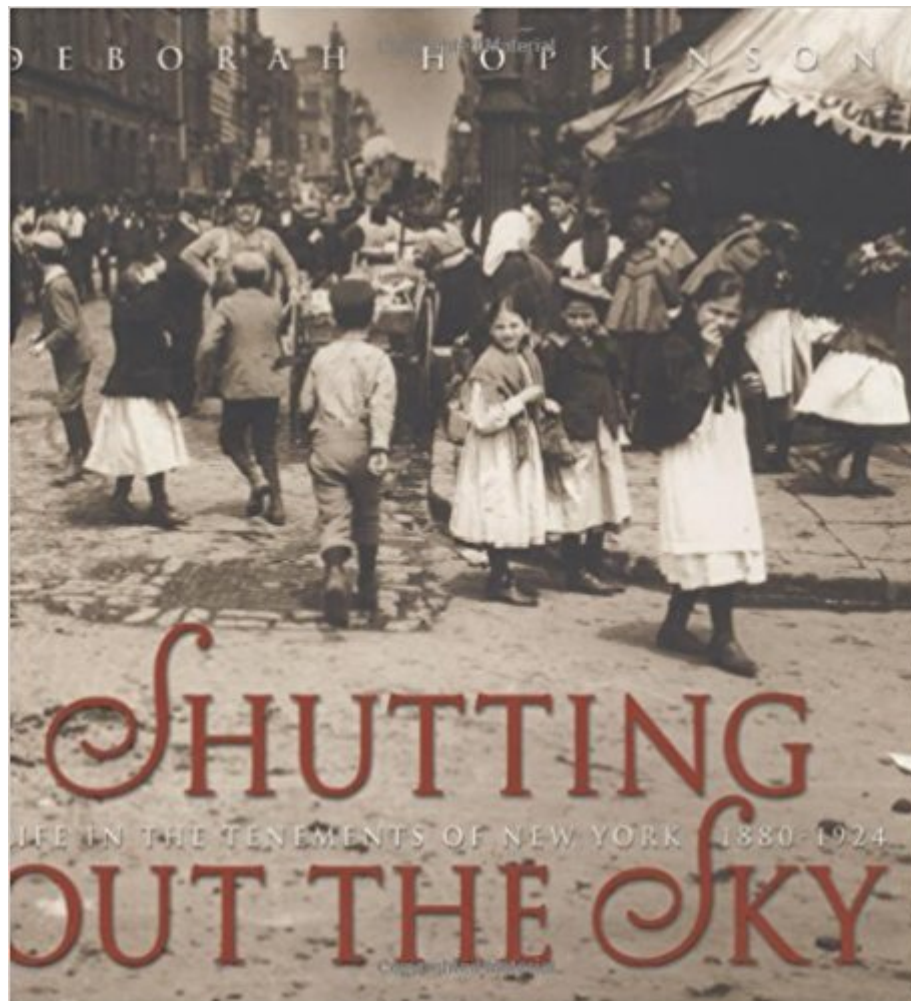




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# Shutting Out The Sky: Life In The Tenements Of New York, 1880-1924 (Jane Addams Honor Book (Awards))



## Synopsis

In a stunning nonfiction debut, award-winning author Deborah Hopkinson focuses on five immigrants' stories to reveal the triumphs and hardships of early 1900s immigrant life in New York. Acclaimed author Hopkinson recounts the lives of five immigrants to New York's Lower East Side through oral histories and engaging narrative. We hear Romanian-born Marcus Ravage's disappointment when his aunt pushes him outside to peddle chocolates on the street. And about the pickle cart lady who stored her pickles in a rat-infested basement. We read Rose Cohen's terrifying account of living through the Triangle Shirtwaist fire, and of Pauline Newman's struggles to learn English. But through it all, each one of these kids keeps working, keeps hoping, to achieve their own American dream.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 990L (What's this?)

Series: Jane Addams Honor Book (Awards)

Hardcover: 144 pages

Publisher: Orchard Books; 1st Edition edition (October 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0439375908

ISBN-13: 978-0439375900

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 8.2 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #190,838 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #78 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty](#) #113 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1800s](#) #498 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Urban](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 5-8-Through the stories of five immigrants, the world of New York City's tenements in the late 19th and early 20th centuries comes alive with descriptions of the newcomers' struggles and triumphs as they attended night school, abandoned customs, or in other ways acclimated to life in America. Some came as children, others as teenagers, all eager either to succeed on their own or

to help their families. Leonard Covello, who left Italy and arrived at Ellis Island with his mother and younger brothers six years after his father, became a high school principal. Pauline Newman began her working career in 1901 as a child laborer in the garment industry and later became one of the first women organizers of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Citing sources, Hopkinson quotes frequently from her subjects' and others' writing, and provides a detailed and intimate picture of daily life in Manhattan's Lower East Side. The text is supported by numerous tinted, archival photos of living and working conditions. Although this book will appeal to students looking for material for projects, the writing lends immediacy and vivid images make it simply a fascinating read. Carol Fazioli, formerly at The Brearley School, New York City Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

**\*Starred Review\*** Gr. 5-12. In the tradition of Russell Freedman's *Immigrant Kids* (1980), but much more detailed, this history of the 23 million immigrants who came to New York City from southern and eastern Europe at the end of the nineteenth century humanizes the statistics by weaving together the personal stories of five young people with the social conditions that caused them to emigrate, what they left behind, what they hoped for, what they found, and how they changed America. Amazing documentary photos by Jacob Riis and many others, as well as riveting quotes from archives and memoirs, add depth and drama to the accounts of young people, from street to school to sweatshop. At 16, Marcus Ravage convinces his parents to sell the family cow to pay for his journey from Romania. Lithuanian immigrant Pauline Newman becomes one of the first women labor organizers. Italian American Leonard Covello is ashamed to bring his friends home, even as he learns that he can become American without rejecting where he came from. Meticulous documentation, including full chapter notes, will help the many young people--and their parents and grandparents--who will want to know more and to research their own family roots. Hazel Rochman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

This product arrived on time and as expected. I really enjoyed it and found the book to be a rather quick read but very entertaining and informative, using gritty, real-world recollections from men and women who experienced these things first hand. Probably not a top choice for those with a lot of knowledge already regarding this time period, but as an introduction I can definitely recommend.

Wonderful book full of photo's and stories... I am going to read parts of it to my 9 year old grandchild who lives in Brooklyn. As a collector of NYC historical stories and photo's, I found this to be well

worth the price.

Ordered the book for a reading assignment for my 10 year old. She loves it!

This time always interested me. Good book, great photographs.

SO TRUE

Very informative.

Loved reading about New York in the old days as mom and dad lived there and I am writing a book about them.

excellent

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