TeachersFirst READING TREKS

A Walk in New York

Teacher Guide

Grade Level & Content Areas

Access Reading Trek Map

Ages: 4-8
Grades: PreK–3 (read-aloud), 3 (independent)
Reading Level: 3rd grade
Lexile Measure: AD740L
Fountas/Pinnell: M
Guided Reading Level: M

Content Areas: English/language arts, reading, informational text, social studies (including geography, communities, culture, and local history), visual arts, and mathematics.

Synopsis of Book

A Walk in New York, written and illustrated by Salvatore Rubbino, follows a young boy and his father as they spend the day exploring Manhattan's sights, sounds, and energy. From the towering Empire State Building to the busy streets of Times Square, Greenwich Village's culture, the peaceful greenery of Central Park, and the historic landmarks along the way, the story captures the city's excitement and charm. With lively illustrations, maps, and fun facts sprinkled throughout, the book blends a narrative walking tour with informational text. The book invites readers to join the walking adventure and observe the city's sights, sounds, history, and daily life, while building background knowledge about New York City's geography and landmarks.

Standards

Common Core State Standards for K–5

Reading: Literature

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure
- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
- Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

Writing

- Text Types and Purposes
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge

Speaking and Listening

- Comprehension and Collaboration
- Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

- Theme 1: CULTURE
- Theme 2: TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE
- Theme 3: PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS

National Core Arts Standards for Visual Arts

- CREATING
- RESPONDING
- CONNECTING

Using a TeachersFirst® Reading Trek to Explore This Book

TeachersFirst Reading Treks create a virtual field trip of resources about a piece of literature or text using the My Maps feature of Google Maps. To motivate and enrich student reading, teachers and students can reference this visual collection of web resources and images as they relate to the contents of a book.

TeachersFirst has done the hard work for you! Use the activities in this teacher guide and the accompanying Reading Trek map as you and your students explore this book. And if you feel inspired, you (or your students) can create your own Reading Trek about this or another book!

Using This Reading Trek in Class

Below is a list of ideas for using this Reading Trek in your educational setting.

Working with the Map:

1. Introduce the book to the whole class on an interactive whiteboard using the Reading Trek map, highlighting its various layers.
2. Compare photographs of the landmarks on the map with the book's illustrations. Discuss similarities and differences. For a digital option, compare the landmarks using Canva's Venn Diagram Maker (TeachersFirst review).
3. Click on each location on the map. Have students describe sounds they might hear at each location and identify details in the photographs or videos that support their ideas.
4. Use the (-) symbol at the bottom left corner of the map to zoom until all of the map symbols are visible. Before reading, ask students to describe what they think each symbol represents. Ask students to write their predictions on Padlet (TeachersFirst review), then compare them to the actual meaning after reading.
5. The author, Salvatore Rubbino, is from London. After exploring the author layer, discuss how Salvatore Rubbino's perspective as a visitor from London may have influenced the places and details he chose to include.
6. Use the map's distance tool to help estimate the length of the route the boy and his dad traveled through the city. Calculate how long it might have taken them to walk through the entire book. Discuss why the estimate may differ from the characters' actual travel time.

Extension Activities:

1. Create a Class Travel Journal**.** Students can make their own travel journals with pages for each location the boy and his dad visited. They can write (or dictate) what they learned about each place, draw pictures, and add "postcards" they create for each destination. For a digital option, consider using Book Creator (TeachersFirst review) to create the travel journals.
2. Create a classroom timeline by using Padlet (TeachersFirst review) to show the boy's journey in chronological order. Students can add illustrations, key events from the story, and interesting facts they discovered about each location during map exploration.
3. Use Canva (TeachersFirst review) with students to create colorful travel brochures for their favorite location from the character's trip to New York. They can include drawings of attractions, fun facts they learned, and reasons why families should visit.
4. Use Play-Doh to create one scene from the book. Students can dictate or write about the scene they have made. Take photos of their work and re-create the story using Write Reader (TeachersFirst review).
5. Using blocks, LEGOs, or recycled materials, students can work in teams to recreate famous landmarks the characters saw. (Post office, Flatiron Building, bridges, etc.).
6. Each location might have people working there. It may include ticket sellers, museum guides, and ferry captains. Have students pick a location from the map and write a paragraph that starts with "If I worked at _____, my job would be to…"

Helpful Resources

From TeachersFirst:

- TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps
- TeachersFirst Review of Google My Maps
- OK2Ask: Engage & Inspire with Reading Treks
- OK2Ask: Building Background Knowledge with Reading Treks

Other Resources:

- A Walk in New York activities
- Explore other books by the author