

## *2009 New York Statewide Summer Reading Program*

# **Be Creative :**

## ***EXPLORE NEW YORK***

### ***New York State Reading List***

### ***A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity***



To commemorate the New York State Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial, the New York State Library, in partnership with the New York Library Association's Youth Services Section and School Library Media Section, has created four selected reading lists that celebrate the history, culture, and diversity of New York State.

Librarians who work with children and teens in both public libraries and school libraries across the State collaborated to select age-appropriate titles for recreational reading. The lists are not comprehensive; rather they are designed to provide a "flavor" of New York State and to spark an interest in the diversity and history of the state.

Each of the four lists covers one reader age group: Picture Books; Elementary; Tween; and Teen and up.

Books marked "Braille format" and "Recorded format" are noted for use by students who have a disability which affects their use of print materials. The books with these notations are available for loan to eligible students and schools. For information on the three libraries in New York State which lend books in these formats through the National Library Service for the Blind & Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress program, see Attachment A.

For children, teen, and family activities related to New York State history, culture, and diversity see the Statewide Summer Reading Program website:

<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/index.html>

Click on: Explore New York

For more information about New York State's Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Celebration visit: <http://www.exploreny400.com>



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Deborah Rothaug, Passadena Elementary School  
Erin Singleton, George F. Johnson Memorial Library  
Criss Smith, Green Chimneys Children's Services  
Michelle Stefanik, New York State Museum  
Sandy Steinberg, Madrid-Waddington Central School  
Judith Van Alsyne, Allendale Columbia School  
Beth Zambito, Poughkeepsie Public Library District  
Attachment A

**Libraries in New York State which lend recorded and Braille books through the National Library Service for the Blind & Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress program:**

**Upstate New York**

**New York State Library**

**New York State Talking Book and Braille Library (full service to 55 upstate counties)**

Cultural Education Center / Empire State Plaza

Albany, NY 12230

Telephone: (518) 474-5935

Toll-free (In-state): (800) 342-3688

FAX: (518) 486-1957

E-mail: [tbblkids@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:tbblkids@mail.nysed.gov)

Web site: <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/tbbl/>

**New York City**

**The New York Public Library**

**Andrew Heiskell Braille and Talking Book Library (full service to NYC and Braille service for Long Island)**

40 West 20th Street

New York, NY 10011-4211

Telephone: (212) 206-5400

24 / 7 Voicemail: (212) 206-5425

TDD: (212) 206-5458

FAX: (212) 206-5418

E-mail: [ahlbph@nypl.org](mailto:ahlbph@nypl.org)

Web site: <http://talkingbooks.nypl.org/>

**Long Island**

**Suffolk Cooperative Library System**

**Long Island Talking Book Library (serves Suffolk & Nassau Counties)**

627 North Sunrise Service Road, P.O. Box 9000

Bellport, NY 11713-9000

Telephone: (631) 286-1600

Toll-free (In-state): (866) 833-1122

TDD: (631) 286-4546

FAX: (631) 286-1647

E-mail: [lbph@suffolk.lib.ny.us](mailto:lbph@suffolk.lib.ny.us)

Web site: <http://www.litbl.org>

# **New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity**



## **Picture Books**

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

ISBN: 9780152050269 0152050264

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

Avi. Silent Movie. Illus. C.B. Mordan. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2003.  
ISBN: 9780689841453

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

Baker, Sharon R. A Nickel, A Trolley, A Treasure House. New York: Viking Juvenile, 2007.  
ISBN: 9780670059829 067005982X

Lionel, a Jewish boy growing up in a New York City tenement, draws pictures on every scrap of paper he can find, but he does not see any value in his efforts until his teacher takes him on a streetcar journey to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Early Childhood and Beginning School Age**

Barasch, Lynne. Hiroimi's Hands. New York: Lee & Low Books, Inc., 2007.  
ISBN: 9781584302759 1584302755

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

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

ISBN: 9780873588720 087358872X

A bilingual storybook biography of the life of Celia Cruz, the Cuban-Born Queen of Salsa (English/Spanish). *Americas Book Award and Belpré Award*  
NON-FICTION

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

ISBN: 978088803728583

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

Bunting, Eve. A Picnic in October. New York: Harcourt Children's Books, 1999.

ISBN: 9780152016562 0152016562

A boy finally comes to understand why his grandmother insists that the family visit Ellis Island each year to celebrate Lady Liberty's birthday.  
FICTION

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

ISBN: 9780689862762 0689862768

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

Charles, Veronika. Maiden of the Mist: A Legend of Niagara Falls. Topeka: Tandem Library Books, 2001.

ISBN: 9780613521369 0613521366

Retelling of a Seneca legend wherein a girl takes destiny into her own hands by going over Niagara Falls.  
FOLKLORE/LEGEND

Cohen, Miriam, and Thomas Yezerski. Mimmy & Sophie All Around the Town. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004.

ISBN: 9780374349899 0374349894

Six stories describe the experiences of two sisters growing up in Brooklyn in the time of trolleys and Shirley Temple movies.  
FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Early Childhood and Beginning School Age**

Collier, Brian. Uptown. Jacksonville: Perma-Bound Books, 2000.

ISBN: 9780800002572 0800002571

Discover the vibrant world of NYC's Harlem as seen through the eyes of one little boy.

*Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award and Ezra Jack Keats Award*

FICTION

Braille format: BR 13088

Cotton, Cynthia. Abbie in Stitches. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2006.

ISBN: 9780374300043 0374300046

Growing up in western New York State in the early 1800s, Abbie would much rather read than embroider a sampler, which her mother and teacher insist she do, but she works hard after thinking of just the right picture.

FICTION

De Capua, Sarah. Niagara Falls. New York: Children's Press, 2002.

ISBN: 9780516273921 0516273922

A brief introduction to Niagara Falls.

NON-FICTION

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

ISBN: 9780374343859

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

FICTION

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

ISBN: 9780060260309 0060260300

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

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

ISBN: 9780312368784 031236878X

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

NON-FICTION

Braille format: BR 15045

Godwin, Laura. Central Park Serenade. Illus. Barry Root. New York: Joanna Colter Books, 2002.

ISBN: 9780060258917 0060258918

Illustrations and rhyming text celebrate the sights and sounds of New York's Central Park in summer.

FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Early Childhood and Beginning School Age**

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

ISBN: 9780892392223 0892392223

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

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

ISBN: 9780689825842 0689825846

"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

High, Linda, and Robert Rayevsky. Under New York. New York: Holiday House, Inc., 2001.

ISBN: 9780823415519 0823415511

What goes on right under people's feet? A lot more than you'd imagine! This striking picture book depicts New York and the fascinating, bustling world that exists beneath its streets.

NON-FICTION

High, Linda Oatman. City of Snow: The Great Blizzard of 1888. New York: Walker & Co., 2004.

ISBN: 9780802789112 0802789110

A fictionalized account, told in free-verse poems, of a young girl's experience living through the 1888 "Great Blizzard" in New York City.

FICTION

High, Linda Oatman. Tenth Avenue Cowboy. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2008.

ISBN: 9780802853301 0802853307

In 1910, when his family moves to New York City from their ranch out West, Ben misses the cowboys and the prairies that they left behind. After he learns that there are cowboys in the city, who race along the railroad tracks and warn people of approaching trains, he begins to feel more at home.

FICTION

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

ISBN: 9780375836107 *Out of Print*

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. *ALA Notable Children's Book*

FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Early Childhood and Beginning School Age**

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

ISBN: 9781586853570

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

FICTION

Joel, Billy, and Izak Zenou. Billy Joel: New York State of Mind. New York: Scholastic Press, 2005.

ISBN: 9780439553827 0439553822

Illustrations accompany the lyrics of Billy Joel's popular single: "New York State of Mind."

Includes a CD of the song.

NON-FICTION

Johnson, Stephen. Alphabet City. Minneapolis: Sagebrush Education Resources, 1999.

ISBN: 0613229665

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

*Caldecott Honor*

NON-FICTION

Kalman, Maira. Fireboat: The Heroic Adventures of the John J. Harvey. New York: Putnam Juvenile, 2002.

ISBN: 9780399239533 0399239537

Originally launched in 1931, the Harvey was one of the most powerful fireboats of its time. Years later, a group of friends restored the retired boat, and after the September 11 attacks, the fire department called on the Harvey for help. This is the inspiring story of the history, the people and the events that shaped New York City--in the past and the present.

NON-FICTION

Braille format: BR 15004

Kelly, Irene. A Small Dog's Big Life: Around the World with Owney. New York: Holiday House Inc., 2005.

ISBN: 9780823418633 0823418634

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

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

ISBN: 9780525477891

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 17044

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity**  
**Early Childhood and Beginning School Age**

Kimmel, Eric A. Rip Van Winkle's Return. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007.  
ISBN: 9780374363086

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.  
ISBN: 9780823416578

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

Levinson, Riki, and Diane Goode. Watch the Stars Come Out. New York: Penguin  
Young Readers Group, 1995.

ISBN 9780140555066

A little girl hears how, long ago, another little red-haired girl--her great-grandmother--sailed across the sea with her older brother to join their parents in a strange new land called America.

FICTION

Levitin, Sonia. Junk Man's Daughter. Chelsea: Sleeping Bear Press, 2007.  
ISBN: 9781585363155 1585363154

Story of a family living in the Bowery during the immigration wave of the 1920s. As the family struggles, they learn about hope, hard work, and following dreams.

FICTION

Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth. Hiawatha. Illus. Susan Jeffers. New York: Penguin  
Group USA, 1996.

ISBN 9780140558821

The classic American poem, *The Song of Hiawatha*, is developed into a tale covering the early years of Hiawatha, when he first learned the Native American way of life from his grandmother.

POETRY

Braille format: BR 06112 / Recorded format: RC 22692

Low, William. Chinatown. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1997.  
ISBN 9780805042146

A boy and his grandmother wind their way through the streets of Chinatown, enjoying all the sights and smells of the Chinese New Year's Day.

FICTION

Low, William. Old Penn Station. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2007.  
ISBN: 9781428739826 1428739823

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

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Early Childhood and Beginning School Age**

Maurer, Claudia, and Elisa Smalley. Zoe Sophia in New York: The Mystery of the Pink Phoenix Papers. San Francisco: Chronicle Books LLC, 2006.

ISBN 9780811848770 0811848779

Zoe and her great-aunt do research in New York to solve a mystery surrounding a pink scarab at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

FICTION

Melmed, Laura Krauss. New York, New York!: The Big Apple from A to Z. Illus. Frane Lessac. New York, NY: Harper Collins Publishers, 2005.

ISBN: 9780060548773 0060548770

An A to Z book covering all the major sites in New York City in full color.

NON-FICTION

Munro, Roxie. The Inside-Outside Book of New York City. Darby: DIANE Publishing Company, 2005.

ISBN: 9780756794552 0756794552

New York City is a myriad of contrasts and a city of many perspectives. Peek through the pages to explore the city.

NON-FICTION

Pericoli, Matteo. The True Story of Stellina. New York: Knopf, 2006.

ISBN: 9780375832734

Stellina was a bird: "Cheep", a very little bird: "cheep! cheep!" So begins Pericoli's true story of how he and his wife, Holly, came to rescue and raise a little finch, Stellina, in the middle of New York City.

NON-FICTION

Prince, April Jones. Twenty-One Elephants and Still Standing. Illus. Francois Roca. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2005.

ISBN: 9780618448876 061844887X

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

Ray, Mary Lyn. Basket Moon. Illus. Barbara Cooney. Boston: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 1999.

ISBN: 9780316735216 0316735213

After hearing some men label his father and him as "hillbillies" on his first trip to the nearby town of Hudson, a young boy is not so sure he still wants to become a basket maker.

FICTION

Recorded format: RC49834

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Early Childhood and Beginning School Age**

Ringgold, Faith. Cassie's Word Quilt. New York: Knopf, 2002.

ISBN: 9780375812002

Names the people and objects that make a girl's New York City apartment, school, and neighborhood special.

FICTION

Ringgold, Faith. Tar Beach. New York: Crown Publishers, 1991.

ISBN: 9780517580318

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.

*Caldecott Honor and Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award*

FICTION

Braille format: BR 08940

Ross, Alice. The Copper Lady. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 1997.

ISBN: 9780876149348

After helping Monsieur Bartholdi build the Statue of Liberty, a Parisian orphan stows away on the ship carrying the statue to America.

FICTION

Rotner, Shelley, and Ken Kreisler. Citybook. New York: Orchard Books, 1998.

ISBN: 9780531071069 0531071065

Rhyming text and photographs celebrate the sights and people of the city.

FICTION

Sattler, Jennifer Gordon. All Aboard, Owney! The Adirondack Mail Dog. Utica: Nicholas K.

Burns Publishing, 2003

ISBN: 9780971306974 0971306974

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

Spier, Peter. The Erie Canal. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1970.

ISBN: 9780437765062

Illustrated version of a folk song describing the journey from Albany to Buffalo on the Erie Canal in the 1850's; includes musical notation.

NON-FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity**  
**Early Childhood and Beginning School Age**

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

ISBN: 9780613050616 0613050614

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

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.

ISBN: 9781589802674 1589802675

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

Torres, Leyla. Subway Sparrow. Topeka: Tandem Library Books, 1997.

ISBN: 9780613718820 0613718828

Although the passengers of the D-train speak different languages, they work together to rescue a frightened bird.

FICTION

Varon, Sara. Chicken and Cat. New York: Scholastic Press, 2006.

ISBN: 9780439634069

When Cat feels sad about living in the hustle and bustle of the city, Chicken finds colorful ways to make Cat feel better.

FICTION

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

ISBN: 9781563977367 1563977362

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

FICTION

Weitzman, David. A Subway for New York. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005.

ISBN: 9780374372842 0374372845

A behind-the-scenes look at an underground miracle. On October 27, 1904, the first section of the most famous subway system in the world was opened for business. Thousands of passengers paid the nickel fare to experience what it was like to ride beneath Broadway and other traffic-clogged city streets from lower Manhattan to the Upper West Side.

NON-FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Early Childhood and Beginning School Age**

Weller, Francis Ward. The Day the Animals Came: A Story of Saint Francis Day. Illus.  
Loren Long. New York: Philomel Books, 2003.

ISBN: 9780399236303

Ria is lonely living in New York City. She misses her Caribbean home. Most of all, she misses the animals she left behind. Then one fall morning, Ria's neighbor takes her on a surprise visit to a great cathedral -- it's the Feast of Saint Francis, when people in New York City bring their pets to church to be blessed.

FICTION

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

ISBN: 9780689847622

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

FICTION

# **New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity**



## **Elementary**

Amstel, Marsha. Sybil Ludington's Midnight Ride. Illus. Ellen Beier. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 2000.

ISBN: 9781575054568

On April 26, 1777, in Patterson, NY (Putnam County), Colonel Ludington received word that the British were attacking and burning Danbury, CT. Ludington's 16-year-old daughter, Sybil, eagerly volunteered to spread the word and gather his troops to prevent the British from marching into New York.

NON-FICTION

Armstrong, Jennifer. Patrick Doyle is Full of Blarney. New York: Random House, 1996.

ISBN: 9780679877875 0679877878

In the Hell's Kitchen section of New York City in 1915, Patrick Doyle secures access to a baseball diamond through his skill and the help of the Giants hitter, Larry Doyle.

*Best Books for Children, 6th ed.*

FICTION

Avi. Mayor of Central Park: A Told Tale of Many Tails. New York: HarperCollins Publications, 2003.

ISBN: 9780060572549 006057254X

Central Park is a city that is populated by a menagerie of animals. In 1900, Oscar is the Mayor of Central Park and the manager of its Green Sox baseball team. When jewel-thief rats plan to invade, all of the animals turn to Oscar. Can he save them and their precious park?

FICTION

Banim, Lisa. Drums at Saratoga. New York: Silver Moon Press, 1995.

ISBN: 9781881889700 188188970X

Lured by the glamour and excitement of a soldier's life, eleven-year-old Nathaniel follows the British army down the Hudson Valley during the American Revolution and witnesses the true hardships of war.

FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Elementary Level**

Baron, Robert C., and Thomas Locker. Hudson: The Story of a River. Golden, Colorado: Fulcrum Publishing, 2004.

ISBN: 9781555915124 1555915124

A lushly illustrated history of the Hudson River.

NON-FICTION

Bartone, Elisa. Peppe the Lamplighter. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1997.

ISBN: 9780688154691 0688154697

Long ago, when the streetlights of Little Italy had to be lit by hand, Peppe lived in a tenement on Mulberry Street. His family was poor, so Peppe thought he needed a job in order to help.

*Caldecott Honor*

FICTION

Braille format: BR 09924

Berleth, Richard. Samuel's Choice. Morton Grove, Illinois: Albert Whitman & Company, 1990.

ISBN: 9780807572184 0807572187

Samuel is a 14-year-old slave in New York City. After hearing the fighting sound of the revolutionaries he defies his owners and performs a heroic act that allows George Washington's troops to escape from the British after the Battle of Long Island.

FICTION

Bierman, C. Journey to Ellis Island: How My Father Came to America. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2005.

ISBN 9780786803774

In 1922, after fleeing war-torn Russia and trekking across Europe, 11-year-old Yehuda Weinstein, his mother, and his younger sister board the S.S. Rotterdam bound for the U.S. Nine days later they arrive in NY Harbor, and inspectors from the Immigration Service note that Yehuda's arm is in a sling and that his hand is damaged. They refuse to let him board the ferry to Ellis Island and enter into America. But the Weinstains have been through too much to be turned back now.

NON-FICTION

Blos, Joan. Brooklyn Doesn't Rhyme. New York: Atheneum, 1994.

ISBN: 9780684196947 0684196948 *Out of Print*

At the request of her sixth grade teacher, Edwina Rose Sachs records events from the lives of her Polish-Jewish family who were new to Brooklyn in the early 1900s.

*Best Books for Children, 6<sup>th</sup> ed.*

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 45615

Breed, Nancy. The Van Wies of Nine Mile Creek. Utica, NY: North Country Books, 1994.

ISBN: 9780925168122 0925168122

In the early 1800s, the Van Wies' lives change when the new Erie Canal is built through their lands.

FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Elementary Level**

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

ISBN: 9780141305714; 0141305711

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

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 46648

Bruchac, Joseph. Children of the Longhouse. NY: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1996.

ISBN 9780803717930 *Out of print*

Eleven-year-old Ohkwa'ri and his twin sister must make peace with a hostile gang of older boys in their Mohawk village during the late 1400s.

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 43907

Bruchac, Joseph. The Winter People. New York: Penguin Group USA, 2002.

ISBN 9780803726949

As the French and Indian War rages, Saxso, a fourteen-year-old Abenaki boy, pursues the English rangers who have attacked his village and taken his mother and sisters hostage.

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 56646

Burg, Ann E. E is for Empire: A New York State Alphabet. Illus. Maureen K.

Brookfield. Chelsea, MI: Sleeping Bear Press, 2003.

ISBN: 9781585361137

An alphabet book that 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

Castrovilla, Selene. By the Sword: A Young Man Meets War. Illus. William

Farnsworth. Honesdale, PA: Calkins Creek, 2007.

ISBN: 9781590784273 1590784278

School teacher Benjamin Tallmadge's emotions are tested when he joins George Washington's army and participates in the Revolutionary War and the Battle of Long Island.

NON-FICTION

Coleman, Wim and Pat Perrin. The Amazing Erie Canal and How a Big Ditch Opened Up the West. Berkeley Heights: Enslow Publishers, Inc., 2006

ISBN: 9781598450170 1598450174

The authors present a brief, informative history of canals; the geographic need for the Erie Canal; and an explanation of how its creation impacted American commerce and history. Includes links to websites for further reading.

NON-FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Elementary Level**

Curlee, Lynn. Liberty. New York: Atheneum, 2003.

ISBN: 9780689856839 0689856830

One of the nation's symbols of freedom and liberty--the Statue of Liberty--is celebrated in this "biography" that looks at the statue's creation by two Frenchmen in the 19th century. Illustrated.

NON-FICTION

Recorded format: RC 51593

Curlee, Lynn. Brooklyn Bridge. New York: Atheneum Books, 2001.

ISBN: 9780689831836 0689831838

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. *Sibert Honor*

NON-FICTION

Braille format: BR 14028

Dunham, Montrew. Abner Doubleday: Boy Baseball Pioneer. Indianapolis: Patria Press, 2005.

ISBN: 9781882859498

Childhood adventures of the famous Civil War General, Abner Doubleday, best known for his contribution to the game of baseball.

NON-FICTION

Edmonds, Walter D. The Matchlock Gun. Illus. Paul Lantz. New York: Putnam Juvenile, 1998.

ISBN: 9780698116801 0698116801

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. *Newbery Metal*

FICTION

Braille format: BR 15077 / Recorded format: RC 57031

Elish, Dan. New York (It's My State). Tarrytown: Benchmark Books, 2002.

ISBN: 9780761414193 0761414193

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

Englar, Mary. The Iroquois: The Six Nations Confederacy. Bloomington: Capstone Press, 2006.

ISBN: 9780736848176 0736848177

Includes information on the longhouse; food (with a recipe for a strawberry drink!); roles of men and women; and, effects of European contact. Also lists internet sites and places to visit including two within New York State.

NON-FICTION

Fradin, Dennis B. Hiawatha: Messenger of Peace. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1992.

ISBN 9780689505195 *Out of print*

Recounts the life of the fifteenth-century Iroquois Indian, Hiawatha, who brought five tribes together to form the long-lasting Iroquois Federation.

NON-FICTION

Recorded format: RC 36894

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Elementary Level**

Fritz, Jean. Traitor, the Case of Benedict Arnold. Paradise, CA: Paw Prints, 2008.  
ISBN 9781435286047

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

NON-FICTION

Recorded format: RC 18436

Gauch, Patricia Lee. The Impossible Major Rogers. Illus. Robert Andrew Parker. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2006.

ISBN 9781590783344

A biography of the man who gained fame as the leader of the bold “Rogers Rangers” in the French and Indian War, but whose later life was marred by imprisonment and poverty.

NON-FICTION

Grimly, Gris, and Tod Smith. The Legend of Sleepy Hollow. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2007.

ISBN: 9781416906254 1416906258

Graphic novel of the original Washington Irving story about the headless horseman.

FICTION

Hest, Amy, and Sonja Lamut. Love You, Soldier. Somerville: Candlewick Press, 2000.

ISBN: 9780763609436 0763609439

Katie, a Jewish girl living in New York City during World War II, sees many changes in her world as she ages from seven to ten waiting for her father to return from the war.

FICTION

Hilts, Len. Timmy O'Dowd and the Big Ditch: A Story of the Glory Days on the Old Erie Canal. New York: Gulliver Books, 1988.

In the late 1880's, Timmy O'Dowd and his 'city boy' cousin must forget their differences and pool their energies when the Erie Canal is damaged by storms. *Best Books for Children 6<sup>th</sup> ed.*

FICTION

Hochain, Serge. Building Liberty: A Statue is Born. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2004.

The Statue of Liberty is one of the greatest landmarks in America. Through the eyes of four boys, readers observe the Statue of Liberty as it is designed, built, shipped to the United States, and reassembled on an island in New York Harbor.

FICTION

Hommell, Paul. Teacup Tales: Folklore of the Hudson Valley. Saugerties: Hope Farm Press & Bookshop, 1992.

ISBN 9780910746991 0910746990

This is a compilation of historic, heroic, tragic, humorous and mysterious ghost stories from the Hudson Valley.

FOLKLORE

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Elementary Level**

Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane; photographs by Lawrence Migdale. Lacrosse: The National Game of the Iroquois. New York: Holiday House, 1998.

ISBN 9780823413607 *Out of print*.

Describes the sport of lacrosse, its origins, and connections to the Iroquois or Haudenosaunee people. Focusing on 13-year-old Monte Lyons, a member of the Onondaga Nation and third-generation lacrosse player, this photo-essay presents an interesting blend of Iroquois Confederacy history and information about the sport. Vivid, full-color photographs.

NON-FICTION

Hurwitz, Johanna. Dear Emma. New York: HarperCollins Children's Books, 2002.

ISBN: 9780060298401 0060298405

In her letters to a Vermont friend, eighth grader Dossi (a Russian, Jewish immigrant living in the Lower East Side of New York City in 1910) shares her thoughts about her new brother-in-law, the diphtheria epidemic, and the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire.

FICTION

Braille format: BR 17380

Hurwitz, Johanna. The PeeWee Series. San Francisco: Chronicle Books.

#1 – PeeWee's Tale, 2000, ISBN 9780606243384

#2 – PeeWee & Plush, 2004, ISBN 9781587172434

#3 – Squirrel World, 2007, ISBN 9780811856607

Three books about guinea pigs and squirrels that live in New York's Central Park.

Hurwitz, Johanna. The Up and Down Spring. New York: Morrow Junior Books, 1993.

ISBN: 9780688119225

While eleven-year-old Rory vacations at Bolivia's house in Ithaca, New York, he tries to hide his fear of flying after Bolivia suggests a trip in her uncle's airplane.

FICTION

Braille format: BR 09874

Ingram, Scott. The Battle of Valcour Bay. San Diego: Blackbirch Press, 2004.

ISBN 9781567117783 *Out of Print*

Looks at the American colonists' strategies used in the Battle of Valcour Bay, where they fought against the British for control of Lake Champlain.

NON-FICTION

Jacobs, William. Ellis Island: New Hope in a New Land. New York: Atheneum, 1990.

ISBN: 9780684191713 0684191717

Introduction to Ellis Island, presented in a "you-are-there" style. *Best Books for Children, 6th ed.*

NON-FICTION

Recorded format: RC 35719

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Elementary Level**

Kamma, Anne, and Pamela Johnson. If You Lived When Women Won Their Rights. New York: Scholastic, 2008.

ISBN: 9780439748698 0439748690

A collection of short biographies: Lucy Stone, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Alice Paul and Carrie Chapman Catt.

NON-FICTION

Killcoyne, Hope Lourie. The Lost Village of Central Park. New York: Silver Moon Press, 1999.

ISBN: 9781893110021

Seneca Village is a thriving neighborhood of African-Americans and recent immigrants in the middle of New York City in the 1850's. Friends Kayla and Sooney face separation when the city announces that by eminent domain it plans to take their land to build Central Park.

FICTION

Kirkpatrick, Katherine. Redcoats and Petticoats. New York: Holiday House, 1999.

ISBN: 9780823414161 0823414167

Members of a family living in the Village of Setauket (Long Island) become displaced by the Redcoats, and serve as spies for the Revolutionary Army of George Washington.

FICTION

Knight, Joan and Melissa Sweet. Charlotte in New York. San Francisco, California: Chronicle Books, LLC, 2006.

ISBN: 9780811850056 0811850056

In 1894, Charlotte records in her journal impressions of a family trip from Giverny, France to New York, where her father's paintings will be featured in an exhibition. Includes bibliographic sketches of painters and reproductions of artwork.

FICTION

Konigsburg, E.L. From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler. New York: Aladdin, 2007.

ISBN: 9781416949756 1416949755

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 Metal*

FICTION

Braille format: BR 09549 / Recorded format: RC 22914

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Elementary Level**

Lackey, Jennifer. Jacques Cartier: Exploring the St. Lawrence River Valley. New York: Crabtree Pub. Co., 2006.

Series: In the Footsteps of Explorers.

ISBN 9780778724308

Each colorful book in this series describes what an explorer's life was really like on an expedition from what they wore to what they ate; includes a look at the political climates of various countries that made explorers venture out into the unknown; provides an examination of how explorers lived while on the high seas, on the trail, or in the encampment; and contains colorful maps and images showing the areas explored.

FICTION

Lombard, Jenny. Drita, My Homegirl. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2006.

ISBN: 9780399243806

When ten-year-old Drita and her family, refugees from Kosovo, move to New York, Drita is teased about not speaking English well, but after a popular student named Maxine is forced to learn about Kosovo as a punishment for teasing Drita, the two girls soon bond.

FICTION

Lord, Beman. On the Banks of the Hudson: A View of its History and Folklore. Illus. Rocco Negri. New York: Henry Z. Walck, Inc., 1971.

ISBN: 9780809820757 0809820757 *Out of Print*

A narrative, non-fiction exploration of the history of the towns along the banks of the Hudson.

NON-FICTION

Lourie, Peter. Erie Canal: Canoeing America's Great Waterway. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, Inc., 1997.

ISBN: 9781563977640 1563977648

A chronicle of the author's exploration of the historic Erie Canal waterway. Brought to life by full-color photographs.

NON-FICTION

Maestro, Betsy. The New Americans: Colonial Times, 1620-1689. Illus. Guilio Mastro. Paradise, CA: Paw Prints, 2008.

ISBN 9781435274471

Within 60 years of the Pilgrims' landing at Plymouth, America's first cities were thriving seaports, public education had begun, books were printed, coins were minted, and the postal service was launched. *The New Americans* tells the exciting story of the origins of our rich multicultural heritage. Full color.

NON-FICTION

Maestro, Betsy. Struggle for a Continent: The French and Indian Wars, 1689-1763. Illus. Giulio Maestro. New York: HarperCollins, 2000.

Series: The American Story Series

ISBN: 9780688134501 0688134505

Discusses the relations between the European colonists and the Native Americans, the disputes between settlers from France, England, and Spain, and the role these conflicts played in the history of North America.

NON-FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Elementary Level**

Maestro, Betsy. The Story of the Statue of Liberty. Topeka: Topeka Bindery, 1989.

ISBN: 9780833539816 0833539817

A picture book history of the most-beloved monument in America.

NON-FICTION

Mann, Elizabeth. The Brooklyn Bridge: The Story of the World's Most Famous Bridge and the Remarkable Family that Built It. New York: Mikaya Press, 2006.

ISBN: 9781931414166 1931414165

This book documents and illustrates the design, step-by-step construction, multiple setbacks and ultimate completion of the Brooklyn Bridge, all presented in a readable manner and supported by diagrams and dramatic illustrations.

NON-FICTION

Marsh, Carole. The Mystery in New York City. Peachtree City, GA: Gallopade International, 2003.

ISBN: 9780635020994 0635020998

Christina, Grant, Benjamin, and Katherine become gridlocked in a mystery that takes them on a hair-raising history tour of New York City's most famous landmarks to find a priceless missing part of history.

FICTION

Mattern, Joanne. The Travels of Samuel de Champlain. Austin, TX: Steck-Vaughn, 2001.

ISBN 9780739814949

Series: Explorers & Exploration

Describes the journeys of the French explorer who joined an expedition to Canada, founded a settlement in Quebec, joined the Algonquins and Hurons against the Iroquois in an attempt to keep the land, and became the leader of New France.

NON-FICTION

McCully, Emily Arnold. Ballot Box Battle. New York: Dragonfly Books, 1998.

ISBN: 9780679893127 0679893121

It is the fall of 1880, and Cordelia is more interested in horse-back riding than in hearing her neighbor, Mrs. Stanton talk about her fight for women's suffrage. But on Election Day, Mrs. Stanton tells the heart-wrenching story of her childhood. Charged with the story's message, Cordelia determines to go with Mrs. Stanton to the polls in an attempt to vote, despite the jeers and taunts of the male crowd. Cordelia's turning-point experience is sure to inspire today's young girls (and boys) everywhere.

NON-FICTION

Braille format: BR 11316

Molzahn, Arlene. Henry Hudson: Explorer of the Hudson River. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, Inc., 2003

ISBN: 9780766020702 0766020703

Discusses the life of Henry Hudson, the English sea captain who explored the Arctic Ocean and the river and bay later named for him while in search of a northern route to the Indies.

NON-FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Elementary Level**

Moore, Christopher. Champlain. Plattsburgh, NY: McClelland & Stewart Ltd., 2004.  
ISBN 9780887766572

A biographical portrait of the explorer and cartographer, Samuel de Champlain, known as the "father of New France" examines his many accomplishments in the colonial settlement of Canada as well as his many personal disappointments.

NON-FICTION

Myers, Walter, and Christopher Myers. Harlem: A Poem. Jacksonville: Perma-Bound Books, 1997.

ISBN: 9780605442023 0605442029

A poem celebrating the people, sights and sounds of New York City's Harlem.

*Corretta Scott King Illustrator Honor and Caldecott Honor*

NON-FICTION

Nicholson, Nicholas B. A. Little Girl In A Red Dress With Cat and Dog. Illus. Cynthia von Buhler. New York: Viking, 1998.

ISBN:9780670871834 *Out of Print*

Tells a fictionalized story of how Ammi Phillips painted this actual portrait of a young farm girl in Dutchess County, New York sometime around 1835.

FICTION

Osborne, Mary Pope. My Secret War: The WWII Diary of Madeline Beck. New York: Scholastic, 2000.

ISBN: 9780590687157 0590687158

Thirteen-year-old Madeline's diaries for 1941 and 1942 reveal her experiences living on Long Island during World War II while her father is away in the Navy.

FICTION

Park, Linda Sue. Keeping Score. New York: Clarion Books, 2008.

ISBN: 9780618927999

In Brooklyn in 1951, a special friendship is created when a die-hard Giants fan teaches nine-year-old Maggie, a "Bums" (Dodgers) fan, how to use a special technique to keep score of a baseball game.

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 67449

Quackenbush, Robert M. Daughter of Liberty: A True Story of the American Revolution. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 1999.

ISBN: 9780786812868 0786812869 *Out of Print*

A chance encounter with General George Washington in upstate New York during the Revolutionary War leads a young woman to volunteer for a dangerous mission.

NON-FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Elementary Level**

Rossi, Ann. Cultures Collide: Native Americans and Europeans, 1492-1700. Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2004.

Series: Crossroads America

ISBN 9780792271895

Paintings, maps, and engrossing text create a vivid portrait of Native Americans' early encounters with the European settlers who colonized the "New World," describing their differences in farming, socialization, and values, which often created negative relations.

NON-FICTION

Roy, Ron. Runaway Racehorse. New York: Random House, 2002.

Series: A to Z Mystery

ISBN: 9780375913679

Dink, Josh, and Ruth Rose investigate the disappearance of a valuable racehorse that Dink's uncle and his friend, Forest Evans, have just bought and entered in a race at Saratoga.

FICTION

Braille format: BR 14966

Santella, Andrew. Henry Hudson. Minneapolis: Sagebrush Education Resources, 2001.

ISBN: 0613516516

Describes Hudson's little-known 1607 voyage that attempted to find a passage to Japan and China by way of the North Pole as well as Hudson's trip up the Hudson River to try and find the Northwest Passage. Includes illustrations, photos, a glossary, a timeline, notes on sources, internet sites and suggestions for further reading.

NON-FICTION

Scarborough, Mary Herts. Battle of Harlem Heights. San Diego: Blackbirch Press, 2004.

ISBN: 9781567117776 1567117775

Describes the Revolutionary War battles that took place in New York; in particular it describes the Battle of Harlem Heights, which underscored General Washington's battle philosophy and boosted the morale of his troops.

NON-FICTION

Schulman, Janet. Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York City. New York: Knopf, 2008.

ISBN: 9780375845581 0375845585

Recounts the true story of Pale Male, a red-tailed hawk living in New York City, who has become one of the city's most-watched celebrities. Bird watchers, tourists, and residents admire the bird and his nest, built on a Fifth Avenue apartment building. *ALA Notable Children's Book*

NON-FICTION

Shalant, Phyllis. When Pirates Came to Brooklyn. New York: Dutton Children's Books 2002.

ISBN: 9780525469209 *Out of Print*

Lee Bloom, a ten-year-old Jewish girl living in 1960s Brooklyn, becomes aware of the prejudices the people around her have towards those of different religions and races.

FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Elementary Level**

Sonneborn, Liz. Samuel de Champlain. Danbury, CT: Scholastic Library Pub., 2001.

ISBN 9780531119785

Chronicles the life and travels of Samuel de Champlain, who discovered the Ottawa River and Lakes Champlain, Ontario and Huron, and who helped to establish the French settlement of Quebec.

NON-FICTION

Standiford, Natalie. The Stone Giant: A Hoax That Fooled America. Illus. Bob Doucet. New York: Golden Books, 2001.

ISBN: 9780307464040

Describes the Cardiff Giant hoax, in which people of upstate New York were fooled into believing that what had been uncovered from the ground in 1869 was the petrified form of a giant human being. Book incorporates P.T. Barnum's role in exhibiting the statue that is now housed at the Farmer's Museum in Cooperstown.

NON-FICTION

Stein, R. Conrad. Ethan Allen & the Green Mountain Boys. New York: Children's Press, 2003.

Series: Cornerstones of Freedom. Second Series.

ISBN 9780516242064

Discusses the facts and tall tales of Revolutionary War hero Ethan Allen, who, along with Benedict Arnold, led the Green Mountain Boys in capturing Fort Ticonderoga from the British in 1775.

NON-FICTION

Tamar, Erika. Alphabet City Ballet. Jacksonville: Perma-Bound Books, 1996.

ISBN: 9780605457980 0605457980

Living in a poor Puerto Rican family complicates life for Marisol when she realizes that pursuing her love for ballet may expose her brother to danger.

FICTION

Taylor, Gaylia. George Crum and the Saratoga Chip. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2006.

ISBN: 9781584302551 1584302550

Describes chef George Crum's childhood as a part-Native-American, part-African-American boy in rural 1830's 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

Uhlberg, Myron. Dad, Jackie, and Me. Atlanta: Peachtree, 2005.

ISBN: 9781561453290

In Brooklyn, New York, in 1947, a boy learns about discrimination and tolerance as he and his deaf father share their enthusiasm for baseball and the Dodgers' first baseman, Jackie Robinson.

FICTION

Braille format: BR 16354

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Elementary Level**

Van Riper, Justin, and Gary Van Riper. The Adirondack Kids #3: The Lost Lighthouse. Camden: Adirondack Kids Press, 2003.

ISBN-13: 978-0970704429.

Justin Robert, Jackie Salsberry and Nick Barnes are fishing in their small boat under sunny skies when a sudden and violent storm chase them off Fourth Lake and into an unfamiliar forest -- a forest that has harbored a secret for more than 100 years.

FICTION

Walvoord, Linda. Rosetta, Rosetta, Sit By Me! Tarrytown: Marshall Cavendish, 2004.

ISBN: 9780761451716 0761451714

In 1848, Rosetta, the nine-year-old daughter of abolitionist Frederick Douglass, becomes the only Black student at Miss Tracy's Female Seminary in Rochester, New York, and while the students are pleased she is there, the faculty is not. Includes facts about Frederick and Rosetta's lives.

FICTION

Weber, Sandra. Two in the Wilderness. Honesdale, PA: Calkins Creek Books. 2005.

ISBN: 9781590781821 1590781821

Adventures of a mother and daughter in the Adirondack Mountains. Illustrated with color photos by Carl E. Heilman.

NON-FICTION

Wilder, Laura Ingalls. Farmer Boy. Illus. by Garth Williams. New York: Harper Trophy, 2007.

ISBN: 9780060885380 0060885386

In the late 1800's, on a large farm in northern New York (Franklin County), 9-year-old Almanzo helps his family with the daily chores and longs for his own colt. Based on stories the author's husband told her about growing up on the family homestead in Malone, NY.

FICTION

Braille format: BR 09408 / Recorded format: RC 21019

# **New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity**



## **Tween**

Adams, Samuel Hopkins. Chingo Smith of the Erie Canal. New York, Random House, 1958.  
ISBN: 978-0394910208 *Out of Print*

This story follows the fortunes of the homeless orphan, Chingo Smith, who got his first name in trade from a Seneca Indian and his second from a gypsy with whom he traveled. As we follow Chingo over the next eight years, his fortunes rise and fall, but when he sees the partially-built Erie Canal for the first time, he knows he wants to be a part of it.

FICTION

Anderson, Laurie Halse. Chains. New York: Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2008.  
ISBN: 9781416905851 1416905855

Sisters Isabel and Ruth are young girls who are promised freedom after the death of their slave master. Instead, they become property of a New York City couple. Isabel soon catches Revolution fever after meeting a young boy named Curzon who encourages her to spy on her owners. Together Isabel and Curzon strive for their personal freedom and the freedom of New York and their country.

*ALA Notable Children's Book*

FICTION

Auch, Mary Jane. Journey to Nowhere. New York: Yearling, 1998.  
ISBN: 9780440414919 0440414911

In 1815, while traveling by covered wagon to settle in the wilderness of western New York, eleven-year-old Mem experiences a flood and separation from her family. The trilogy continues with *Frozen Summer* and *Road to Home*, both out of print.

FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Tween**

Recorded format: RC 47447

Auch, Mary Jane. One-handed Catch. New York: H. Holt and Co., 2006.

ISBN: 9780805079005

After sixth-grader Norman loses his hand in an accident in his father's butcher shop in 1946, he uses hard work and humor to learn to live with his disability and to succeed at baseball, art, and other activities.

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 64853

Avi. Don't You Know There's a War On? New York: HarperCollins, 2001.

ISBN: 9780380978632

In wartime Brooklyn in 1943, eleven-year-old Howie Crispers mounts a campaign to save his favorite teacher from being fired.

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 54773

Barter, James. A Travel Guide to Colonial New York. New York: Lucent Books, 2004.

ISBN: 9781590182505 1590182502

A visitor's guide to the weather, transportation, overnight accommodations, dining, shopping, sightseeing, and entertainment of New York City in colonial times.

NON-FICTION

Benton, Amanda. Silent Stranger. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1998.

ISBN: 9780380792221 0380792222

Fifteen-year-old Jessica finds a young stranger hiding in the barn on Christmas Eve. Though he is completely silent, Jessica brings him to the house, where her family agrees to let him stay. With the War of 1812 being fought nearby, they suspect the mysterious stranger could be a soldier, but he hardly looks old enough.

FICTION

Bruchac, Joseph. North Country: Writing from the Upper Hudson Valley and the Adirondacks.

Greenfield Center: Greenfield Review Press, 1986.

ISBN: 9780912678658 0912678658

ANTHOLOGY OF POETRY, SHORT FICTION, AND ESSAYS

Burgan, Michael, and Timothy J. Shannon. New York, 1609-1776. Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 2006.

Series: Voices from Colonial America.

ISBN 9780792268604.

Presents the history of New York by discussing the interaction between Native American tribes and Dutch settlers, as well as leaders including Peter Stuyvesant and Alexander Hamilton.

Complete with period maps and first-person accounts.

NON-FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Tween**

Carvell, Marlene. Sweetgrass Basket. New York: Dutton Juvenile Books, 2005.

ISBN: 9780525475477

In alternating passages, two Mohawk sisters describe their lives at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, established in 1879 to educate Native Americans, as they try to assimilate into white culture.

FICTION

Chambers, Veronica. The Harlem Renaissance. New York: Chelsea House, 1998

ISBN: 9780791025987 0791025985

This history discusses the emergence of Harlem as a cultural center in the 1920s in the context of the social and political forces of the time, weaving in accounts of such greats as Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, Zora Neale Hurston, and others who were part of this artistic and intellectual movement. *Best Books for Young Teen Readers*

NON-FICTION

Clifford, Eth. Will Somebody Please Marry My Sister? Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1992.

ISBN: 9780395580783 *Out of Print*

In 1920s' Brooklyn, Abel and friend Hilda try to find a husband for Abel's doctor sister to marry.

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 39311

Conrad, Pam. Our House: The Stories of Levittown. New York: Scholastic Press, 2005.

ISBN: 9780439745086 043974508X

Six stories, one from each decade from the 1940s to the 1990s, about children growing up in Levittown, New York.

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 44202

Danticat, Edwidge. Behind the Mountains. New York: Orchard Books, 2002.

ISBN: 9780439372992 *Out of Print*

Writing in the notebook which her teacher gave her, thirteen-year-old Celiene describes life with her mother and brother in Haiti as well as her experiences in Brooklyn after the family finally immigrates there to be reunited with her father.

FICTION

Braille format: BR 14941

DeFelice, Cynthia. Under the Same Sky. New York: Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, 2003.

ISBN: 9780374480653 0374480656

To earn money for a coveted motorbike, young Joe Pedersen joins the Mexican laborers who work on his father's farm in upstate New York and soon discovers racism and romance while learning to see the world in a whole different way.

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 57189

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Tween**

Durrant, Lynda. Echohawk. New York: Clarion Books, 1996.

ISBN: 9780395744307 *Out of Print*

A twelve-year-old white boy, adopted and raised by Mohicans in the Hudson River Valley during the 1730's, is sent with his younger brother to an English settlement for schooling.

FICTION

Braille format: BR 12923

Emery, Joanna. Brothers of the Falls. New York: Silver Moon Press, 2004.

ISBN: 9781893110373

As the orphaned Doyle brothers leave Ireland to sail to the United States in 1846, thirteen-year-old Aiden is accidentally separated from sixteen-year-old Liam and must make his own way to New York, find work, and somehow find his brother. Much of the book is set in Niagara Falls.

FICTION

Fritz, Jean. You Want Women to Vote, Lizzie Stanton? New York: Putnam, 1995.

ISBN: 0399227867

With her trademark humor and anecdotal style, the Newbery Honor Award-winner and preeminent biographer for young people turns her attention to Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the lively, unconventional spokeswoman of the woman suffrage movement. Convinced from an early age that women should have the same rights as men, Lizzie embarked on a career that changed America.

NON-FICTION

Braille format: BR 10778

Gaines, Ann Graham. Benedict Arnold: Patriot or Traitor? Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publishers, 2001.

Series: Historical American Biographies

ISBN: 9780766013933 *Out of Print*

Gives a glimpse into the life and times of Benedict Arnold, whose name became synonymous with the word "traitor."

NON-FICTION

George, Jean Craighead. My Side of the Mountain. New York: Puffin, 2004.

ISBN: 9780142401118 0142401110

Sam Gribble's great-grandfather owned land somewhere in the Catskill Mountains. Although no one had lived there for several generations, it was still in the Gribble family. Tired of living in the hustle and bustle of New York City, teenage Sam runs away to the Catskills in search of that land. *Newbery Honor*

FICTION

Braille format: BR 15070 / Recorded format: RC 50211

Getzinger, Donna. Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire. North Carolina: Morgan Reynolds, Inc., 2008.

ISBN 9781599350998

In 1911, a fire broke out in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory, a clothing company located in the top floors of a New York high rise. The fire spread fast, and soon the factory's workers, mostly immigrant women, faced death by fire, as their only way out was to jump from the windows..

NON-FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Tween**

Giff, Patricia. All the Way Home. New York: Delacorte Press, 2001.  
ISBN: 9780385322096

In 1941, circumstances bring together Brick, a boy from New York's apple country, and Mariel, a young girl made shy by her bout with polio. The two make a journey from Brooklyn to upstate New York to help Brick's elderly neighbors save their apple crop and to help Mariel learn about her past.

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 53791

Giff, Patricia. Lily's Crossing. Topeka: Tandem Library Books, 1999.  
ISBN: 9780613103503 0613103505

A vivid portrait of the home front in World War II, where a young American girl befriends a Hungarian refugee during the summer of 1944 in Rockaway Beach. *Newbery Honor*

FICTION

Braille format: BR 17375 / Recorded format: RC 45659

Giff, Patricia. Water Street. New York: Wendy Lamb Books, 2006.  
ISBN: 9780385900973 038590097X

In the shadow of the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge, eighth-graders and new neighbors Bird Mallon and Thomas Neary make some decisions about what they want to do with their lives.

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 64195

Grab, Daphne. Alive and Well in Prague, NY. New York: Laura Geringer Books, 2008  
ISBN: 9780061256707

Manhattanites Matisse Osgood and her artist parents move to upstate New York when her father's Parkinson's disease worsens. Matisse must face high school in a small, provincial town as she tries to avoid thinking about her father's future.

FICTION

Greenberg, David. A Tugging String. New York: Dutton Children Books, 2008.  
ISBN: 9780525479673

A fictionalized account of the author's years growing up in Great Neck, New York, during the turbulent Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Includes commentary from the author's father, Jack Greenberg, who was a lawyer for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

FICTION

Grimes, Nikki. Jazmin's Notebook. New York: Puffin, 2000.  
ISBN: 9780141307022 0141307021

Jazmin is growing up during hard times in 1960s Harlem. She expresses hope for her future as she observes life around her neighborhood. *Coretta Scott King Author Honor*

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 47277

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Tween**

Gourse, Leslie. Sophisticated Ladies: The Great Women of Jazz. New York: Dutton Juvenile, 2007.

ISBN: 9780525471981 0525471987

This lively collective biography of 14 singers begins in the 1920s with Bessie Smith and Ethel Waters and moves on through current performers Cassandra Wilson and Diana Krall. A vibrant, full-page portrait opens each chapter, depicting the performer with bold vitality, in a style suggestive of a theater poster. Includes references to Jazz Clubs in Harlem during the 1920s.

NON-FICTION

Gunderson, Mary. American Indian Cooking Before 1500. Mankato, MN: Blue Earth Books, 2001.

Series: Exploring History Through Simple Recipes.

ISBN 9780736806053 *Out of Print*

This volume offers readers a chance to taste history by combining appropriate recipes along with facts about life in a logging camp, gold rush town, whaling ship, and Native American village. Illustrated with historical drawings and black-and-white photos.

NON-FICTION

Hesse, Karen. The Brooklyn Bridge. New York: Feiwel and Friends, 2008

ISBN 0312378866

In 1903 Brooklyn, fourteen-year-old Joseph Michtom's life changes for the worse when his parents, Russian immigrants, invent the teddy bear and turn their apartment into a factory. Nearby, the glitter of Coney Island contrasts with the dismal lives of children dwelling under the Brooklyn Bridge.

FICTION

Jocelyn, Marthe. How It Happened in Peach Hill. New York: Wendy Lamb Books, 2007.

ISBN: 9780375837012

When fifteen-year-old Annie Grey and her "clairvoyant" mother arrive in Peach Hill, New York, in 1924, each finds a reason for wanting to finally settle down. To reach their goals they will have to do some serious lying and Annie will have to stand up for herself.

*Best Books for Young Adults*

FICTION

Kirkpatrick, Katherine. Escape Across The Wide Sea. New York: Holiday House, 2004.

ISBN: 9780823418541

After escaping religious persecution in France in 1686, a young Huguenot boy and his parents travel on a slave ship to West Africa, then to the Caribbean, and finally to New York, where they help found the town of New Rochelle.

FICTION

Kirkpatrick, Katherine. Trouble's Daughter: The Story of Susanna Hutchinson, Indian Captive.

New York: Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 1998.

ISBN: 9780385326001 0385326009 *Out of Print/ Out of Stock Indefinitely*

When her family is massacred by Lenape Indians in 1643, nine-year-old Susanna, daughter of Anne Hutchinson, is captured and raised as a Lenape.

FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Tween**

TBBL holding RC 48226

Klein, Frederick C. For the Love of the Yankees: An A-to-Z Primer for Yankees Fans of All Ages. Chicago: Triumph Books, 2008.

ISBN: 9781572437746 157243774X

No other franchise in the history of sports can boast the tradition and worldwide appeal of the New York Yankees. The list of legends that have donned the blue-and-white pinstripes over the years is as long as one of Mantle's epic tape-measure home runs, and the names themselves have become synonymous with everything we love about baseball. From Ruth and Gehrig to DiMaggio and Berra to Jackson and Steinbrenner to Jeter and Torre, an introduction to the prominent names in Yankee lore provides a comprehensive history of baseball over the last century.

NON-FICTION

Lasky, Kathryn. Dreams in the Golden Country: The Diary of Zipporah Feldman, a Jewish Immigrant Girl. New York: Scholastic, Inc., 1998

ISBN: 9780590029735 0590029738

LOC Summary: Twelve-year-old Zippy, a Jewish immigrant from Russia, keeps a diary account of the first eighteen months of her family's life on the Lower East Side of New York City in 1903-1904. *Best Books for Young Teen Readers*

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 53540

Levine, Ellen. Catch a Tiger by the Toe: Voices from the McCarthy Era. New York: Viking, 2005.

ISBN: 9780670884612 0670884618

OCLC Summary: In the Bronx, New York, during the McCarthy era, twelve-year-old Jamie keeps a terrible secret about her family; when the truth is exposed, her parents lose their jobs and she is fired from the school newspaper.

NON-FICTION

Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth. Hiawatha and Megissogwon. Illus. Jeffrey Thompson. Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 2001.

ISBN 9780792266761

A dramatic combination of scratchboard and computer illustrations capture the magic, action, and excitement of the classic tale of Hiawatha, the son of the West Wind, who valiantly slays serpents, eludes ghosts, and finally confronts the evil Megissogwon.

POETRY

Braille format: BR 06112 / Recorded format: RC 22692

Lupica, Mike, Heat. New York: Scholastic, 2007.

ISBN: 9780545003278

A young Cuban immigrant, Michael Arroyo is a great pitcher in the Little League in the Bronx. When a rival player's team questions his age and ability, he is sidelined, and the young star athlete cannot help get his team to the Little League World Series.

FICTION

Braille format: BR 17941 / Recorded format: RC 62264

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Tween**

Lurie, April. Dancing in the Streets of Brooklyn. New York: Delacorte Press, 2002.

ISBN: 9780385900669 *Out of Print*

In 1944, a thirteen-year-old girl grapples with the discovery that "Pa" isn't her biological father, experiences her first romance, and faces hardships dealt to friends in Brooklyn's Norwegian community.

FICTION

Martin, Ann. Here Today. Topeka: Tandem Library Books, 2005.

ISBN: 9780439579445 0439579449

In 1963, 11-year-old Eleanor Roosevelt Dingman's mother is crowned the Bosetti Beauty at Mr. Bosetti's supermarket, President John F. Kennedy is assassinated, and the Dingman family begins to fall apart. So begins this richly woven novel by the Newbery Honoree.

FICTION

Marx, Trish. Steel Drumming at the Apollo: The Road to Super Top Dog. New York: Lee & Low Books, Inc., 2007.

ISBN: 9781600601248 1600601243

Photo-essay about a high school steel drum band from upstate New York, that participated in a series of talent competitions for a chance to win Super Top Dog on Amateur Night at the Apollo Theater in Harlem. Includes a CD of the band performing.

NON-FICTION

Mazer, Norma Fox. Good Night, Maman. Collingdale: DIANE Publishing Company, 2006.

ISBN: 9781422358627 1422358623

After spending years fleeing from the Nazis in war-torn Europe, twelve-year-old Karin Levi and her older brother Marc find a new home in a refugee camp in Oswego, New York.

FICTION

Braille format: BR 13026

Mebus, Scott. Gods of Manhattan. New York: Dutton Juvenile, 2008.

ISBN: 9780525479550 0525479554

Twelve-year-old Rory discovers a spirit world that thrives alongside his contemporary New York City, filled with fantastical creatures and people from the city's colorful past who have become gods and goddesses and who have chosen Rory to perform a dangerous mission.

FICTION

Merrill, Jean. The Pushcart War. New York: Yearling, 1987

ISBN: 9780440471479 0440471478

Mack's truck runs down Morris's pushcart and starts a war that is humorous and also reveals many human foibles. *Best Books for Junior High Readers*

FICTION

Braille format: BR 07784 / Recorded format: RC 28765

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Tween**

Messner, Kate. Champlain and the Silent One. Utica, NY: North Country Books, 2008.  
ISBN: 9781595310507

In the winter of 1609, with his people starving, the Innu Indian called Silent One must overcome his reluctance to speak and trust Samuel de Champlain and his Frenchmen in order to save his brother and regain his own spirit.

FICTION

Messner, Kate. Spitfire: A North Country Adventure. Utica, NY: North Country Books, 2007.  
ISBN: 9781595310187

In October of 1776, two twelve-year-olds meet on a ship on Lake Champlain--Abigail, disguised as a boy, and Pascal, brought aboard by his stepfather, the captain--and forge a fast friendship while serving together as soldiers.

FICTION

Murphy, Jim. Desperate Journey. New York: Scholastic Press, 2006.  
ISBN: 9780439078061

In the mid-1800s, with both her father and her uncle in jail on an assault charge, Maggie, her brother, and her ailing mother must rush their barge along the Erie Canal to deliver their heavy cargo or risk lose everything.

FICTION

Murphy, Jim. The Real Benedict Arnold. New York: Clarion Books, 2007  
ISBN: 9780395776094

A fascinating portrait of a brilliant man, consistently undervalued by his peers, who made a choice that continues to reverberate through American history.

NON-FICTION

Recorded format: RC 66523

Myers, Anna. Hoggee. New York: Walker & Co., 2004.  
ISBN: 9780802789266

Always overshadowed by his competitive older brother, especially in their work as mule drivers on the Erie Canal, fourteen-year-old Howard finally finds the courage to pursue his dreams of becoming an educator after he learns about sign language and teaches it to his deaf friend in nineteenth-century New York State.

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 61365

Reber, Jack. The Erie Canal. Unionville, NY: Royal Fireworks Press, 1996.  
ISBN: 9780898249965

Two ten-year-olds on a class trip to the Erie Canal find themselves transported back in time to the canal of 1829. Dragged aboard a canal boat, the boy and girl experience adventures in getting through each day by blending into its tempo and chores while trying to find a way back to the present.

FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Tween**

Sachs, Marilyn. Lost in America. New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2005.

ISBN: 9781596430402

Follows the story of Nicole, a teenage French Jew, from 1943-1948, as she loses her parents and sister to the concentration camps and then leaves her native France to make a new life in New York City.

FICTION

Smith, Chari R. Extraordinary Women from U.S. History: Readers Theatre for Grades 4-8.

Portsmouth, NH: Teacher Ideas Press, 2003.

ISBN: 978-1-56308-989-3

Includes scripts about famous women in history--many of whom have links to New York State--including Eleanor Roosevelt, Amelia Earhart, Susan B. Anthony, Nellie Bly, and Harriet Tubman. Can be performed or read.

NON-FICTION / DRAMA

Sterman, Betsy. Saratoga Secret. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1998.

ISBN: 9780803723320 *Out of Print*

In 1777, as General Burgoyne and his British troops invade the Upper Hudson River Valley, sixteen-year-old Amity must carry a secret message to the Continental army to give warning of an impending attack.

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 49709

Taylor, Kim. The Great New York City Trivia and Fact Book. Nashville: Cumberland House Publishing, 1998.

ISBN: 9781888952773 1888952776

A celebration of the people, places, and institutions that have given New York City its character. Arranged topically, it covers business, politics, crime, religion, education and health, theater, architecture, media and literature, sports, history, and more. Illustrated with period photographs.

NON-FICTION

Uttendorfsky, Irene. Hannah and the Two Sisters: An Erie Canal Adventure. Rome, NY:

Spruce Gulch Press, 2005

ISBN: 9780962571428 0962571423

In the spring of 1864 fifteen-year-old Hannah Miller struggles with the ups and downs of growing up in the sleepy foothills of the Adirondacks. Her world is turned upside down suddenly when cholera strikes her family, and the boy she hoped to marry enlists in the 146th Regiment, New York State Volunteers. Hannah must leave her home in Boonville and live with a disagreeable aunt in Rome, unless she can convince her Pa to take her along when he goes back to work on the Erie Canal aboard the Two Sisters.

FICTION

Watts, Leander. Stonecutter. New York: Graphia, 2002.

ISBN: 9780618605774

In 1835, in rural New York State, apprentice stonecutter Albion Straight relates his experiences when he is hired by the strangely menacing John Good to carve a statue of his daughter.

FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Tween**

Welsh, T.K. The Unresolved. New York: Dutton Juvenile, 2006

ISBN: 9780525477310 0525477314

In 1904 in New York City, the spirit of a deceased German American teenage girl searches for the person responsible for the Slocum Steamboat Fire that claimed her life and the lives of more than 1000 other passengers.

FICTION

Recorded format RC 64054

Woodson, Jacqueline. After Tupac & D Foster. New York: G.P. Putnam, 2008.

ISBN: 9780399246548

In 1996 in Queens, two girls become friends through the music of Tupac Shakur; the music continues to touch their lives as they deal with their families and their futures. *Newbery Honor*

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 66700

# **New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity**



## **Teen and up**

Asbury, Herbert. The Gangs of New York: An Informal History of the Underworld. New York: Vintage Books, 2008.

ISBN: 9780307388988

True to the title, the book is a history of crime that permeated the underbelly of New York City and its boroughs in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Some of these gangs were so vicious they would post signs warning police to stay out of their neighborhoods -- or else!

NON-FICTION

Recorded format: RC 55088

Ayazzi-Hashjin, Sherry. Rap and Hip Hop: The Voice of a Generation. New York: The Rosen Publishing Group, Inc., 1999.

ISBN: 9780823918553 0823918556

Describes the art of rapping and the cultural phenomenon of hip-hop and traces their evolution from African and Caribbean traditions.

NON-FICTION

Barrett, Andrea. The Air We Breathe. New York: W.W. Norton, 2007.

ISBN: 9780393061086

In the fall of 1916, as U.S. involvement in WWI looms, the Adirondack town of Tamarack Lake houses a public sanitarium and private cure cottages for Tuberculosis patients. Gossip about roommate changes, nurse visits, cliques and romantic connections dominate relations among the sick—mostly poor European immigrants. The timely theme focuses on how the tragedy, betrayal and heartbreak of war extend far beyond the battlefield.

FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Teen and up**

Bat-Ami, Miriam. Two Suns in the Sky. New York: Puffin Books, 2001.

ISBN: 9780142300367

In 1944, an Upstate New York teenager (setting is Oswego and the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter) named Christine meets and falls in love with Adam, a Yugoslavian Jew living in a refugee camp, despite their parents' conviction that they do not belong together.

*Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction & ALA Best Book for Young Adults*

FICTION

Bauer, Joan. Backwater. New York: Puffin, 2005.

ISBN: 9780142404348 0142404349

When young Ivy begins to study her family's history, her discoveries rattle the other members of her New York State clan.

Braille format: BR 12539 / Recorded format: RC 51739

FICTION

Bauer, Joan. Peeled. New York: Putnam, 2008.

ISBN: 9780399234750

In an upstate New York farming community, high school reporter Hildy Biddle investigates a series of strange occurrences at a house rumored to be haunted.

FICTION

Recorded format: RC67296

Bitton-Jackson, Livia. Hello, America: A Refugee's Journey from Auschwitz to the New World.

New York: Simon & Schuster, 2005.

ISBN: 9780689867552 0689867557

In the final book of the acclaimed trilogy that includes *I Have Lived a Thousand Years* and *My Bridges of Hope*, Elli and her mother leave war-ravaged Europe behind. Arriving in New York in 1951, they seek to preserve their Jewish heritage while embracing the freedom of the new city.

NON-FICTION

Bogaert, Harmen Meyndertsz van den. Journey into Mohawk Country. Illus. George O'Connor.

New York: First Second, 2006.

ISBN: 9781596431065

A graphic novel illustrated by George O'Connor. It is an illustrated version of the travels of a Dutch trader in early America based on Van den Bogaert's 1634 journal, *A Journey into Mohawk and Oneida Country*.

NON-FICTION

Bruchac, Joseph. Bowman's Store: A Journey to Myself. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2001.

ISBN: 9780613847179 0613847172

Bruchac, now a well-known children's author and storyteller, relates his childhood and high school years spent living with his grandparents near Saratoga, NY and his discovery of his Abenaki heritage, which he learns to honor.

NON-FICTION

Recorded format: RC 47175

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Teen and up**

Budhos, Marina Tamar. Ask Me No Questions. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2006.

ISBN: 9781416903512 1416903518

Fourteen-year-old Nadira, her sister, and their parents leave Bangladesh for New York City, but the expiration of their visas and the events of September 11, 2001, bring frustration, sorrow, and terror for the whole family. *Best Books for Young Adults*

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 62372

Buckhanon, Kalisha. Upstate. New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2006.

ISBN: 9780312332693 0312332696

Antonio, initially a teen arrested for murder, and his sweetheart, Natasha, exchange a decade of correspondence. Both from tiny, dark apartments in Harlem, they are passionately in love, but destined to walk very different roads.

FICTION

Braille format: BR 16691

Burchard, Peter. Whaleboat Raid. New York: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1977.

ISBN: 9780698306578 0698306570

A sixteen-year-old boy guides a flotilla of American whaleboats across Long Island Sound to raid British-occupied Sag Harbor.

FICTION

Carvell, Marlene. Who Will Tell My Brother? New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2004.

ISBN: 9780786816576 0786816570

During his lonely crusade to remove offensive mascots from his high school, a Native American teenager learns more about his heritage, his ancestors, and his place in the world.

FICTION

Chance, Megan. An Inconvenient Wife. New York: Grand Central Publishing, 2005.

ISBN: 9780446694865 044669486X

In this gripping account of historical fiction, the author exposes the horrors women faced during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in New York when they dared to show passion of any kind or repudiate society's norms. Lucy Carelton suffers from a common female disorder, "hysteria": its symptoms are headaches, excitable reactions and feelings of claustrophobia. Her cold-hearted husband, William, determined to find her a cure, brings her to several specialists, who recommend everything from an ovariectomy to several months of confinement in a private asylum.

FICTION

Chartrand, Rene. Ticonderoga 1758: Montcalms' Victory Against All Odds. Osprey Publishing, Ltd., 2000.

ISBN: 9781841760933 1841760935

Rene Chartrand is a leading Canadian historian, and authority on the Seven Years War.

He recounts how, in July 1758, the British launched an expedition against the French Fort of Carillon (Ticonderoga). Lord Howe, a popular British leader, was killed before the main battle began; the Black Watch regiments were decimated; the British retreated in near panic and the fort remained in the hands of the French.

NON-FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Teen and up**

Cooper, James Fenimore. The Last of the Mohicans. New York: Signet Classics, 2005.

ISBN: 9780451529824 0451529820

This exciting adventure story is set during the Seven Year's War fought between France and England in North America. Hawkeye and his American Indian companions become involved in the bloody war.

FICTION

Braille format: BR 04092 / Recorded format: RC 19920

Cooper, James Fenimore. The Spy. New York: Penguin Classics, 1997.

ISBN: 9780140436280 0140436286

Written in 1821, this historical novel is Cooper's paean to the Revolutionary War. Protagonist Harry Birch finds himself wrongly accused of selling vital information to the British.

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 16416

Crane, Stephen. Maggie, a Girl of the Streets, and Other Tales of New York. New York: Penguin Books, 2000.

ISBN: 9780140437973

This is a compilation of 13 stories set in New York in the late 1800's, including the story of Maggie, a girl of the tenements, whose life turns downward when she becomes involved with a boy named Pete.

FICTION

Braille format: BR 11578 / Recorded format: RC 09418

Dabel, Jane I. A Respectable Woman: The Public Roles of African American Women in 19th-Century New York. New York University Press, 2008

ISBN: 9780814720110

In the nineteenth century, New York's free blacks were extremely politically active, lobbying for equal rights at home and an end to southern slavery. As their activism increased, so did discrimination against them. However, the struggle for civil rights did not extend to equal gender roles, and black male leaders encouraged women to remain in the domestic sphere, serving as caretakers, moral educators, and nurses to their families and community.

NON-FICTION

Donnelly, Jennifer. A Northern Light. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Trade & Reference Publishers, 2003.

ISBN: 9780152167059 0152167056

In 1906, 16-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and fiancé, takes a job at a summer inn where she discovers the truth about the death of a guest. This novel is based on a true story. *Best Books for Young Adults*

FICTION

Braille format: BR 14850

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Teen and up**

Duble, Kathleen Benner. Quest. New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2008.

ISBN: 9781416933861

Relates the events of explorer Henry Hudson's final voyage from four points of view: that of his seventeen-year-old son aboard the ship, a younger son left in London, a crewmember, and a young English woman acting as a spy in Holland.

FICTION

Edmonds, Walter. Drums Along the Mohawk. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1997.

ISBN: 9780815604570 0815604572

This is the story of the forgotten pioneers of the Mohawk Valley during the Revolutionary War. Combating hardships almost too great to endure, they helped give America a legend which still stirs the heart. In the midst of love and hate, life and death, danger and disaster, they stuck to the acres which were theirs, and fought a war without ever quite understanding it. An American classic since its original publication in 1936.

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 47009

Finney, Jack. Time and Again. New York: Scribner Paperback, 1995.

ISBN: 9780684801056

This novel is about an experiment that causes 20<sup>th</sup> century illustrator Si Morley to step out of a Dakota apartment building into the streets of 1882 New York.

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 23888

Godbersen, Anna. The Luxe. New York: HarperCollins, 2007.

ISBN: 9780061345685

In Manhattan in 1899, five teens of different social classes lead dangerously scandalous lives, despite the strict rules of society and the best-laid plans of parents and others.

FICTION

Grimes, Nikki. Bronx Masquerade. New York: Dial Books, 2002.

ISBN: 9780803725690

While studying the Harlem Renaissance, students at a Bronx high school read aloud poems they've written, revealing their innermost thoughts and fears to their formerly clueless classmates. *Coretta Scott King Author Award & Best Books for Young Adults*

FICTION

Braille format: BR 14623 / Recorded format: RC 55776

Gruber, Ruth. Haven: The Dramatic Story of 1,000 World War II Refugees and How They Came to America. New York: Three Rivers Press, 2000.

ISBN: 9780812933017 081293301X *Out of Print*

Gruber, a journalist during WWII, accompanied 1000 refugees from Nazi-controlled Europe who came to Oswego, NY as guests of the United States government.

NON-FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Teen and up**

Hopkinson, Deborah. Shutting out the Sky: Life in the Tenements of New York, 1880-1915.

New York: Orchard Books, 2003.

ISBN: 9780439375900 0439375908

Photographs and text document the experiences of 5 individuals from Belarus, Italy, Lithuania, and Romania, who came to live in the Lower East Side of NYC as children or young adults at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

NON-FICTION

Hughes, Langston. Vintage Hughes. New York: Vintage Books, 2004

ISBN: 9781400034024 1400034027

This compilation includes excerpts and poems from the work of Langston Hughes.

POETRY

Kerr, M. E. Your Eyes in Stars: A Novel. New York: Harper Collins, 2006.

ISBN: 9780060756826

In their small New York town, two teenaged girls become friends while helping each other make sense of their families, neighbors, and selves as they approach adulthood in the years preceding World War II.

FICTION

Larson, Jonathan, et al. Rent. New York: Melcher Media, Inc., 1997.

ISBN: 9780688154370 0688154379

This work chronicles the production of the contemporary musical set in New York City; includes song lyrics.

NON-FICTION

Long, Robert. De Kooning's Bicycle: Artists and Writers in the Hamptons. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005.

ISBN: 9780374165383 0374165386

Long integrates imaginary monologues with the history of bohemian painters and writers living on Long Island in the Hamptons during the 1950s and 60s, including Pollock, de Kooning and Porter.

NON-FICTION

Marshall, Paul. Brown Girl, Brownstones. Mineola: Dover Publications, Inc., 2009.

ISBN: 9780486468327 0486468321

This book centers on the daughter of Barbadian immigrants living in Brooklyn during the Great Depression. Selina Boyce is caught in the middle of her parents' differing views of her future. Her mom wants Selina to get an American education, while her dad dreams of returning to Barbados. Along with her parental woes, the heroine must deal with the poverty and racism that surrounds her.

FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Teen and up**

Monfredo, Miriam Grace. North Star Conspiracy. New York: Berkley, 1995.

ISBN: 9780425147207 0425147207 *Out of Print*

In 1854, while the rest of Seneca Falls, New York gears up for the opening of a new theater, librarian/sleuth/women's rights activist Glynis Tryon investigates the death of a freed slave and discovers shocking secrets about several abolitionists.

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 39313

Myers, Walter Dean. 145<sup>th</sup> Street: Short Stories. New York: Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 2000.

ISBN: 9780385905381 0385905386

Myers uses 10 short stories to create snapshots of a pulsing, vibrant community with diverse ethnic threads. *Best Books for Young Adults*

FICTION

Braille format: BR 13133 / Recorded format: RC 65859

New York Times Company. Sultans of Swat: The Four Sluggers of the New York Yankees. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2006.

ISBN: 9780312340148 0312340141

Traces the careers of Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, and Mickey Mantle from the perspective of their love of the game and their significant contributions to the Yankee's history and tradition.

NON-FICTION

Quinonez, Ernesto. Bodega Dreams: A Novel. New York: Vintage Books, 2000.

ISBN: 9780375705892 0375705899

The book features a cast of memorable characters, including dim-witted Neno, who can't complete a sentence without quoting a song lyric; the nefarious barrio lawyer, Nazario; the drug runner and possible hit man, Sapó, who would rather be flying a kite from the top of a tenement; and cameo appearances by many real artists and poets. But at the heart of everything is Willie Bodega, a former Young Lord who has become the biggest drug lord of them all.

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 53689

Raphael, Marie. Streets of Gold: A Novel. New York: Persea Books, 2001.

ISBN: 9780892552566

After fleeing Poland and conscription in the Russian czar's army, Stefan and his sister Marisia begin a new life in America on the Lower East Side of New York City at the turn of the century. *Best Books for Young Teen Readers*

FICTION

Revai, Cheri. Haunted Northern New York: True, Chilling Tales of Ghosts in the North Country. Utica, NY: North Country Books, 2002.

ISBN: 9780925168450 0925168459

This work presents a collection of ghostly stories and strange phenomena of Upstate New York, including haunted cemeteries, Ruby's castle in Watertown, and many more.

NON-FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Teen and up**

Santiago, Esmeralda. When I was Puerto Rican. New York: Vintage Books, 1994.

ISBN: 9780394266756 0394266757

The author recalls the hardships and joys of her life with humor and poignancy, from her childhood in Puerto Rico to her move to a very different life in Brooklyn, and, finally, to her admission to the High School of Performing Arts. *Best Books for Young Teen Readers*

NON-FICTION

Recorded format: RC 38181

Sheldon, Dyan. Sophie Pitt-Turnbull Discovers America. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2005.

ISBN: 9780763627409

While spending the summer in Brooklyn with her mother's former schoolmate, Sophie, a sheltered English teenager, makes new and unlikely friends and finds a new side to her formerly "dull and passive" personality.

FICTION

Souljah, Sister. The Coldest Winter Ever. New York: Atria Books, 2004.

ISBN: 9780743499385 0743499387

Winter, the teenage daughter of a Brooklyn drug lord, uses sex and attitude to stay on top after her father's empire crumbles in this gritty urban morality tale.

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 57412

Swerling, Beverly. City of Dreams: A Novel of Nieuw Amsterdam and Early Manhattan. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2001

ISBN: 9780684871738

In 1661, a brother and sister stagger off a small wooden ship after eleven perilous weeks at sea to seek a new life in the Dutch settlement of Nieuw Amsterdam. Bound to each other by blood and necessity, these gifted healers become deadly enemies as betrayal and murder enter their lives. Their descendents --dedicated physicians and surgeons, pirates and whoremasters -- will shape the future of medicine and the growing city.

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 64726

Swiggett, Howard. War out of Niagara: Walter Butler and the Tory Rangers. Temecula: Reprint Services Company, 1993.

ISBN: 9780781252003 0781252008

This study of the American Revolution in northern New York, presents a full account of the Loyalist issues of the area; the role of the Mohawk Indians; the battle actions from 1778-1780 involving many diverse issues and forces; and, the controversial role of Walter Butler's Rangers in the battle at Cherry Valley.

NON-FICTION

**New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture, and Diversity  
Teen and up**

Taylor, Kim. Bowery Girl. New York: Viking, 2006.

ISBN: 97870670059669

Two orphaned teenage girls in New York's tenements in 1883 realize that their dream of saving enough money to move to Brooklyn across the newly-built bridge may be achieved if they learn new trades at a nearby settlement house, rather than continuing their lives of prostitution and stealing.

FICTION

Thompson, Don, and Carol Thompson. Seeking the Northwest Passage. Fleischmanns: Purple Mountain Press, LTD., 2008.

ISBN: 9781930098909 1930098901

An introduction to the life and discoveries of Samuel de Champlain, the French “discoverer” of Lake Champlain. This work includes excellent photos, maps and illustrations.

NON-FICTION

Torrey, E. Fuller. Ride with the Loomis Gang. Illus. John Mahaffy. Utica, NY: North Country Books, 1997.

ISBN: 9780925168566 0925168564

An adaptation of the author's *Frontier Justice: Rise and Fall of the Loomis Gang*. It chronicles the exploits of the legendary Loomis Gang, a group of more than 200 men who terrorized central New York during the mid-1800s.

NON-FICTION

Young, Karen Romano. Cobwebs. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2004.

ISBN: 9780060297626

16-year-old Nancy enjoys the colorful ethnic mix of her heritage in several different Brooklyn households, not suspecting how very strange that heritage is.

FICTION