

Subway Stories – Under the Ground and Over the Top



One of my favorite things about theme based storytimes is that they can be about almost anything and delight readers in many wonderful ways. For those of us far from subways this storytime is a fun introduction to another way to travel through books. *Subway* is for the younger set while *Jamaica Louise James* will be great for older listeners, and all of these titles share the energy of underground city travel. Have Fun!

Titles:

Subway by Anastasia Suen
Subway Mouse by Barbara Reid
Subway Sparrow by Leyla Torres
My Subway Ride by Paul Dubois Jacobs
Subway Sonata by Pat Lakin
Down in the Subway by Miriam Cohen
Underground Train by Mary Quattlebaum
Jamaica Louise James by Amy Hest

Extensions:

There are many ways to extend the stories: share maps of your city, look at above ground trains or try a different approach with the pop-up story *Who Sees You Underground* by Carla Dijs. This a fun peek at animals that live underground; compare to our underground trains.

Easy Craft:

Following the illustration style of *Subway Mouse*, have a supply of candy wrappers, popsicle sticks and other found items for kids to create a collage of what they might find in the subway. Encourage them to draw or glue a few surprise treasures of their own. For added fun, use old city maps as your background paper.

Simple Play:

Create the mood of the jazzy subway ride by putting on *Train is A-Coming* or your favorite traveling song, and having the kids create a train that chugs around the room.

Reader's Theater:

If your library is in the country, a scene or two from *Country Mouse/City Mouse* would be fun.
<http://www.timelessteacherstuff.com/readerstheater/CityMouseCountryMouse.html>

Action Rhyme:

This train is bound for stories, this train.
This train is bound for stories, this train.
This subway train is bound for stories,
Come on board; you won't be sorry
This train is bound for stories, this train.

Early Literacy Skills:

Language and vocabulary: Explore *under* and its opposite *over*, its compound *underground*, and *sub*. Are your listeners old enough to play with *sub/bus*? Burrow in to this word to build understanding.

Phonological Awareness: Many of these stories rhyme, but *subway sonata* turns language into music. Listen for the transformation.

Letter knowledge: Today's letter could be "s" for subway or "t" for train or "u" for under. You decide.

Print Awareness: Fun with covers. Look at the swirly S and text in *Subway*, the rainbow print in the Sonata, the bolding technique in *Undeground Train*, and the word placement in *My Subway Ride*. These stories create a rich resource for print art.

Narrative Skills: Many of you listeners will have a story about their subway ride. Do you have time to listen? If not, suggest that your adults ask the kids after storytime.

Print Motivation: Over, under and through, what words take you through the subway, through the story. Explore it for a quiet ride.