

You Are Here: Explore New York



Teen and up

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

True to the title, the book is a history of crime that permeated the underbelly of New York City and its boroughs in the 19th and early 20th 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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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

You Are Here: Explore New York Teen and up

Cameron, Peter. Someday This Pain Will Be Useful to You. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007.

It's the summer between high school and Brown University. James is a savvy New York City teen working in his mother's art gallery and working up the nerve to enter the next phase of his life. This beautifully written, crossover novel has been characterized as a modern day *Catcher in the Rye*.

FICTION

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

In this gripping account of historical fiction, the author exposes the horrors women faced during the late 19th 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

Audio CD and Cassette by Books on Tape (2004)

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

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

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

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

Audio CD by Brilliance (2005); Audio Cassette by Orbis (1994)

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

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

Audio Cassette by Book Contractors (1994)

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

This is a compilation of 13 stories set in New York in the late 1800s, 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

Audio Cassette by Bookshelf (1995)

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

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

Davies, Jacqueline. Lost. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2009.

In 1911 New York City, sixteen-year-old Essie Rosenfeld must stop taking care of her irrepressible six-year-old sister when she goes to work at the Triangle Shirt Waist Company, where she befriends a missing heiress who is in hiding from her family and who seems to understand the feelings of heartache and grief that Essie is trying desperately to escape.

FICTION

Recorded Format: RC069678

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

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

Audio CD by Listening Library (2003)

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

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

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

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.

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

FICTION

Recorded format: RC 23888

Audio Cassette by Recorded Books (1995); Audio Cassette by Audioworks (1995)

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

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.

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

Audio Cassette (2002) & CD (2006) by Recorded Books

Grossman, Lev. The Magicians. New York: Viking Penguin, 2009

Fantasy and reality meld in unexpected and tragic ways when 17-year-old Quentin Coldwater trades his ho-hum Brooklyn existence for the magical society of Brakebills

NON-FICTION

Recorded format: RC069579

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.

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

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

New York: Orchard Books, 2003.

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 20th century.

NON-FICTION

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

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.

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

Kwok, Jean. Girl in Translation. New York: Riverhead Books, 2010.

Kim Chang and her mother move to Brooklyn from Hong Kong after Kim's father dies. Kim goes to school during the day, and then joins her mother working in a sweatshop owned by her bitter older sister. Kim excels, winning a scholarship to a private school, and falls in love with a boy who also helps his mother fill the sweatshop quotas.

FICTION

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

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

NON-FICTION

Audio CD by Dreamworks (1996)

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

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

Audio Cassette by Blackstone (2006)

Marrin, Al. Flesh and Blood So Cheap: The Triangle Fire and its Legacy. New York: Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2011.

On March 25, 1911, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City burst into flames. One hundred forty-six people—mostly women—perished; it was one of the most lethal workplace fires in American history. This is a story of immigration and hard work to make it in a new country, as Italians and Jews and others traveled to America to find a better life.

NON-FICTION

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

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

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Mercer, Paul and Vicki Weiss, for the Friends of the New York State Library. The New York State Capitol and the Great Fire of 1911. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2011

In the early morning hours of March 29, 1911, a fire broke out in the New York State Capitol at Albany. Within the building lay the entire collection of the New York State Library, almost completely reduced to ashes. The authors have included recently discovered photographs documenting the original construction of the building, beginning in 1867, as well as eyewitness accounts of its destruction.

NON-FICTION

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

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. Game. New York: Harper Teen, 2008.

If Harlem high school senior Drew Lawson is going to realize his dream of playing college, then professional, basketball, he will have to improve at being coached and being a team player, especially after a new--white--student threatens to take the scouts' attention away from him.

FICTION

Recorded format: RC067450

Digital format: DB067450

Braille format: BR018088

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

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.

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

Pfeffer, Susan Beth. The Dead and the Gone. Orlando, FL: Harcourt, 2008.

After a meteor hits the moon and sets off a series of horrific climate changes, seventeen-year-old Alex Morales must take care of his sisters alone in the chaos of New York City.

FICTION

Recorded format: RC068838

Digital book: DB068838

Braille format: BR018229

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

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

Audio Cassette by Recorded Books (2000) Spanish (2004)

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

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

Audio CD & Cassette by Recorded Books (2003)

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

Audio Cassette by Audio Literature (2001)

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

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

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

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.

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.

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

Weeks, Sarah. As Simple as It Seems. New York: Laura Geringer Books, 2010

Eleven-year-old Verbena Polter gets through a difficult summer of turbulent emotions and the revelation of a disturbing family secret with an odd new friend she meets in her small Catskill town, who believes she is the ghost of a girl who drowned many years before.

FICTION

Audiobook CD by Random House (2011)

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

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