



National Young Readers Week

An Annual Celebration of Reading Created by Pizza Hut® and The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

JAMAICA LOUISE JAMES

by Amy Hest

A city child brightens her grandma's birthday and a dreary New York subway station with her exuberant artwork – and shows how much a difference just one person, even someone aged eight, can make.

Read

Before:

Before you read:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *what are some of the ways you can brighten someone's day?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- *I wonder what she is going to paint?*

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Jamaica Louise James*:

- mayor: an elected official in charge of running a city or town
- plaque: a thin, flat inscribed plate of metal, wood or plastic on a wall
- subway: an underground electric railroad, usually in a large city
- steep: having an extreme slope or pitch

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How old is Jamaica Louise James?
- Where was the golden plaque hung?
- How many pages are in the artist pad?
- How many colored pencils did Jamaica have?
- Describe the drawing that Jamaica drew of the city street.
- What did Jamaica get for her birthday?
- Where does Grammy work?
- How many steep steps are there down into the subway station?
- Describe the people that are using the subway.
- What does Jamaica do while Grammy sews and talks about the people she sees?
- What does Jamaica and Mama do for Grammy's birthday?



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Do

Virtual Field Trip

After reading the story, visit the website below to explore artwork from the real subway station that likely inspired the book on 86th street in New York City by Artist Nitza Tufino in collaboration with Grosvenor House students in 1989. Describe the pieces and try to imagine New York City through the eyes of the painters. Have the kids callout various features that they see such as fountains, fire trucks, storefronts, ships, etc.

[http://www.nycsubway.org/wiki/Artwork:_Westside_Views_\(Nitza_Tufino\)](http://www.nycsubway.org/wiki/Artwork:_Westside_Views_(Nitza_Tufino))



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