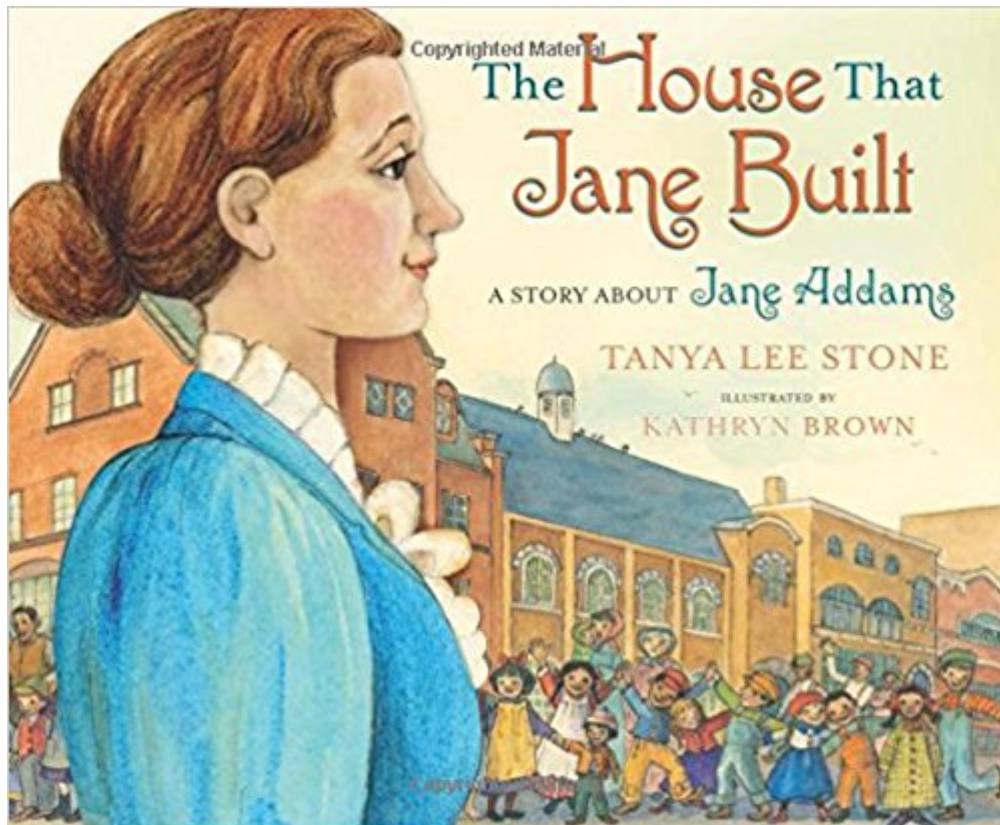




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The House That Jane Built: A Story About Jane Addams



Synopsis

This is the story of Jane Addams, the first American woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, who transformed a poor neighborhood in Chicago by opening up her house as a community center.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 810 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Henry Holt and Co. (BYR) (June 23, 2015)

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #46,063 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty](#) #30 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Social Activists](#) #39 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1800s](#)

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

K-Gr 2 **•**This charming picture book details the life of social worker and activist Jane Addams. At a young age, Addams became aware that not all people had the advantages in life that she enjoyed, and she was determined to "find a way to fix the world." Because of the influence of her enlightened father, she went to college at a time when most women didn't. She graduated at the top of her class but was uncertain what to do next. While visiting London with friends, Addams saw poor people begging to buy rotten food at a market. Reminded of her early resolve to help the needy, she visited Toynbee Hall, a London settlement house that proposed that rich and poor live together, "settled in," so they could learn from one another. She returned home with a plan. Chicago in 1889 was home to many immigrants in search of a better life, but language barriers made it difficult to find decent jobs. Stone describes how Addams located a large house in a rough neighborhood and named it Hull House in honor of a benefactor. Addams's efforts transformed neighborhoods and lives, and by 1907 Hull House had grown into 13 community buildings.

Rendered in watercolor with pen and ink, the illustrations, both full bleed and spot, beautifully evoke the time period and enhance the well-researched, accessible text. The author's note shares more of Addams's remarkable accomplishments. VERDICT A fine introduction to the first American female recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. —Sara-Jo Lupo Sites, George F. Johnson Memorial Library, Endicott, NY

An NCTE Orbis Pictus Award Recommended Book
A CBC NCSS Notable Social Studies Trade Book
A Bank Street College Best Book of the Year
An Illinois Bluestem Award Nominee
A Junior Library Guild Selection
“In a moving portrayal of empathy and innovation in action, Stone and Brown convey both the significance of Addams's contributions, as well as the physical transformations of those she helped.” —Publishers Weekly, Starred Review
“Rendered in watercolor with pen and ink, the illustrations, both full bleed and spot, beautifully evoke the time period and enhance the well-researched, accessible text. . . A fine introduction to the first American female recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.” —School Library Journal
“Stone is deft with characterization: readers see the young Addams enjoying a childhood game with her stepbrother, and while no connection is articulated, this seems contiguous with her launching Chicago's first playground as an adult. . . Addams's matter-of-fact noblesse oblige is captured in Brown's handsome watercolor and pen-and-ink illustrations.” —The Horn Book
“Stone capably discusses Addams' early years at Hull House, the mansion she converted into a neighborhood center and encircled with related enterprises; Brown's ink and watercolor pictures complement the hopeful tone of the text.” —The Bulletin
“A short, incisive biography. . . . The cameos of action, matched by full-page pictures, make the history accessible. A must for library shelves.” —Booklist, starred review on Elizabeth Leads the Way
“This biography brims with upbeat energy as the spirited woman sets out to change the system--an energy amplified by Rebecca Gibbon's bright folk art-styled pictures.” —The Washington Post on Elizabeth Leads the Way

I highly recommend your purchasing this book for children on your shopping list or simply as a volume to enjoy with children you love. I write this as a lifelong journalist who understands the important innovations this heroic woman brought to American life. Her outreach to marginalized and vulnerable men, women and children was what I hope we can agree is part of the noblest impulses in our American culture. As a journalist, I've also reported on many men and

women still working away in needy communities, many of them making remarkable headway and many of them well aware of Jane Addams' early example. Unfortunately, in our popular culture, we've forgotten this amazing woman. As another reviewer has noted, this book is simply a gateway story with relatively concise text, so lots of Jane Addams' life and work is left out. But perhaps after enjoying Jane's story in this beautiful format, readers might be tempted to go on and read her classic, *20 Years at Hull-House*. Bravo to the team that created this fun picture book! We need all the Jane Addams memories we can summon.

Author Tanya Stone and illustrator Kathryn Brown deliver a charming and accurate introduction to the productive and inspiring life of Jane Addams. I have researched Jane Hull and the settlement house movement fairly extensively, and this book offers young readers enough information for them to remember this remarkable woman's efforts, but not so much to overwhelm them. On the first page of the book, Stone asks "Why would a wealthy young woman do this (i.e. use her wealth to feed, clothe, and educate poor people while living their neighborhood as well) when she could have lived anywhere?" This question resonated with me since I had asked myself the same question when I first learned about Jane Addams and Hull House in high school. As an educator, this book delights me as I would like to see more emphasis on women and social reform taught in social studies and history courses. In addition, I can see a great benefit to reading the book with one's child as a springboard for discussing the value of community and helping others. Finally, the writing, the woman's biography, the history, and the art are engaging and accessible for primary aged children; I know I would have loved to read about a woman who made a difference in the world when I was a young girl! I also enjoyed the author's note at the end and appreciated that she listed further resources. Regardless of your purpose in reading this book, you'll find there's a reason it has won so many awards! Finally, the muted watercolor illustrations provide a sense of time and place and depict the diversity of people who were served by Hull House in Chicago at the turn of the last century, so even the art informs young readers' historical awareness.

Such an interesting book - my 6 year old loved it, and then we discussed what she would build if she wanted to build a modern-day Hull House. Great book!

A delightfully inspiring book! I'm so pleased to find a picture book about a settlement house and the heroine that made it possible! We have a Chicago settlement house heroine in our own family history, and because of this book, my young children finally understand why great-auntie is my hero!

Bravo to the author and illustrator!

This is a beautifully written and illustrated book about a very admirable woman. My 9 year old granddaughter and I were both impressed. The main body of the book is mostly concerned with her heart and actions for the poor, but a small section in the back also includes information about her peace activism. I am proud to be named "Jane" when I read this excellent book!

Ordered to this to compliment a school project for my second grader. Such sweet illustrations and allowed the story to come life!

I love this story.

My daughter love it!

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