Shutting Out the Sky: Life in the Tenements of New York, 1880-1924
by Deborah Hopkinson

Acclaimed author Hopkinson recounts the lives of five immigrants to New Yorks Lower East Side through oral histories and engaging narrative. We hear Romanian-born Marcus Ravages 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 Cohens terrifying account of living through the Triangle Shirtwaist fire, and of Pauline Newmans struggles to learn English. But through it all, each one of these kids keeps working, keeps hoping, to achieve their own American dream.

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My Personal Review:
I hope by the time you read this review that you will be able to "take a look inside" this book on this website. Then you could really appreciate how beautifully illustrated and crafted this outstanding book is. For the time being, you'll have to take my (and other reviewers') word for it. There are many books geared toward young readers on the subject of the immigrant/tenement experience in New York City at the turn of the last century, and many of them are quite good. But Deborah Hopkinson's "Shutting Out the Sky: Life in the Tenements of New York, 1880-1924" is far and above the best in recent times. The photographs are exquisite and exquisitely moving. The text is engaging, and, unlike other books aimed for this age group, Ms. Hopkinson's book doesn't dumb things down toward her audience. This is an admirable book that I would recommend to parents and teachers!Rocco Dormarunno, author of "The Five Points"
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