



# TeachersFirst READING TREKS

## *A Walk in Harlem (Ana & Andrew)*

### Teacher Guide

Access Reading  
Trek Map

### Grade Level & Content Areas

**Ages:** 4–9

**Grades:** PreK–3

**Reading Level:** 2nd Grade

**Lexile Measure:** 560L

**Guided Reading Level:** P

**Developmental Reading**

**Assessment (DRA):** 24

**Content Areas:** English/language arts, reading, literature, and social studies (including culture, individual development, identity, and geography).

## Synopsis of Book

In this installment of the Ana & Andrew series, the children’s father surprises them with train tickets to New York City to visit Harlem and learn about famous African American artists, musicians, and writers whose creative talents and pride in their culture helped transform a community. Even lunch and dinner hold a special treat for the family—New York-style pizza! Inspired by the sights, sounds, and tastes of New York City, Ana and Andrew use the writing and art supplies in their backpacks to create special surprises for their mother and baby brother.

## Standards

### Common Core State Standards for K–5

#### Reading: Literature

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure

#### Writing

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

### National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

- Theme 1: CULTURE
- Theme 2: TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE
- Theme 3: PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS
- Theme 4: INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTITY

## National Core Arts Standards for Visual Arts

- CREATING
- RESPONDING

## National Core Music Standards

- Responding
- Connecting

## Social Justice Standards

- Identity
- Diversity

---

## 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 a 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 how to use this Reading Trek in your educational setting.

### Working with the Map:

1. Introduce the book to the class on an interactive whiteboard using the [Reading Trek map](#) and highlighting its various layers.
2. After discussing Langston Hughes's contributions to literature, students can use the [What is Your Happy](#) handout from 826 Digital ([TeachersFirst review](#)) and create an accompanying illustration. Using this poem as a guide, students can write an additional poem about an emotion of their choice and then illustrate it.
3. Students can choose one or more vocabulary terms related to train travel, station sights, jazz, art, or literature, and create a Frayer Model graphic organizer to be displayed in the classroom and uploaded to the classroom LMS. SlidesMania ([TeachersFirst review](#)) offers many [templates](#). If you plan to use this graphic organizer format for multiple words, allowing students to choose from a choice board could prove helpful in differentiation.
4. After viewing artwork by [Jacob Lawrence](#), have students discuss how the paintings and drawings made them feel. Students can use bright, bold colors and geometric forms to create their own artwork in the Dynamic



Cubism style, either by cutting shapes from bright paper scraps or by digitally inserting and layering shapes in Google Slides ([TeachersFirst review](#)) or PowerPoint ([TeachersFirst review](#)).

5. Encourage students to learn more about important people who share their identity features and who have admirable character

traits. Students can add descriptive words and phrases into Adobe Firefly ([TeachersFirst review](#)), which will create AI-generated, downloadable images. Use these images to create a collage using Photo Joiner Collage Maker ([TeachersFirst review](#)), download the finished collages and create a gallery walk, then have classmates guess the collage creator based on the images included.

## Extension Activities:

1. While listening to various jazz selections, students can use Silk - Interactive Generative Art ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to digitally draw responses to the music and create a caption including the song's name. Turn off the mirror and rotational symmetry for a different experience. Save your drawing to share it or use it in other ways, like as a screensaver or background.
2. Collaborating with the music teacher and/or physical education teacher, teach students some of the dances popular during the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s and 1930s. Jazz dances like the Charleston can be performed solo or in groups, and swing dances such as the Lindy hop, jitterbug, and jive can be performed in pairs.
3. Furthering the dance activity, students can sketch drawings of themselves in clothing appropriate to the Harlem Renaissance.
4. After researching interesting places that they could visit during a day trip similar to the one the children in the story took, students can create a proposed trip itinerary using a timeline infographic template on Canva ([TeachersFirst review](#)). They could also include a Google My Map ([TeachersFirst review](#)) showing the places they'd visit, along with their home or starting location. The trip plan should include a list of necessary items, such as outerwear, footwear, and materials to record the adventure.
5. As more families moved into the Harlem area in the 1920s, racial pride was encouraged, and opportunities abounded in an environment without prejudice. Have students discuss their dreams and aspirations, whether met or yet unmet, with their family units, and create an artistic representation of that dream. [Kid Artists: True Tales of Childhood from Creative Legends](#) from Epic! ([TeachersFirst review](#)) is a helpful motivator and a good source of inspiration.

## Helpful Resources

### From TeachersFirst:

- [TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps](#)
- [TeachersFirst Review of Google My Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: Building Background Knowledge with Reading Treks](#)
- [OK2Ask: No Passport Required: Cross-Curricular Learning Journeys with Google My Maps](#)

## Other Resources:

- [I am Christine Platt](#)
- [Anuki Lopez Artwork and Illustrations](#)
- [Library of Congress Teachers' Guide to the Harlem Renaissance](#)
- [History's Harlem Renaissance](#)
- [Harlem Renaissance facts for kids](#)
- [The Harlem Renaissance—An Explosion of Art—Extra History](#)
- [The Great Migration and the Harlem Renaissance](#)
- [What Was the Harlem Renaissance – and Why it Mattered](#)
- [Harlem Renaissance-Black History Moment of the Week](#)
- [Meet Jacob Lawrence - Visions of Harlem](#)
- [The Life of Josephine Baker](#)
- [Josephine Baker: Harlem Renaissance Creative](#)
- [Langston Hughes for Kids](#)
- [Additional reading through Epic!'s Harlem Renaissance collection](#)