for his next adventure....

FICTION

Kredensor, Diane. Ollie and Moon: Fuhgeddaboutit! New York: Random House Children's Books, 2012.

Two feline best friends travel to New York City, where Moon bets Ollie that she can make him laugh.

FICTION

Lendroth, Susan. Old Manhattan Has Some Farms: E-I-E-I-GROW! Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2014.

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>.

Lewin, Ted. Stable. New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2010.

This picture book briefly introduces readers to the history of horse transportation in urban areas and then describes the current activities of Kensington Stables in Brooklyn.

FICTION

Loewen, Nancy. Scarlett the Cat to the Rescue: Fire Hero. Illus. Kristin Sorra. North Mankato, MN: Capstone Press, 2014.

Scarlett, a feral cat in Brooklyn, demonstrates the power of love as she saves her kittens, one by one, from a fire that breaks out in the abandoned garage that serves as their home.

NON-FICTION

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**LO - MO**

Low, William. Old Penn Station. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2007.

An illustrated account of the construction, history, and demolition of one of the most famous railroad stations in America-- New York City's Penn Station.

NON-FICTION

Lyon, George Ella. Mothers to Tigers. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2003.

This book tells the story of Helen Martini, founder of the Bronx Zoo's animal nursery in 1944 and its first woman zookeeper.

NON-FICTION

Macy, Sue. Roller Derby Rivals. Holiday House, 2014.

During televised bouts at New York City's 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment Armory, two women create a memorable rivalry in the high-energy sport of roller derby.

NON-FICTION

Malaspina, Ann. Heart on Fire: Susan B. Anthony Votes for President. Albert Whitman & Company: Chicago, 2012.

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

Manning, Maurie. Laundry Day. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2012.

When a piece of red silk magically falls from the sky, a shoeshine boy is eager to find its owner while running through the streets of New York City in the early 1900s.

FICTION

Manzano, Sonia. Miracle on 133<sup>rd</sup> Street. Illus. Marjorie Priceman. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2015.

Homesick for Puerto Rico, Jose and his family are not having a merry Christmas Eve until holiday cheer is sparked in an unexpected way.

FICTION

Martins, Isabel Minhos. The World in a Second. New York: Enchanted Lion Books, 2015.

This book asks, "What are people doing right now on the other side of the world?" and readers learn about events happening across the globe -- from New York and Turkey to South Africa and Greece -- at the same second.

FICTION

Matteson, George and Adele Ursone. The Christmas Tugboat: How the Rockefeller Christmas Tree Came to New York City. Boston: Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012.

A New York Harbor tugboat captain and his family travel up the Hudson River to pick up and tow the enormous Christmas tree that will be displayed at Rockefeller Center.

FICTION

Montalvan, Luis Carlos and Bret Witter. Tuesday Tucks Me In: The Loyal Bond between a Soldier and His Service Dog. Photographs by New York: Roaring Book Press, 2014.

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

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**MO - OC**

Montalvan, Luis Carlos and Bret Witter. Tuesday Takes Me There: The Healing Journey of a Veteran and his Service Dog. Photographs by New York: Roaring Book Press, 2016

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

Moore, Eva. Lucky Ducklings. New York: Scholastic/Orchard, 2013.

Mama Duck comes to shore one day, followed by her five offspring. The village of Montauk, on Long Island, seems like a great place for a walk. Watchful villagers come to the rescue of the little ducklings when they fall through a storm drain.

FICTION

Nargi, Lela and Brooker, Kyrsten. The Honeybee Man. New York: Schwartz & Wade, 2011.

This book tells the story of an urban beekeeper in Brooklyn, NY, named Fred. Every morning, Fred goes up to his rooftop to greet his bees and watch them produce honey.

FICTION

Nastro, Caroline. The Bear Who Couldn't Sleep. Zurich, Switzerland: North South, 2016.

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

Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux. The Book Itch: freedom, truth and Harlem's greatest bookstore. Illus. R. Gregory Christie. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 2015.

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

Niemann, Christoph. Subway. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2010.

This colorful, vivacious, child-centered title began with a post on Niemann's blog, Abstract City, in which he describes a day of riding the subway with his two sons just for fun.

FICTION

Novesky, Amy and Vanessa Brantley Newton. Mister and Lady Day: Billie Holliday and the Dog Who Loved Her. Boston: Harcourt Mifflin Harcourt, 2013.

The great jazz singer Billie Holiday, known as Lady Day, loved dogs. When the spotlight on her life went dark, her most favorite dog of all, the boxer known as Mister, was there to give her courage. The audience at Carnegie Hall was expecting great things from Billie, and the devotion of beloved dog provided the support she needed to sing at the grandest venue of her career.

NON-FICTION

Ochiltree, Dianne. Molly by Golly: the Legend of Molly Williams, America's First Female Firefighter. Honesdale, PA: Calkins Creek, 2012.

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

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### PA - RI

Paley, Jane. Hooper Finds a Family: A Hurricane Katrina Dog's Survival Tale. New York: Harper, 2011. Jimmy, a yellow Labrador puppy, is separated from his Lake Charles, Louisiana, family and survives the horrors of Hurricane Katrina on his own before being rescued and taken to New York City, where he tries to fit in with a new family and the many neighborhood dogs, and accept his new name.  
FICTION

Pinborough, Jan. Miss Moore Thought Otherwise: How Anne Carroll Moore Created Libraries For Children. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013. Examines the story of how librarian Ann Carroll Moore created the first children's room at the New York Public Library.  
NON-FICTION

Prince, April Jones. Twenty-One Elephants and Still Standing. Illus. Francois Roca. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2005. After the Brooklyn Bridge is built in 1883, P.T. Barnum demonstrates that the bridge is safe by marching 21 of his elephants across it on their way to the Big Top and "The Greatest Show on Earth."  
FICTION

Rappaport, Doreen. Eleanor, Quiet No More. New York: Disney/Hyperion Books, 2009. Though born into a privileged New York family, Eleanor grew from a lonely child to a young woman with a lively mind and kind spirit. It was her kindness and her generous heart that later won over the American people, first as the wife of celebrated President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and later as a humanitarian in her own right.  
NON-FICTION

Rappaport, Doreen. To Dare Mighty Things: The Life of Theodore Roosevelt. New York: Disney/Hyperion Books, 2013. The 26<sup>th</sup> 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

Ringgold, Faith. Harlem Renaissance Party. New York: Amistad, 2015. Lonnie and Uncle Bates go back to Harlem in the 1920s. Along the way, they meet famous writers, musicians, artists, and athletes, from Langston Hughes and W.E.B. Du Bois to Josephine Baker and Zora Neale Hurston and many more, who created this incredible period.  
FICTION

Ringgold, Faith. Tar Beach. New York: Crown Publishers, 1991. Ringgold recounts the dream adventure of eight-year-old Cassie Louise Lightfoot, who flies above her apartment-building rooftop, the 'tar-beach' of the title, looking down on 1939 Harlem. Part autobiographical, part fictional, this allegorical tale sparkles with symbolic and historical references central to African-American culture.  
*1992 Caldecott Honor*  
*1992 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award*  
FICTION  
Braille Format: BR 008940

**Explore New York: Build a Better World**  
**Picture Books**

**RO - SA**

Rockliff, Mara. Me and Momma and Big John. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2012.  
Little John is proud of his mother's work as a stonecutter for a cathedral called "Big John," but struggles to understand the importance of spending so much time on one stone that no one will know Momma cut. Includes a history of New York City's Cathedral of St. John the Divine.  
FICTION

Rosenstock, Barb. The Streak: How Joe DiMaggio Became America's Hero. Calkins Creek, 2014.  
New York Yankees legend Joe DiMaggio made history during the 1940s with a hitting streak that inspired a nation under the shadow of WWII.  
NON-FICTION

Rubel, David. The Carpenter's Gift: A Christmas Tale About the Rockefeller Center Tree. New York: Random House Children's Books, 2011  
In Depression-era New York, eight-year-old Henry and his out-of-work father sell Christmas trees in Manhattan. They give one of their trees to construction workers building Rockefeller Center. That tree becomes the first Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree. Henry wishes on the tree for a nice, warm house to replace his family's drafty, one-room shack. Will his wish come true?  
FICTION

Rubbino, Salvatore. A Walk in New York. Somerville MA: Candlewick, 2009.  
A wide-eyed boy and his dad explore the Big Apple's busy streets and towering views in this child-friendly tribute to an incomparable city.  
FICTION

Rusch, Elizabeth. Electrical Wizard: How Nikola Tesla Lit Up the World. Illus. Oliver Dominguez. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2013.  
This biography details Tesla's boyhood fascination with electricity, the fulfillment of his teenage vow to harness the power of Niagara Falls to produce it, his rivalry with Thomas Edison and the changes his accomplishments brought to America.  
NON-FICTION

Russo, Marisabina. Little Bird Takes a Bath. New York: Schwartz & Wade Books, 2015.  
The only thing Little Bird likes about rain is the puddles it leaves behind, but after flying through Manhattan to find the perfect puddle, his bath is interrupted again and again.  
FICTION

Ryan, Phillip. Subways. New York: Rosen Publishing Group, 2011.  
This book is about the underground world of subway trains. Amazing photography supports the text, which focuses on how these trains help commuters, tourists, students, and others get to where they need to be on time.  
NON-FICTION

Sarcone-Roach, Julia. Subway Story. New York: Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2011.  
Never was there a New York City subway car who loved her job more than Jessie. But as time passed, sleek new silver cars began to take over the tracks, banishing Jessie to an abandoned lot. This book is based on the true story of 1960s-era subway cars that are now being used to create artificial reefs in the Atlantic.  
FICTION

## **Explore New York: Build a Better World Picture Books**

### **SA - ST**

Sasek, Miroslav. [This is New York](#). New York: Simon and Schuster, 2003.

First published in 1960 and reprinted in 2003, Sasek's vision of New York nearly forty years ago still remains fresh: the hustle and bustle of Times Square, the ethnic neighborhoods, the awe-inspiring architecture.

NON-FICTION

Sattler, Jennifer Gordon. [All Aboard, Owney! The Adirondack Mail Dog](#). Utica: Nicholas K. Burns Publishing, 2003

In 1888, Owney, a stray 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 discovering new vistas and friends along the way.

FICTION

Seven, John. [Frankie Liked to Sing](#). Illus. Jana Christy. New York : Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2015.

The biography of Frank Sinatra, who became one of America's most iconic singers.

NON-FICTION

Sis, Peter. [Madlenka](#). New York: Square Fish, 2010.

Look into Madlenka's world as you see her city block in New York City, meet all her diverse neighbors, and see the memories that Madlenka's window holds.

FICTION

Spinelli, Eileen. [Hero Cat](#). Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish Children, 2006.

A mother cat gives birth to five kittens in an abandoned building on a cold March day. After nursing the kittens, the mother cat goes out to find food. When she returns, the building is on fire and she must enter the smoking building five times to rescue her kittens. *Hero Cat* is based on a true story of a feral cat in Brooklyn, NY.

FICTION

Stanton, Brandon. [Little Humans](#). New York: Farrar, Strauss, Giroux, 2014.

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

Step toe, Javaka. [Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat](#). New York: Little Brown, 2016.

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

Stone, Tanya Lee. [Elizabeth Leads the Way](#). Henry Holt & Company, 2008.

This picture book tells the story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and her fight for men and women to have equal rights.

NON-FICTION

## **Explore New York: Build a Better World Picture Books**

### **SU - WA**

Sullivan, Maureen. Ankle Soup. New York: Mojo Inkworks, 2008.  
It's Thanksgiving Day and Carlos the bulldog is enjoying New York City. Well, he's enjoying at least what he can see of it.

FICTION

Swamp, Jake. Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message. Minneapolis: Tandem Library Books, 2007.

An illustrated message of peace and appreciation of Mother Earth, traditionally recited by Mohawk children every morning. The prayer appears in the Mohawk language on the last page.

NON-FICTION

Sweet, Melissa. Balloons Over Broadway: The True Story of the Puppeteer of Macy's Parade. New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2011

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

Talbott, Hudson. River of Dreams: The Story of the Hudson River. New York: Putnam Juvenile, 2009.

With watercolors, colored pencil and ink, the author/illustrator creates lushly detailed paintings that tell a story both literally and symbolically.

NON-FICTION

Thomas, Peggy. Joshua the Giant Frog. Gretna, LA: Pelican Publishing Co., 2005.

Although Joshua, a giant frog, causes earthquakes when he hops and topples trees when he croaks, he can also haul a string of barges down the Erie Canal.

FICTION

Velasquez, Eric. Grandma's Gift. London: Walker Children's, 2010.

While visiting his grandmother in New York during the Christmas holidays, Eric goes to the Metropolitan Museum of Art for a school project. He finds a painting by Diego Velasquez and realizes he too can be an artist. Grandma then gives Eric the perfect Christmas gift.

FICTION

Vila, Laura. Building Manhattan. New York: Viking Juvenile; Penguin Group, 2008.

See the transformation of the island of Manhattan from its earliest beginnings to today and beyond. Colorful and imaginative illustrations depict the growth of this small island from its first animals, to native peoples, then explorers, and settlers.

NON-FICTION

Viva, Frank. Outstanding in the Rain. New York: Little, Brown & Co., 2015

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

Waldman, Neil. The Starry Night. Honesdale: Boyds Mills Press, 2003.

This book sparks wonder and imagination with its stunning Van Gogh-inspired paintings of Manhattan.

FICTION

## **Explore New York: Build a Better World Picture Books**

### **WA - WI**

Wall, Julia. Finding 3-D Shapes in New York City. New York: Capstone Press, 2010.

This book about math in everyday life focuses on three dimensional shapes, explains what they are, shows how to find them in the architecture of New York City, and includes problem-solving activities and graphic organizers.

NON-FICTION

Warnes, Tim. Chalk and Cheese. New York: Simon and Schuster Books for Young Children, 2008.

Dog Chalk takes his country mouse friend Cheese on a tour of the Big Apple. Sure, they're very different from each other, but both have a great time.

NON-FICTION

Watson, Renée. Harlem's Little Blackbird: The Story of Florence Mills. Random House: New York, 2012

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

Weatherford, Carole Boston. Sugar Hill: Harlem's Historic Neighborhood. Chicago: Albert Whitman & Company, 2014.

Rhyming text celebrates the Harlem neighborhood that successful African Americans first called home during the 1920s. Includes brief biographies of jazz greats Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Sonny Rollins, and Miles Davis; artists Aaron Douglas and Faith Ringgold; entertainers Lena Horne and the Nicholas Brothers; writer Zora Neale Hurston; civil rights leader W. E. B. DuBois; and lawyer Thurgood Marshall.

FICTION

Willems, Mo. Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2004.

When a toddler leaves her stuffed toy at the Laundromat, she doesn't have the words to express her loss.

FICTION

Braille Format: BR 016029

Winter, Jonah. Sonia Sotomayor: a Judge Grows in the Bronx – la Juez que Crecio en el Bronx. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2009.

Before Sonia Sotomayor took her seat in our nation's highest court, she was just a little girl in the South Bronx. Written both in English and in Spanish, this story captures the grit and determination of a young Sonia, who overcame many obstacles to become the first Latina Supreme Court Justice of the United States.

NON-FICTION

Downloadable Format: DB 072195

Winters, Jeanette. Mr. Cornell's Dream Boxes. Beach Lane Books, 2014.

New York artist Joseph Cornell created beautiful shadowboxes from objects he collected in his travels.

NON-FICTION

Wilbur, Helen. Little New York. Chelsea: Sleeping Bear Press; Boardbook edition, 2010.

State birds, flowers, trees, and animals presented in board book form for the youngest book lovers.

Toddlers will delight in these books filled with rhyming riddles, framed by brightly painted clues that introduce items that make New York State so special.

NON-FICTION



**Explore New York: Build a Better World  
Picture Books**

**YO - ZA**

Yolen, Jane. Naming Liberty. New York: Philomel Books. 2008.

In parallel stories, a Ukrainian family prepares to immigrate to the United States and the Statue of Liberty is being designed and built by Frederic Auguste Bartholdi.

FICTION

Zarin, Cynthia. Albert, the Dog Who Liked to Ride in Taxis. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2004.

Albert the dachshund loves nothing better than riding in taxicabs, until the day a taxicab adventure takes him to the airport.

FICTION