Explore New York: A Universe of Stories
Picture Books

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

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

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

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 Belpre Honor

NON-FICTION

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

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

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


NON-FICTION

Carr, Aaron. Rap. New York: Av2 by Weigl Publishers, 2015 (El rap, Spanish Edition, 2016). 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


NON-FICTION


FICTION


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)

Colón, Raúl. Imagine. Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books, 2018. 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


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, 201*

FICTION


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
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

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

NON-FICTION

This book chronicles the journey of the “Peachskill 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

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

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

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

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

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**


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.


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**


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**


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

**NON-FICTION**


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**


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**


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

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-FICITON

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

From shimmering skyscrapers to fluttering kites to twinkling stars high in the sky, everyday scenes become extraordinary as a young girl walks through her neighborhood noticing exciting new shapes at every turn.
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


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


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


Examines the story of how librarian Ann Carroll Moore created the first children's room at the New York Public Library.

NON-FICTION


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
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 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

One hot summer night in the city, all the power goes out. The TV shuts off and a boy wails, “Mommm!” 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


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


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-Michel 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


A very special tree is home to a pair of cardinals Red and Lulu. A tree that one day is selected to be the tree that stands tall at Rockefeller Center. Although, the pair becomes separated in the process, they are reunited by the sound of a familiar song… O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, Thy leaves are so unchanging…. They found each other, and they’ve found a new place to call home.
FICTION


Summer vacation means spending time with grandma and her music for one little boy. Eric loved to listen to grandma’s records especially, when it was his turn to choose one to play. It was music that formed their bond and brought them close. Music transported him and his grandma to the place where she grew up and missed so much. It has forever shaped his life and has become a part of his life as an adult. He will always remember his grandma whenever he listens to “En mi Viejo San Juan”/ In My Old San Juan”.
FICTION


Rhyning 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


Rhyning 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

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

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