

# Explore New York: Tails and Tales

## Elementary



Airgood, Ellen. Prairie Evers. New York: Nancy Paulsen Books, 2012.

Ten-year-old Prairie is happy being home-schooled and raising her flock of chickens, so transferring to regular school is a big change. Fortunately, she meets a wonderful friend when she moves from North Carolina to New Paltz, New York, and faces big adjustments. First in a series.

FICTION

Aretha, David. A Hall Lot of Trouble of Cooperstown. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Speeding Star, 2015.

A part of The Baseball Geeks Adventures series. The Baseball Geeks find themselves in a tough situation when Kevin's dad tells the boys that he stole something very important from the baseball Hall of Fame. The boys must get from Ohio to New York and save Kevin's dad from getting in serious trouble.

FICTION

Birle, Pete. New York Knicks. La Jolla, CA: MVP Books, 2014.

A look at the close relationship between a city, its favorite team and its favorite sport.

NON-FICTION

Bruchac, Joseph. Arrow Over the Door. New York: Puffin, 2002.

This historical novel set during the Revolutionary War tells about the intersecting lives of a Quaker and a Native American boy.

FICTION

Downloadable Format: DB 046648

Bullard, Lisa. Erie Canal. Minneapolis : Lerner Publications Co., 2010.

In the 1800s, people dug a canal that was 363 miles long. It helped link the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes.

NON-FICTION

Carson, Mary Kay. Why Couldn't Susan B. Anthony Vote? New York: Sterling Children's Books, 2015. From the first women's rights convention at Seneca Falls, N.Y., to the enactment of the 19th Amendment, this lively chronicle introduces Anthony and the American suffragist movement.  
NON-FICTION

Corey, Shauna. The Secret Subway. New York: Schwartz & Wade Books, 2016. In 1870, Alfred Ely Beach invents New York's first underground train.  
NON-FICTION

Curlee, Lynn. Brooklyn Bridge. New York: Atheneum Books, 2001. The Brooklyn Bridge is celebrated as one of the greatest landmarks and grandest sights in New York City. Curlee describes the planning, construction, and history of the bridge and includes full-color illustrations. *2002 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor*  
NON-FICTION  
Braille Format: BR 014028

Denise, Anika. Planting Stories. Illu. Paola Escobar. New York: HarperCollins, 2019. From the author of MONSTER TRUCK and STARRING CARMEN comes a gorgeous and lyrical story about Pura Belpré, a Puerto Rican librarian who changed the world"-- Provided by publisher.  
NON-FICTION

Downey, Tika. New York: The Empire State. New York: Rosen Publishing Group, 2010. Originally called the "Empire State" due to its vast wealth and resources, New York has more than lived up to its name. Readers will learn about New York's history and how it became a state. They will also take a closer look at the Empire State Building and many other symbols and key features of the state.  
NON-FICTION

Edmonds, Walter D. The Matchlock Gun. Illus. Paul Lantz. New York: Putnam Juvenile, 1998. During the French and Indian War, a young boy living in New York must protect his mother and sister with his father's gun. This stirring tale of a small boy, his mother and younger sister, and an antique matchlock gun, is based on a true story. *1942 Newbery Medal*  
FICTION  
Braille Format: BR 015077, BR 006718  
Downloadable Format: DB 057031, DB 010418

Eulberg, Elizabeth. The Great Shelby Holmes: Girl Detective. Bloomsbury USA Childrens, 2016. This Sherlock inspired book is so well-written with a great story. John Watson moves with his mom who has recently left both the military and John's dad to Harlem. There he meets a very unique girl named Shelby Holmes who reluctantly allows him to tag along with her as she solves her latest crime — the mystery of a missing show-dog stolen from a classmate's secure house.  
FICTION

Elish, Dan. New York (It's My State!). Tarrytown: Benchmark Books, 2010.

Surveys the history, geography, government, and economy of the Empire State, as well as the diverse ways of life and its people. Illustrations and photographs.

NON-FICTION

Fritz, Jean. Traitor: The Case of Benedict Arnold. Paradise, CA: Paw Prints, 2008.

A study of the life and character of the brilliant Revolutionary War general Benedict Arnold who deserted to the British for money.

NON-FICTION

Downloadable Format: DB 018436

Gitlin, Marty. Carmelo Anthony. New York: Bearport Publishing, 2015.

Carmelo Anthony shines playing for the New York Knicks. And when he's not sinking shots, Carmelo is helping those in need through the Carmelo Anthony Foundation.

NON-FICTION

Glaser, Linda. Emma's Poem: The Voice of the Statue of Liberty. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2010.

The story of Emma Lazarus, who despite her life of privilege, became a tireless advocate for the immigrants who arrived in New York City in the 1880s and wrote a famous poem for the Statue of Liberty.

NON-FICTION

Braille Format: BR 019046

Griffin, Paul. When Friendship Followed Me Home. Puffin Books, 2017.

Ben Coffin has never been one for making friends. As a former foster kid, he knows people can up and leave without so much as a goodbye. Ben prefers to spend his time with the characters in his favorite sci-fi books...until he rescues an abandoned mutt from the alley next-door to the Coney Island Library. Scruffy little Flip leads Ben to befriend a fellow book-lover named Halley—yes, like the comet—a girl unlike anyone he has ever met.

FICTION

Gutman, Dan. Willie & Me. New York: HarperCollins, 2015.

Joe "Stosh" Stoshack uses his power to time travel using baseball cards to go back to 1951, when a young rookie, Willie Mays, was just about to make his name known.

FICTION

Haring, Kay A.. Keith Haring the Boy Who Just Kept Drawing. New York: Dial Books, 2017.

From chalk drawings in the subway to doodles on his school papers, Keith Haring compelling mission and passion for drawing moves quickly through the pages of this biography. This very visual, colorful and moving biography of Keith, written by his sister, tells and depicts his amazing talent to draw and paint, anything, anytime and anywhere. Author's notes with photographs of Keith Haring add some sisterly love and special memories that shaped the life of her famous brother Keith.

NON-FICTION

Holub, Joan. What Is the Statue of Liberty? New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 2014.  
Describes the history of the Statue of Liberty, including its origins as a gift from France and its construction, and explores the landmark's enduring symbolism of freedom, democracy, and friendship.  
NON-FICTION

Jerome, Kate Boehm. Rochester and the State of New York: Cool Stuff Every Kid Should Know. Mount Pleasant, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2012.  
Collects information about the land, history, and people of Rochester and the state of New York.  
NON-FICTION

Koll, Hilary, and Steve Mills. Design a Skyscraper: You Do the Math. QEB, 2015.  
First you learn with cartoon illustrations about the 3D shapes of skyscrapers and examples of each, then sizes, a good building site and foundation, and through the actual building. Each page asks kids to answer questions such as "If each floor of a skyscraper needs 430 steel girders, how many girders must be ordered for: a) 2 floors? b) 20 floors? c) 40 floors?" with answers in the back of the book.  
NON-FICTION

Konigsburg, E.L. From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler. New York: Aladdin, 2007.  
When suburban Claudia Kincaid decides to run away, she knows she doesn't just want to run "from" somewhere, she wants to run "to" somewhere -- to a place that is comfortable, beautiful, and preferably, elegant. She chooses the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

*Newbery Medal*

FICTION

Braille Format: BR 009549

Downloadable Format: DB 022914

Audio CD by Listening Library (2004)

Laiz, Jana. Billy Budd in the Breadbox: The Story of Herman Melville and Eleanor. Illu. Declan Kerr. South Egremont, MA: Crow Flies Press; 1st edition, 2017.

Set in NYC, it is a great combination of Melville's biography and the story of the relationship between grandfather and granddaughter.

FICTION

Lang, Heather. Fearless Flyer: Ruth Law and Her Flying Machine. Honesdale, Pennsylvania: Calkins Creek, An Imprint of Highlights, 2016.

On November 19, 1916, at 8:25 a.m., Ruth Law took off on a flight that aviation experts thought was doomed. She set off to fly nonstop from Chicago to New York City. Sitting at the controls of her small bi-plane, exposed to the elements, Law battled fierce winds and numbing cold. When her engine ran out of fuel, she glided for two miles and landed at Hornell, New York. Even though she fell short of her goal, she had broken the existing cross-country distance record. And with her plane refueled, she got back in the air and headed for New York City where crowds waited to greet her.

NON-FICTION

Lee, Mary Ellen. Danny and Life on Bluff Point. Titusville, Fla.: Four Seasons, 2000.

Danny is a ten-year old boy growing up on a large fruit and livestock farm in 1894. The dangers of this rural life are real. He also learns that confrontations with a bully are better managed by talk and not fists.

FICTION

Malaspina, Ann. What's Great About New York? Minneapolis: Lerner Publications Co., 2015.  
Details many of the attractions that the state has to offer, from Broadway and the Statue of Liberty to the Erie Canal and Niagara Falls.

NON-FICTION

Margolis, Leslie. Girl's Best Friend (Maggie Brooklyn Mystery). New York: Bloomsbury, 2010.  
In Brooklyn, New York, twelve-year-old dog-walker Maggie, aided by her twin brother Finn and best friend Lucy, investigates someone she believes is stealing pets.

FICTION

Downloadable Format: DB 072802

Markel, Michelle. Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909. New York: Balzer & Bray, 2013.

An illustrated account of immigrant Clara Lemlich's role in the 1909 women laborer's strike describes how she worked grueling hours to acquire an education and support her family before organizing a massive walkout to protest the unfair working conditions in New York's garment district.

NON-FICTION

Braille Format: BR 020036

Maurer, Tracy Neslon. Noah Webster's Fighting Words. Minneapolis: Millbrook Press, 2017.

Elementary school students will be surprised that Noah himself (assuming this is his ghost of course), has edited and added his opinions and comments to the text of this very visual presentation of his life story. This biography provides compelling evidence for Noah Webster's intelligence, confidence, passion and dedication to the creation of our American English Dictionary. Text includes a timeline and primary source materials.

NON-FICTION

McAuliffe, Emily. New York Facts and Symbols. Mankato, Minn. : Capstone Press, 2003.

Presents information about the state of New York, its nickname, flag, motto, and emblems.

NON-FICTION

McKinley, Rosemary. The Wampum Exchange. Self-published, 2012.

A twelve-year-old boy in 1650 Southold, New York, has a chance meeting with a Native American boy and their worlds connect in a most interesting way.

FICTION

O'Neill, Alexis. The Kite That Bridged Two Nations: Homan Walsh and the First Niagara Suspension Bridge. Honesdale, PA: Calkins Creek, 2013.

This soaring and poetic picture book is based on the true story of Homan J. Walsh, an ordinary boy born in Ireland and raised in Niagara Falls, NY. In 1848, Homan entered a kite-flying contest. The winner's kite string would span Niagara Falls and bridge the United States and Canada. Despite biting cold and strong winds and against tremendous odds, Homan Walsh won the contest, earning him a place in history. His successes also lead to the building of the first suspension bridge across the Falls, linking the two neighboring countries. The book includes author's note, timeline, bibliography and further resources.

FICTION

Othenguy, Emma. Martí's Song for Freedom Martí y sus versos por la libertad. Lee & Low, 2017.  
José Martí was a Cuban poet who wrote against slavery and the Spanish rule of Cuba. Forced to leave his beloved Cuba, he moved to New York until he could return home to fight for Cuba's independence. This is a basic bilingual biography which doesn't get into a lot of the nuances of the poet's life but makes for a great starting point for a study of Cuba, Latino poets, or the power of words in a social justice movement.  
NON-FICTION

Robertson, Robbie. Hiawatha and the Peacemaker. Illus. David Shannon. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2015.

Hiawatha, a Mohawk, is plotting revenge against the Onondaga chief for the murder of his family. He meets the Great Peacemaker who convinces Hiawatha to join him in helping to unite the five warring Iroquois tribes.

FICTION

Audio CD by Recorded Books (2015)

Swain, Gwenyth. Hope and Tears: Ellis Island Voices. Pennsylvania: Calkins Creek, 2012.

An original collection of voices, filled with hope and tears, chronicles the history of Ellis Island and the people it served. Native Americans, settlers, immigrants, inspectors, doctors, nurses, cooks, and social workers all played important roles in the history of the island.

NON-FICTION

Sweet, Melissa. Some Writer!: The Story of E.B. White. Boston: Hmh Books for Young Readers, 2016.  
"SOME PIG," Charlotte the spider's praise for Wilbur, is just one fondly remembered snippet from E.B. White's Charlotte's Web. In Some Writer!, the two-time Caldecott Honor winner Melissa Sweet mixes White's personal letters, photos, and family ephemera with her own artwork to tell his story.

NONFICTION

Taylor, Gaylia. George Crum and the Saratoga Chip. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2011.

Describes chef George Crum's childhood as a part-Native-American, part-African-American boy in rural 1830s New York; his adventures cooking at Moon's Lake House restaurant in Saratoga Springs; and his accidental invention of one of America's most beloved snacks.

FICTION

Thermes, Jennifer. Manhattan: Mapping the Story of an Island. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2019.

This picture book explores the rich history and culture of one of America's most vibrant metropolitan areas, Manhattan. From its earliest origins to modern day, readers can explore how Manhattan came to be through the people and events that have influenced its transformation.

NON-FICTION

Downloadable Format: DB096948

Uhlberg, Myron. The Sound of All Things. Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers, 2016.

Set in 1930s Brooklyn, this remembrance by the author provides a sentimental view of a hearing child growing up with deaf parents. The story describes one day at Coney Island when the family rides a roller-coaster and the father begs his son to tell him how the wheels of the coaster sound. As they walk along the boardwalk, the father also asks about the sound of the ocean waves, and the boy tries his best to describe the sounds, but his answers feel too simplistic. He longs to express sounds to his father and mother but lacks the words. It is after a thoughtful librarian introduces the boy to poetry and “every word I would ever need” that the boy feels he can capture the sounds that his parents would never hear.

FICTION

Van Nutt, Robert. Legend of Sleepy Hollow. [Edina, Minn.] : ABDO Pub. Co. 2005, c1995.

A superstitious schoolmaster, in love with a wealthy farmer's daughter, has a terrifying encounter with a headless horseman.

FICTION

VanRiper, Gary and Justin. The Adirondack Kids. Utica, NY: North Country Books, 2001.

Three friends go on many adventures throughout the Adirondack State Park, exploring waterways, mountains, history, animals, and more. This is the first in a nonsequential series of books, each taking place in a different part of the Adirondacks.

FICTION

Ventura, Marne. Astrophysicist and Space Advocate: Neil DeGrasse Tyson. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications Company, 2014.

Neil DeGrasse Tyson is known for his work as an astrophysicist and his ability to communicate scientific ideas. This book explores his life including his childhood in the Bronx, his academic career, and his status as a scientific expert.

NON-FICTION

Williams-Garcia, Rita. P.S. Be Eleven. Augusta, Kansas: Amistad Publishing, 2013.

The Gaither sisters return to Brooklyn after their revolutionary experiences in One Crazy Summer (HarperCollins, 2010). Armed with poetry and Black Panther pride, the girls contend with Big Ma's rules, Uncle Darnell's homecoming from Vietnam, and Pa's lady friend. Authentic details bring late-1960s Brooklyn to vivid life, while laugh-out-loud drama delights.

*School Library Journal Best Books 2013 Fiction*

*2014 Coretta Scott King Book Award*

*2014 ALA Notable Children's Book*

FICTION

Downloadable Format: DB77013

White, E.B. Stuart Little. New York, Harper & Row, 1945.Elementary List

Stuart is a mouse who gets around a good bit in the world and has many adventures.

FICTION

Downloadable Format: DB031831

Yazdani, Ashley Benham. A Green Place to Be: The Creation of Central Park. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2019.

This story centers on the creation of Central Park and the intellects behind its design, Calvert Vaux and Frederick Law Olmsted. Readers will learn how Central Park became New York City's "green gift" with factual snippets about the park and its history included at the end of the book.

FICTION

Zappa, Marcia. New York Giants. Edina, Minn.: ABDO Publishing, 2015.

A concise history of the professional football team, including its founding in 1925, most memorable players, and Super Bowl championships, with a timeline of significant events in team history.

NON-FICTION

Downloadable Format – Included in a collection of 8 stories: DB080196

Zappa, Marcia. New York Jets. Minneapolis: ABDO Publishing, 2015.

Explores the teams background and history, most memorable wins, star players, and important coaches. Readers will also learn when the NFL began and what conference and division the Jets play in.

NON-FICTION

Downloadable Format – Included in a collection of 8 stories: DB080707