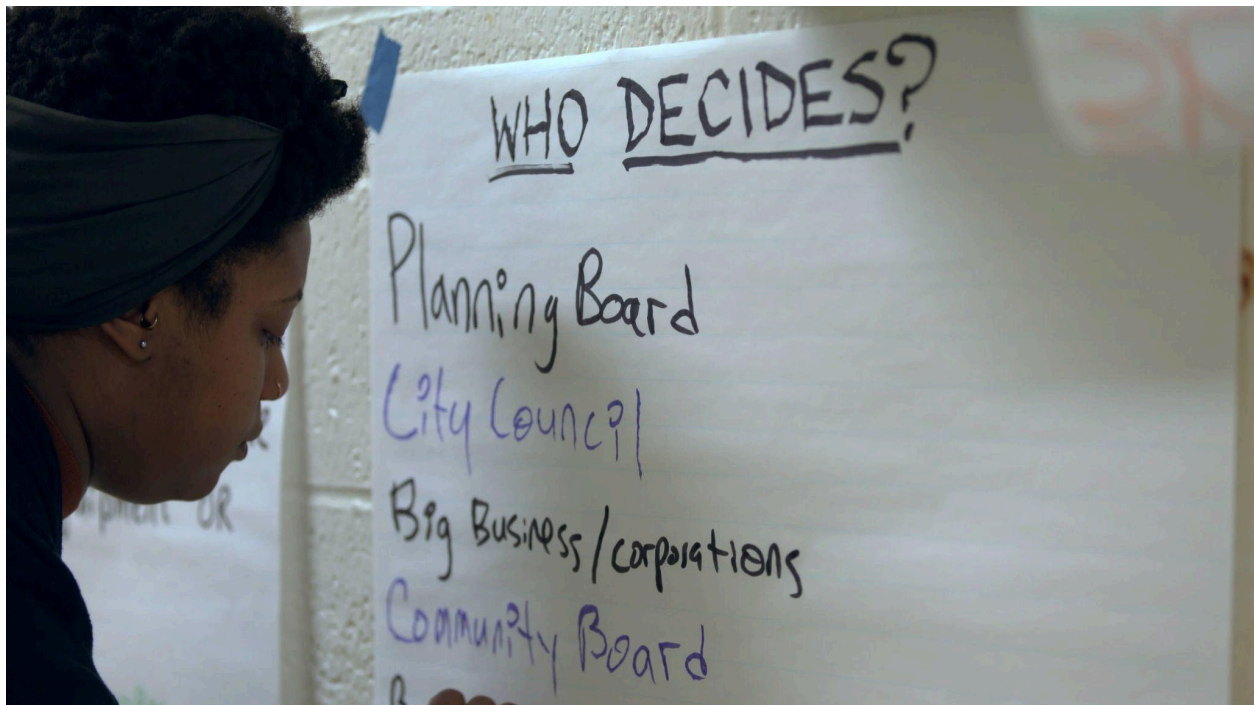




Emergent City

DELVE DEEPER READING LIST



This list of fiction and nonfiction books, compiled by Kim Dorman, Community Engagement Coordinator of Princeton Public Library, and retired librarian Susan Conlon, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary *Emergent City*.

Residents of Sunset Park, Brooklyn, face rising rents, a legacy of environmental racism, and the loss of the industrial jobs that once sustained their community. When a global developer purchases a massive industrial complex on the waterfront and lays plans for an “innovation district,” a battle erupts over the future of the neighborhood and of New York City itself.

Contributors



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Kim Dorman serves as the Community Engagement Coordinator for the Princeton Public Library.



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ADULT NON-FICTION

Bishop, Peter, and Lesley Williams. *Planning, Politics, and City Making: A Case Study of King's Cross*. RIBA Publishing, 2016.

Whilst there is extensive literature analysing the design and function of new buildings and places, the actual process through which development proposals are actually fashioned – through complex negotiation and deal-making, involving many different stakeholders with different agendas – is largely undocumented. Conventional planning theory tends to assume a logical, rational, and linear decision-making process, which bears little relationship to reality. This book aims to shed some light on that reality. The King's Cross scheme is one of the largest and most complex developments taking place in Britain today. The planning negotiations, which took six years, were probably some of the most exhaustive debates around a development ever. A report of over 600 pages of technical information was eventually presented to the committee, and after two evenings and ten hours of presentations and debate, the committee approved the scheme by just two votes.

Campanella, Thomas J. *Brooklyn: The Once and Future City*. Princeton University Press, 2019.

America's most storied urban underdog, Brooklyn has become an internationally recognized brand in recent decades—celebrated and scorned as one of the hippest destinations in the world. In *Brooklyn: The Once and Future City*, Thomas J. Campanella unearths long-lost threads of the urban past, telling the rich history of the rise, fall, and reinvention of one of the world's most resurgent cities. Spanning centuries and neighborhoods, Brooklyn-born Campanella takes us through Brooklyn's history as the homeland of the Leni Lenape and witnesses Brooklyn's emergence as a playland of racetracks and amusement parks celebrated around the world. He reveals how this immigrant Promised Land drew millions, fell victim to its own social anxieties, and yet proved resilient enough to reawaken as a multicultural powerhouse and a global symbol of urban vitality.

DeSena, Judith. *Gentrification and Inequality in Brooklyn: New Kids on the Block*. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2009.

While most studies on gentrification focus almost exclusively on its causes and consequences through an examination of housing, class conflict, and the displacement of residents, this book analyzes the process of gentrification. *Gentrification and Inequality in Brooklyn* examines the ways in which the established working-class and lower-income residents of Greenpoint, Brooklyn remain socially segregated from the incoming gentrifiers, with both groups forming parallel cultures within the shared physical spaces of the community. Desena broadens the typical analyses of gentrification to include the grass roots dynamics which create social class relations that lead to residential segregation created by social class relations. Drawing upon areas traditionally underrepresented in urban sociology, including families, women, children, and local institutions other than housing, this study explores the ways in which working-class residents, in the course of their everyday lives, negotiate change in their neighborhood and dissimilarity with their new (gentry) neighbors. *Gentrification and Inequality in Brooklyn* touches on issues familiar to anyone who has lived in a multi-class or

multi-ethnic community while offering new perspectives on the ways that such communities develop and maintain the boundaries of social segregation.

Goldstone, Brian. *There Is No Place for Us: Working and Homeless in America*. Crown, 2025.

The working homeless. In a country where hard work and determination are supposed to lead to success, there is something scandalous about this phrase. But skyrocketing rents, low wages, and a lack of tenant rights have produced a startling phenomenon: People with full-time jobs cannot keep a roof over their head, especially in America's booming cities, where rapid growth is leading to catastrophic displacement. These families are being forced into homelessness not by a failing economy but by a thriving one. Through intimate, novelistic portraits, Goldstone reveals the human cost of this crisis, following parents and their kids as they go to sleep in cars, or in squalid extended-stay hotel rooms, and head out to their jobs and schools the next morning. These are the nation's hidden homeless—omitted from official statistics, and proof that overflowing shelters and street encampments are only the most visible manifestation of a far more pervasive problem.

Heberfield, Steven. *Power Balance: Increasing Leverage in Negotiations with Federal and State: Lessons Learned from the Native American Experience*. University of Oklahoma Press, 2022.

Negotiation, understood simply as “working things out by talking things through,” is often anything but simple for Native nations engaged with federal, state, and local governments to solve complex issues, promote economic and community development, and protect and advance their legal and historical rights. *Power Balance* builds on traditional Native values and peacemaking practices to equip tribes today with additional tools for increasing their negotiating leverage.

With real-life examples throughout, *Power Balance* outlines measures tribes can take to maximize their negotiating power—by leveraging their special legal rights and historical status and by employing political organizing strategies to level the playing field in obtaining their rightful benefits. Haberfeld includes a case study of the precedent-setting negotiation between the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe and four federal agencies that resolved disputes over land, water, and other natural resources in Death Valley National Park in California. Bringing together firsthand experience, traditional Native values, and the most up-to-date legal principles and practices, this how-to book will be an invaluable resource for tribal leaders and lawyers seeking to develop and refine their negotiating skills and strategies.

Hum, Tarry. *Making a Global Immigrant Neighborhood: Brooklyn's Sunset Park*. Temple University Press, 2014.

Based on more than a decade of research, *Making a Global Immigrant Neighborhood* charts the evolution of Sunset Park—with a densely concentrated working-poor and racially diverse immigrant population—from the late 1960s to its current status as one of New York City's most vibrant neighborhoods. Tarry Hum shows how processes of globalization, such as shifts in low-wage labor markets and immigration patterns, shaped the neighborhood. She explains why Sunset Park's future now depends on Asian and Latino immigrant collaborations in advancing common interests in community building, civic engagement, entrepreneurialism, and sustainability planning. She shows, too, how residents' responses to urban development policies and projects and the capital represented

by local institutions and banks foster community activism. Hum pays close attention to the complex social, political, and spatial dynamics that forge a community and create new models of leadership as well as coalitions. The evolution of Sunset Park so astutely depicted in this book suggests new avenues for studying urban change and community development.

Jafray, Tahseen, Karin Helwig, and Michael Miulewicz, editors. *Routledge Handbook of Climate Justice*. Routledge, 2020.

The term "climate justice" began to gain traction in the late 1990s following a wide range of activities by social and environmental justice movements that emerged in response to the operations of the fossil fuel industry and, later, to what their members saw as the failed global climate governance model that became so transparent at COP15 in Copenhagen. The term continues to gain momentum in discussions around sustainable development, climate change, mitigation, and adaptation, and has been slowly making its way into the world of international and national policy. However, the connections between these remain unestablished.

Addressing the need for a comprehensive and integrated reference compendium, *The Routledge Handbook of Climate Justice* provides students, academics, and professionals with valuable insight into this fast-growing field. Drawing together a multidisciplinary range of authors from the Global North and South, this handbook addresses some of the most salient topics in current climate justice research, including just transition, urban climate justice and public engagement, in addition to the field's more traditional focus on gender, international governance and climate ethics. With an emphasis on facilitating learning based on cutting-edge specialised climate justice research and application, each chapter draws from the most recent sources, real-world best practices, and tutored reflections on the strategic dimensions of climate justice and its related disciplines.

Lim, Audrea, editor, and Ana Isabel Baptista. *The World We Need: Stories and Lessons from America's Unsung Environmental Movement*. The New Press, 2021.

The World We Need provides a vivid introduction to America's largely unsung grassroots environmental groups—often led by activists of color and the poor—valiantly fighting back in America's so-called sacrifice zones against industries poisoning our skies and waterways and heating our planet. Through original reporting, profiles, artwork, and interviews, we learn how these activist groups, almost always working on shoestring budgets, are devising creative new tactics, building sustainable projects to transform local economies, and organizing people long overlooked by the environmental movement—changing its face along the way. Capturing the riveting stories and hard-won strategies from a broad cross section of pivotal environmental actions—from Standing Rock to Puerto Rico—*The World We Need* offers a powerful new model for the larger environmental movement and inspiration for concerned citizens everywhere.

Loughran, Kevin. *Parks for Profit: Selling Nature in the City*. Columbia University Press, 2022.

A new kind of city park emerged in the early twenty-first century. Postindustrial parks transform the derelict remnants of an urban past into distinctive public spaces that meld repurposed infrastructure, wild-looking green space, and landscape architecture. For their proponents, they present an

opportunity to turn disused areas into neighborhood anchors, with a host of environmental and community benefits. Yet there are clear economic motives as well—successful parks have helped generate billions of dollars of city tax revenues and real estate development. Kevin Loughran explores the High Line in New York, the Bloomingdale Trail/606 in Chicago, and Buffalo Bayou Park in Houston to offer a critical perspective on the rise of the postindustrial park. He reveals how elites deploy the popularity and seemingly benign nature of parks to achieve their cultural, political, and economic goals. As urban economies have become restructured around finance, real estate, tourism, and cultural consumption, parks serve as civic shields for elite-oriented investment. Tracing changing ideas about cities and nature and underscoring the centrality of race and class, Loughran argues that postindustrial parks aestheticize past disinvestment while serving as green engines of gentrification. A wide-ranging investigation of the political, cultural, and economic forces shaping park development, *Parks for Profit* reveals the social inequalities at the heart of today's new urban landscape.

Martucci, Sara. *There Was Nothing There: Williamsburg, the Gentrification of a Brooklyn Neighborhood*. NYU Press, 2024.

Williamsburg, Brooklyn, a prominent neighborhood in New York City, has undergone significant transformations through cycles of divestment and gentrification. In 2005, the city's decision to rezone the Williamsburg waterfront for high-rise housing led to a profound alteration of the physical, cultural, and social landscape. The result was the rapid influx of thousands of new residents, many of them wealthy, giving rise to luxury buildings, upscale dining, and high-end retail stores alongside new norms and expectations for the neighborhood. These new arrivals coexist with earlier gentrifiers as well as working-class Latinx and white ethnic populations, creating a complex and layered community.

In *There Was Nothing There*, Sara Martucci draws on four decades of residents' memories and experiences, providing insights into the tensions, contradictions, and inequalities brought about by gentrification. Martucci focuses on the individual level, exploring how residents form connections to their neighborhoods and how these attachments shape their daily experiences of public spaces, local consumption, and evaluations of safety. As established residents, bohemians, and newcomers vie for ownership and belonging, their perceptions give rise to conflicting narratives that define the essence of the neighborhood.

While the book's primary focus is on Williamsburg, it serves as a cautionary tale about the broader impact of state-led gentrification, extending far beyond Brooklyn. The text underscores the potential consequences of such transformations for the future of cities, urging readers to consider the implications of cultural displacement, homogenization, and increased surveillance as gentrification permeates urban landscapes.

McBride, James. *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother*. Penguin Group, 1996.

Who is Ruth McBride Jordan? A self-declared "light-skinned" woman, evasive about her ethnicity, yet steadfast in her love for her twelve black children. James McBride, journalist, musician, and son, explores his mother's past, as well as his own upbringing and heritage, in a poignant and powerful

debut. The son of a black minister and a woman who would not admit she was white, James McBride grew up in “orchestrated chaos” with his eleven siblings in the poor, all-black projects of Red Hook, Brooklyn. “Mommy,” a fiercely protective woman with “dark eyes full of pep and fire,” herded her brood to Manhattan’s free cultural events, sent them off on buses to the best (and mainly Jewish) schools, demanded good grades, and commanded respect. As a young man, McBride saw his mother as a source of embarrassment, worry, and confusion—and reached thirty before he began to discover the truth about her early life and long-buried pain, retracing his mother’s footsteps and, through her searing and spirited voice.

McClay, Wilfred M., and Ted V. McAllister, editors. *Why Place Matters: Geography, Identity, and Civic Life in Modern America*. Encounter Books, 2014.

Contemporary American society, with its emphasis on mobility and economic progress, all too often loses sight of the importance of a sense of place and community. Appreciating ‘place’ is essential for building the strong local communities that cultivate civic engagement, public leadership, and many of the other goods that contribute to a flourishing human life. This book is an anthology of essays exploring the contemporary problems of place and placelessness in American Society.

Mogilevich, Mariana. *The Invention of Public Space: Designing for Inclusion in Lindsay’s New York*. University of Minnesota Press, 2020.

As suburbanization, racial conflict, and the consequences of urban renewal threatened New York City with “urban crisis,” the administration of Mayor John V. Lindsay (1966–1973) experimented with a broad array of projects in open spaces to affirm the value of city life. Mariana Mogilevich provides a fascinating history of a watershed moment when designers, government administrators, and residents sought to remake the city in the image of a diverse, free, and democratic society. *The Invention of Public Space* brings together psychology, politics, and design to uncover a critical moment of transformation in our understanding of city life and reveals the emergence of a concept of public space that remains today a powerful, if unrealized, aspiration

Moreno, Carlos, Jan Gehl, and Martha Thorne. *The 15-Minute City: A Solution to Saving Our Time and Our Planet*. Wiley Press, 2024.

In *The 15-Minute City: A Solution for Saving Our Time and Our Planet*, human city pioneer and international scientific advisor Carlos Moreno delivers an exciting and insightful discussion of the deceptively simple and revolutionary idea that everyday destinations like schools, stores, and offices should only be a short walk or bike ride away from home.

This book tells the story of an idea that spread from city to city, describing a new way of looking at living that addresses many of the most intractable challenges of our time. Hundreds of mayors worldwide have already embraced the concept as a way to help recover from the pandemic, and the idea continues to gain speed. You'll learn why more and more cities are planning to make cars far less necessary for contemporary city-dwellers and how they're planning to achieve that goal. Deeply committed to science, progress, and creativity, Moreno presents an essential and timely resource in *The 15-Minute City*, which will prove invaluable to anyone with an interest in modern and innovative

approaches to consistently challenging urban issues that have bedeviled policy makers and city residents since the invention of the car.

Murray, Martin J. *Many Urbanisms: Divergent Trajectories of Global City Building*. Columbia University Press, 2022.

Now, for the first time in history, the majority of the world's population lives in cities. But urbanization is accelerating in some places and slowing down in others. The sprawling megacities of Asia and Africa, as well as many other smaller and medium-sized cities throughout the "Global South," are expected to continue growing. At the same time, older industrial cities in wealthier countries are experiencing protracted socioeconomic decline. Nonetheless, mainstream urban studies continue to treat a handful of superstar cities in Europe and North America as the exemplars of world urbanism, even though current global growth and development represent a dramatic break with past patterns.

Osman, Sueliman. *The Invention of Brownstone Brooklyn: Gentrification and the Search for Authenticity in Postwar New York*. Oxford University Press, 2011.

Considered one of the city's most notorious industrial slums in the 1940s and 1950s, Brownstone Brooklyn by the 1980s had become a post-industrial landscape of hip bars, yoga studios, and beautifully renovated, wildly expensive townhouses. In *The Invention of Brownstone Brooklyn*, Suleiman Osman offers a groundbreaking history of this unexpected transformation. Challenging the conventional wisdom that New York City's renaissance started in the 1990s, Osman locates the origins of gentrification in Brooklyn in the cultural upheavals of the 1960s and 1970s. Gentrification began as a grassroots movement led by young and idealistic white college graduates searching for "authenticity" and life outside the burgeoning suburbs. Where postwar city leaders championed slum clearance and modern architecture, "brownstoners" (as they called themselves) fought for a new romantic urban ideal that celebrated historic buildings, industrial lofts, and traditional ethnic neighborhoods as a refuge from an increasingly technocratic society. Osman examines the emergence of a "slow-growth" progressive coalition as brownstoners joined with poorer residents to battle city planners and local machine politicians. But as brownstoners migrated into poorer areas, race and class tensions emerged, and by the 1980s, as newspapers parodied yuppies and anti-gentrification activists marched through increasingly expensive neighborhoods, brownstoners debated whether their search for authenticity had been a success or failure.

Saffron, Inga. *Becoming Philadelphia: How an Old American City Made Itself New Again*. Rutgers University Press, 2020.

Once dismissed as a rusting industrial has-been—the "Next Detroit"—Philadelphia has enjoyed an astonishing comeback in the 21st century. Over the past two decades, Inga Saffron has served as the premier chronicler of the city's physical transformation as it emerged from a half-century of decline. Through her Pulitzer Prize-winning columns on architecture and urbanism in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, she has tracked the city's revival on a weekly basis. *Becoming Philadelphia* collects the best of Saffron's work, plus a new introduction reflecting on the stunning changes the city has undergone. A fearless crusader who is also a seasoned reporter, Saffron ranges beyond the usual boundaries of

architectural criticism to explore how big money and politics intersect with design, profoundly shaping our everyday experience of city life. Even as she celebrates Philadelphia's resurgence, she considers how it finds itself grappling with the problems of success: gentrification, poverty, privatization, and the unequal distribution of public services.

Sito, Leland T. *Building Downtown Los Angeles: The Politics of Race and Place in Urban America*. Stanford University Press, 2022.

From the 1970s on, Los Angeles was transformed into a center for entertainment, consumption, and commerce for the affluent. Mirroring the urban development trend across the nation, new construction led to the displacement of low-income and working-class racial minorities, as city officials targeted these neighborhoods for demolition in order to spur economic growth and bring in affluent residents. Responding to the displacement, there emerged a coalition of unions, community organizers, and faith-based groups advocating for policy change. In *Building Downtown Los Angeles*, Leland Saito traces these two parallel trends through specific construction projects and the backlash they provoked. He uses these events to theorize the past and present processes of racial formation and the racialization of place, drawing new insights on the relationships between race, place, and policy. Saito brings to bear the importance of historical events on contemporary processes of gentrification and integrates the fluidity of racial categories into his analysis. He explores these forces in action, as buyers and entrepreneurs meet in the real estate marketplace, carrying with them a fraught history of exclusion and vast disparities in wealth among racial groups.

Stein, Samuel. *Capital City: Gentrification and the Real Estate State*. Verso, 2019.

Gentrification isn't driven by latte-sipping hipsters – it's engineered by the capitalist state. Our cities are changing. Global real estate is now a 217 trillion dollar industry, 36 times the value of all the gold ever mined. It makes up 60 percent of the world's assets, and the most powerful person in the world – the president of the United States – made his name as a landlord and real estate developer. As Samuel Stein makes clear in this tightly argued book, it's through seemingly innocuous professions of city planners that we can best understand the transformations underway. Planners provide a window into the practical dynamics of urban change: the way the state uses and is used by organized capital, and the power of landlords and developers at every level of government. But crucially, planners also possess some of the powers we must leverage if we ever wish to reclaim our cities from real estate capital.

Sundstrom, Ronald R. *Just Shelter: Gentrification, Integration, Race, and Reconstruction*. Oxford University Press, 2024.

Just Shelter is a work of political philosophy that examines the core injustices of the contemporary U.S. housing crisis and its relation to enduring racial injustices. It examines the harms of segregation and asks: Are desegregation or integration morally required of our communities and societies? Are the concerns that are expressed about gentrification related to the moral and political concerns that we have with segregation? Is there a moral imperative, and would it be politically legitimate, for our communities and society to mitigate or stop gentrification? *Just Shelter* investigates gentrification,

segregation, desegregation, integration, and homelessness. To achieve justice in social-spatial arrangements, federal, state, and local governments must prioritize the crafting and enforcement of housing policy that corrects the injustices of the past. If we do not address the history of racism in housing policy, we will never solve today's housing crisis.

Wasielewski, Amanda. *Made in Brooklyn: Artists, Hipsters, Makers, Gentrifiers*. Zer0 Books, 2018.

Made in Brooklyn provides a belated critique of the Maker Movement, from its origins in the nineteenth century to its impact on labor and its entanglement in the neoliberal economic model of the tech industry. This critique is rooted in a case study of one neighborhood in Brooklyn, where artists occupy former factory buildings as makers. Although the Maker Movement promises to revitalize the city and its dying industrial infrastructure by remaking these areas as centers of small-scale production, it often falls short of its utopian ideals. Through her analysis of the Maker Movement, the author addresses broader questions around the nature of artistic work after the internet, as well as what the term 'hipster' means in the context of youth culture, gentrification, labor, and the influence of the internet. Part history, part ethnography, this book is an attempt to provide a unified analysis of how the tech industry has infiltrated artistic practice and urban space.

Williams, Sarah. *Data Action: Using Data for the Public Good*. MIT Press, 2020.

Big data can be used for good--from tracking disease to exposing human rights violations--and for bad--implementing surveillance and control. Data inevitably represents the ideologies of those who control its use; data analytics and algorithms too often exclude women, the poor, and ethnic groups. In *Data Action*, Sarah Williams provides a guide for working with data in more ethical and responsible ways. Too often, data has been used--and manipulated--to make policy decisions without much stakeholder input. Williams outlines a method that emphasizes collaboration among data scientists, policy experts, data designers, and the public. This approach creates trust and co-ownership in the data by opening the process to those who know the issues best.

Zimring, Carl A., and Steven H. Corey. *Coastal Metropolis: Environmental Histories of Modern New York City*. University of Pittsburgh Press, 2021.

Built on an estuary, New York City is rich in population and economic activity but poor in available land to manage the needs of a modern city. Since the consolidation of the five boroughs in 1898, New York has faced innumerable challenges, from complex water and waste management issues due to housing and feeding millions of residents in a concentrated area, to dealing with climate change in the wake of Superstorm Sandy, and everything in between. Any consideration of sustainable urbanism requires understanding how cities have developed the systems that support modern life and the challenges posed by such a concentrated population. As the largest city in the United States, New York City is an excellent site to investigate these concerns. Featuring an array of the most distinguished and innovative urban environmental historians in the field, *Coastal Metropolis* offers new insight into how the modern city transformed its air, land, and water as it grew.

ADULT FICTION

al-Tahawy, Miral. *Brooklyn Heights: An Egyptian Novel*. The American University in Cairo Press, 2012.

Hind, newly arrived in New York with her eight-year-old son, several suitcases of unfinished manuscripts, and hardly any English, finds a room in a Brooklyn teeming with people like her who dream of becoming writers.

Boyle, William. *A Friend is a Gift You Give Yourself*. Penguin Crime, 2019.

Goodfellas meets Thelma and Louise when an unlikely trio of women in New York find themselves banding together to escape the clutches of violent figures from their pasts. *A Friend is a Gift You Give Yourself* is a screwball noir about finding friendship and family when you least expect it.

Davis, L. J. *A Meaningful Life*. NYRB Classics, 2010.

L.J. Davis's 1971 novel, *A Meaningful Life*, is a blistering black comedy about the American quest for redemption through real estate and a gritty picture of New York City in collapse. Just out of college, Lowell Lake, the Western-born hero of Davis's novel, heads to New York, where he plans to make it big as a writer. Instead, he finds a job as a technical editor, at which he toils away while passion leaks out of his marriage to a nice Jewish girl. Then Lowell discovers a beautiful, crumbling mansion in a crime-ridden section of Brooklyn, and against all advice, not to mention his wife's will, sinks his every penny into buying it. He quits his job, moves in, and spends day and night on demolition and construction. At last, he has a mission: he will dig up the lost history of his house; he will restore it to its past grandeur. He will make good on everything that's gone wrong with his life, and he will even murder to do it.

Gonzalez, Xochitl. *Olga Dies Dreaming*. Flatiron Books, 2022.

A blazing talent debuts with the tale of a status-driven wedding planner grappling with her social ambitions, absent mother, and Puerto Rican roots, all in the wake of Hurricane Maria. It's 2017, and Olga and her brother, Pedro "Prieto" Acevedo, are bold-faced names in their hometown of New York. Prieto is a popular congressman representing their gentrifying Latinx neighborhood in Brooklyn, while Olga is the tony wedding planner for Manhattan's powerbrokers. Despite their alluring public lives, behind closed doors, things are far less rosy. Sure, Olga can orchestrate the love stories of the 1 percent, but she can't seem to find her own...until she meets Matteo, who forces her to confront the effects of long-held family secrets. Olga and Prieto's mother, Blanca, a Young Lord turned radical, abandoned her children to advance a militant political cause, leaving them to be raised by their grandmother. Now, with the winds of hurricane season, Blanca has come barreling back into their lives.

Set against the backdrop of New York City in the months surrounding the most devastating hurricane in Puerto Rico's history, *Olga Dies Dreaming* is a story that examines political corruption, familial strife, and the very notion of the American dream—all while asking what it really means to weather a storm.

Hannaham, James. *Didn't Nobody Give a Shit What Happened to Carlotta*. Little, Brown and Company, 2022.

Carlotta Mercedes has been misunderstood her entire life. When she was pulled into a robbery gone wrong, she still went by the name she'd grown up with in Fort Greene, Brooklyn—before it gentrified. But not long after her conviction, she took the name Carlotta and began to live as a woman, an embrace of selfhood that prison authorities rejected, keeping Carlotta trapped in an all-male cell block, abused by both inmates and guards, and often placed in solitary. In her fifth appearance before the parole board, Carlotta is at last granted conditional freedom and returns to a much-changed New York City. Over a whirlwind Fourth of July weekend, she struggles to reconcile with the son she left behind, to reunite with a family reluctant to accept her true identity, and to avoid any minor parole infraction that might get her consigned back to lockup.

Islam, Tanwi Nandini. *Bright Lines*. Penguin Publishing Group, 2015.

For as long as she can remember, Ella has longed to feel at home. Orphaned as a child after her parents' murder, and afflicted with hallucinations at dusk, she's always felt more at ease in nature than with people. She traveled from Bangladesh to Brooklyn to live with the Saleems: her uncle Anwar, aunt Hashi, and their beautiful daughter, Charu, her complete opposite. One summer, when Ella returns home from college, she discovers Charu's friend Maya—an Islamic cleric's runaway daughter—asleep in her bedroom.

As the girls have a summer of clandestine adventure and sexual awakenings, Anwar—owner of a popular botanical apothecary—has his own secrets, threatening his thirty-year marriage. But when tragedy strikes, the Saleems find themselves blamed. To keep his family from unraveling, Anwar takes them on a fated trip to Bangladesh to reckon with the past, their extended family, and each other.

Kwok, Jean. *Girl in Translation*. Riverhead Books, 2011.

When Kimberly Chang and her mother emigrate from Hong Kong to Brooklyn's squalor, she quickly begins a secret double life: exceptional schoolgirl during the day, Chinatown sweatshop worker in the evenings. Disguising the more difficult truths of her life—like the staggering degree of her poverty, the weight of her family's future resting on her shoulders, or her secret love for a factory boy who shares none of her talent or ambition—Kimberly learns to constantly translate not just her language but herself back and forth between the worlds she straddles.

Through Kimberly's story, author Jean Kwok, who also emigrated from Hong Kong as a young girl, brings to the page the lives of countless immigrants who are caught between the pressure to succeed in America, their duty to their family, and their own personal desires, exposing a world that we rarely hear about. Written in an indelible voice that dramatizes the tensions of an immigrant girl growing up between two cultures, surrounded by a language and world only half understood, *Girl in Translation* is

an unforgettable and classic novel of an American immigrant—a moving tale of hardship and triumph, heartbreak and love, and all that gets lost in translation

Lethem, Jonathan. *A Fortress of Solitude*. Vintage, 2004.

From the National Book Critics Circle Award-winning author of *Motherless Brooklyn* comes the vividly told story of Dylan Ebdus growing up white and motherless in downtown Brooklyn in the 1970s. In a neighborhood where the entertainments include muggings along with games of stoopball, Dylan has one friend, a black teenager, also motherless, named Mingus Rude. Through the knitting and unraveling of the boys' friendship, Lethem creates an overwhelmingly rich and emotionally gripping canvas of race and class, superheroes, gentrification, funk, hip-hop, graffiti tagging, loyalty, and memory.

Malamud, Bernard. *The Assistant*. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2003.

The Assistant, Bernard Malamud's second novel, originally published in 1957, is the story of Morris Bober, a grocer in postwar Brooklyn, who "wants better" for himself and his family. First two robbers appear and hold him up; then things take a turn for the better when broken-nosed Frank Alpine becomes his assistant. But there are complications: Frank, whose reaction to Jews is ambivalent, falls in love with Helen Bober; at the same time, he begins to steal from the store.

Marshall, Paule. *Brown Girl, Brownstones*. Dover Publications, 2009.

Selina's mother wants to stay in Brooklyn and earn enough money to buy a brownstone row house, but her father dreams only of returning to his island home. Torn between a romantic nostalgia for the past and a driving ambition for the future, Selina also faces the everyday burdens of poverty and racism. Written by and about an African-American woman, this coming-of-age story unfolds during the Depression and World War II. Its setting — a close-knit community of immigrants from Barbados — is drawn from the author's own experience, as are the lilting accents and vivid idioms of the characters' speech. Paule Marshall's 1959 novel was among the first to portray the inner life of a young female African-American, as well as depicting the cross-cultural conflict between West Indians and American blacks. It remains a vibrant, compelling tale of self-discovery.

Selby, Jr., Hubert. *Last Exit to Brooklyn*. Grove Press, 1964.

Last Exit to Brooklyn remains undiminished in its awesome power and magnitude as the novel that first showed us the fierce, primal rage seething in America's cities. Selby brings out the dope addicts, hoodlums, prostitutes, workers, and thieves brawling in the back alleys of Brooklyn. This explosive best-seller has come to be regarded as a classic of modern American writing.

Smith, Betty. *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. Harper & Brothers, 1943.

From the moment she entered the world, Francie Nolan needed to be made of stern stuff, for growing up in the Williamsburg slums of Brooklyn, New York, demanded fortitude, precocity, and strength of spirit. Often scorned by neighbors for her family's erratic and eccentric behavior—such as her father

Johnny's taste for alcohol and Aunt Sissy's habit of marrying serially without the formality of divorce—no one, least of all Francie, could say that the Nolans' life lacked drama. By turns overwhelming, heartbreaking, and uplifting, the Nolans' daily experiences are raw with honesty and tenderly threaded with family connectedness.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Another Brooklyn: A Novel*. Amistad, 2017.

Running into a long-ago friend sets memories from the 1970s in motion for August, transporting her to a time and a place where friendship was everything—until it wasn't. For August and her girls, sharing confidences as they ambled through neighborhood streets, Brooklyn was a place where they believed that they were beautiful, talented, brilliant—a part of a future that belonged to them.

But beneath the hopeful veneer, there was another Brooklyn, a dangerous place where grown men reached for innocent girls in dark hallways, where ghosts haunted the night, where mothers disappeared—a world where madness was just a sunset away, and fathers found hope in religion.

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

Blackburne, Livia. *Clementine and Danny Save the World (and Each Other)*. Quill Tree Books, 2023.

Clementine Chan believes in the power of the written word. Under the pseudonym Hibiscus, she runs a popular blog reviewing tea shops and discussing larger issues within her Chinatown community. She has a loyal, kind following, save for this one sour grape named BobaBoy888. Danny Mok is allergic to change, and the gentrification seeping into Chinatown breaks his heart. When a major corporation reveals plans that threaten to shut down the Mok's beloved tea shop, Clementine and Danny find themselves working together in real life to save the community they both love.

Choi, Mary H. K. *Permanent Record*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2019.

On paper, college dropout Pablo Rind doesn't have a whole lot going for him. His graveyard shift at a twenty-four-hour deli in Brooklyn is a struggle. Plus, he's up to his eyeballs in credit card debt. Never mind the state of his student loans. Pop juggernaut Leanna Smart has enough social media followers to populate whole continents. When Leanna and Pablo meet at 5:00 a.m. at the bodega in the dead of winter it's absurd to think they'd be A Thing. But as they discover who they are, who they want to be, and how to defy the deafening expectations of everyone else, Lee and Pab turn to each other. Which, of course, is when things get properly complicated.

Clayton, Dhonielle, Tiffany D. Jackson, Nic Stone, Angie Thomas, Ashley Woodfolk, and Nicola Yoon. *Blackout: Even Love Stories Can Glow When the Lights Go Out*. HarperCollins, 2021.

Blackout, by six acclaimed YA authors (Dhonielle Clayton, Tiffany D. Jackson, Nic Stone, Angie Thomas, Ashley Woodfolk, and Nicola Yoon), is a novel about Black teen love and relationships set against a New York City blackout. During a city-wide power outage caused by a summer heatwave, the stories of six couples intertwine as they navigate hidden truths, blossoming romances, and shifting friendships. The characters, dealing with issues of love, friendship, and personal growth, find themselves revealing secrets and forging new connections as they make their way through the city to a block party.

Gratz, Alan. *The Brooklyn Nine: A Novel in Nine Innings*. Puffin Books, 2010.

Baseball is in the Schneider family blood. Each member of this family, from family founder Felix Schneider in the 1800s to Snider Flint in the present day, has a strong tie to the game and to Brooklyn. Through the years, this family has dodged bullets on a battlefield, pitched perfect games, and dealt with the devastating loss of family and the Brooklyn Dodgers. Nine innings—nine generations. One game—one family. Through it all, one thing remains true: the bonds of family are as strong as a love of the game.

Hesse, Karen. *Brooklyn Bridge*. Feiwel & Friends, 2008.

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, while nearby, the glitter of Coney Island contrasts with the dismal lives of children dwelling under the Brooklyn Bridge.

Jackson, Tiffany D. *Let Me Hear a Rhyme*. HarperCollins, 2019.

Brooklyn, 1998. Biggie Smalls was right: Things done changed. But that doesn't mean that Quadir and Jarrell are cool with their best friend Steph's music lying forgotten under his bed after he's murdered—not when his rhymes could turn any Bed Stuy corner into a party. With the help of Steph's younger sister Jasmine, they come up with a plan to promote Steph's music under a new rap name: the Architect. Soon, everyone wants a piece of him. When his demo catches the attention of a hotheaded music label rep, the trio must prove Steph's talent from beyond the grave. As the pressure of keeping their secret grows, Quadir, Jarrell, and Jasmine are forced to confront the truth about what happened to Steph. Only, each has something to hide. And with everything riding on Steph's fame, they need to decide what they stand for or lose all that they've worked so hard to hold on to—including each other.

Older, Daniel José. *Shadowshaper*. Arthur A. Levine Books, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., 2015.

Sierra Santiago planned an easy summer of making art and hanging out with her friends. But then a corpse crashes their first party. Her stroke-ridden grandfather starts apologizing over and over. And when the murals in her neighborhood begin to weep tears... Well, something more sinister than the usual Brooklyn ruckus is going on. With the help of a fellow artist named Robbie, Sierra discovers shadowshaping, a magic that infuses ancestral spirits into paintings, music, and stories. But someone is killing the shadowshapers one by one. Now Sierra must unravel her family's past, take down the killer in the present, and save the future of shadowshaping for generations to come.

Perkins, Mitali. *You Bring the Distant Near*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2017.

This novel depicts the immigrant experience for one Indian-American family with humor and heart. Told in alternating teen voices across three generations, *You Bring the Distant Near* explores sisterhood, first loves, friendship, and the inheritance of culture—for better or worse.

From a grandmother worried that her children are losing their Indian identity to a daughter wrapped up in a forbidden biracial love affair to a granddaughter social activist fighting to preserve Bengali tigers, the author weaves together the threads of a family living in New York City growing into an American identity.

Reynolds, Jason. *My Name is Jason. Mine Too*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2022.

Jason Reynold. Jason Griffin. One a poet. One an artist. One Black. One white. Two voices. One journey. To move to New York, and make it in New York. Best friends, willing to have a hard life if it means a happy life. All they needed is a chance.

Sayre, Justin. *Husky*. Grosset & Dunlap, 2015.

Twelve-year-old Davis lives in an old brownstone with his mother and grandmother in Brooklyn. He loves people-watching in Prospect Park, visiting his mom in the bakery she owns, and listening to the biggest operas he can find as he walks everywhere. But Davis is having a difficult summer. As questions of sexuality begin to enter his mind, he worries people don't see him as anything other than "husky." To make matters worse, his best girlfriends are starting to hang out with mean girls and popular boys. Davis is equally concerned about the distance forming between him and his single mother as she begins dating again, and about his changing relationship with his amusingly loud Irish grandmother, Nanny. Ultimately, Davis learns to see himself outside of his one defining adjective. He's a kid with unique interests, admirable qualities, and people who will love him no matter what changes life brings about.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Brown Girl Dreaming*. Puffin Books, 2016.

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.

BOOKS FOR YOUNGER LEARNERS AND CHILDREN

Alko, Selina. *B is for Brooklyn*. Henry Holt and Co., 2012.

What do Prospect Park, Coney Island, and Atlantic Avenue have in common? They are all located in Brooklyn, New York, a magical place where you can listen to jazz music, eat bagels and lox, and sit on the stoop of a brownstone and daydream. Children will recognize aspects of their own neighborhoods in this celebration of urban culture and community.

Dougherty, Rachel. *Secret Engineer: How Emily Roebling Built the Brooklyn Bridge*. Roaring Brook Press, 2019.

A picture book portrait of the uncredited woman behind the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge, tracing the life of the 19th-century engineer Emily Roebling and her significant contributions to math, science, engineering, and feminism.

Eggers, Dave. *Her Right Foot*. Chronicle Books, 2017.

If you had to name a statue, any statue, odds are good you'd mention the Statue of Liberty. Have you seen her? She's in New York. She's holding a torch. And she's in mid-stride, moving forward. But why? In this fun take on nonfiction, Dave Eggers and Shawn Harris investigate a seemingly small trait of America's most emblematic statue. What they find is about more than history, more than art. What they find in the Statue of Liberty's right foot is the powerful message of acceptance that is essential to an entire country's creation.

Javaka, Steptoe. *Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat*. Little, Brown and Company, 2016.

Jean-Michel Basquiat and his unique, collage-style paintings rose to fame in the 1980s as a cultural phenomenon unlike anything the art world had ever seen. But before that, he was a little boy who saw art everywhere: in poetry books and museums, in games and in the words that we speak, and in the pulsing energy of New York City, beginning with Basquiat's childhood in Brooklyn, where he notices art all around him and enjoys its creation.

Kimmelman, Leslie. *Ready, Set, Run!: The Amazing New York City Marathon*. Random House Studio, 2023.

In this nonfiction picture book about the world's most famous race, readers follow runners from all over the world as they stretch, make their playlist, eat a spaghetti dinner, and then pound, pound, pound through the five boroughs of New York City, all the way to the finish line.

Leaf, Christina. *New York City*. Bellwether Media, 2024.

New York City has gone through many changes since it was home to the Lenape people! This nonfiction title takes young readers through some of the biggest changes in the city through narrative text and colorful illustrations.

Lorbiecki, Lori. *Jackie's Bat*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2006.

A young white batboy treats Jackie Robinson differently from the other white members of the 1947 Brooklyn Dodgers—and so does everyone else. But eventually Jackie's patience and talent wear down the racist attitudes of those around them and earn their respect, breaking baseball's color barrier. A backmatter section provides additional information on Jackie's life.

Sohn, Amy. *Brooklyn Bailey, the Missing Dog*. Dial Books for Young Readers, New York, 2020.

After Bailey the dog gets lost, her owners, Emile and Yotam, search through their Brooklyn neighborhood, relying on their neighbors and loved ones to bring her home.

Selznick, Brian. *Wonderstruck: A Novel in Words and Pictures*. Scholastic, 2011.

Having lost his mother and his hearing in a short time, twelve-year-old Ben leaves his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he never knew in New York City, and meets there Rose, who is also longing for something missing from her life. Ben's story is told in words; Rose's in pictures.

Stead, Rebecca. *Liar & Spy*. Wendy Lamb Books, 2012.

Seventh-grader Georges adjusts to moving from a house to an apartment in Brooklyn, his father's efforts to start a new business, his mother's extra shifts as a nurse, being picked on at school, and Safer, a boy who wants his help spying on another resident of their building.

Stead, Rebecca. *When You Reach Me*. Wendy Lamb Books, an imprint of Random House, 2009.

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes.

Willem, Mo. *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale*. Hyperion Books for Children, c2004.

The story of Trixie and her lost stuffed bunny centers around their trip to the local laundromat, which is depicted as being in their Park Slope neighborhood in Brooklyn.

Torres, Leyla. *The Subway Sparrow*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1993.

Although passengers of the D train speak different languages and might not be able to converse, an English-speaking girl, a Spanish-speaking man, and a Polish-speaking woman find their common concern for a sparrow trapped in their subway car bridges the language barriers between them to help rescue the frightened bird.