

FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE

For Kids

**NEW YORK CITY
BELONGS TO
KIDS!**



KAYAKS! CANDY! COMIC BOOKS! THE INSIDERS' GUIDE TO NEW YORK CITY, PAGE 6 ○ A 12-HOUR SCHOOL DAY IN BROOKLYN, PAGE 5 ○ PICK YOUR PIZZA! MAKE CITY SLICES AT HOME, PAGE 11 ○ GRADUATION DAY FOR GUIDE DOGS, PAGE 3 ○ THE TEEN EXPERTS BEHIND 'INSIDE OUT 2,' PAGE 4

Inside The Times



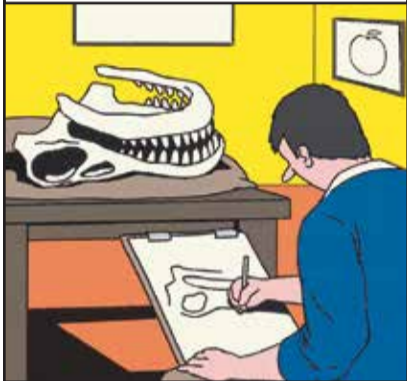
FUNNIES

MY MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT

BY MATT LAMANNA
PALEONTOLOGIST AT THE
CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF
NATURAL HISTORY, PITTSBURGH



WHEN I WAS A STUDENT, A PALEONTOLOGIST INVITED ME TO ARGENTINA TO HELP HIM STUDY A TITANOSAUR SKULL.



ONE DAY, WHILE I WAS SKETCHING IT, I SET THE SKULL UPSIDE DOWN ON A PILLOW FOR A FEW HOURS.



WHEN I WENT TO TURN IT OVER, AN INCH OF THE NOSE BONE BROKE OFF. I WAS MORTIFIED!



I DIDN'T SLEEP THAT NIGHT, THINKING I'D BROKEN A PRICELESS, ONE-OF-A-KIND FOSSIL.



THE NEXT DAY, A FRIEND WHO WAS A FOSSIL REPAIRER LOOKED AT IT AND GLUED THE PIECE BACK INTO PLACE.

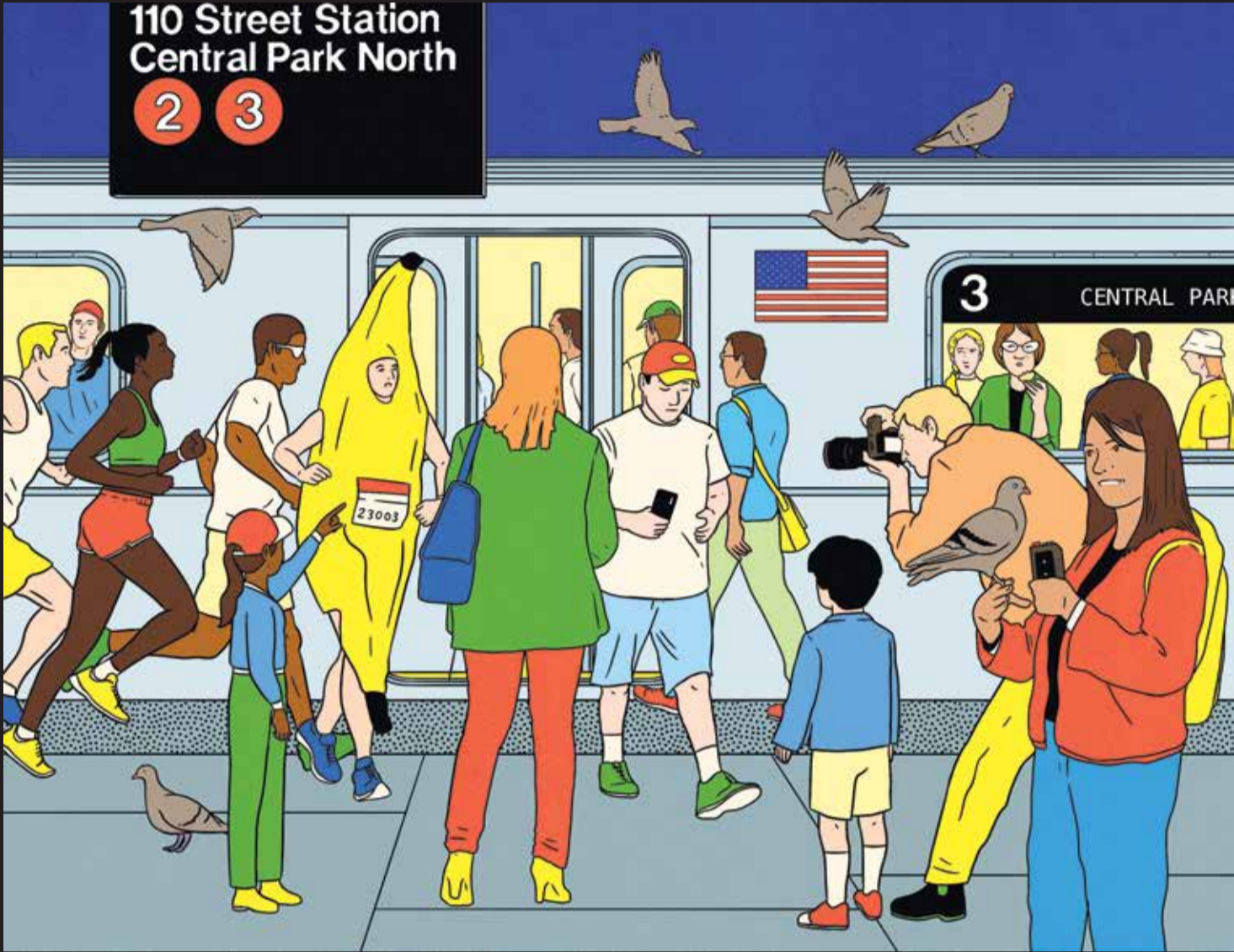


THEN I WORKED UP THE COURAGE, AND I TOLD MY BOSS WHAT HAPPENED.



HE STARED AT THE SKULL, POINTED TO A CRACK AND ASKED, "HERE?" HE GUESSED THE WRONG SPOT.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY NAP KAWON



MEET THE STAR OF THE METRO SECTION: NEW YORK CITY

BY REMY TUMIN • ILLUSTRATION BY SIMON BAILLY

WHEN YOU grow up in New York City, you get used to seeing some amazing, wacky and wild stuff. I started taking the public bus by myself when I was in third grade, and every time I got on, it felt as if I could see the whole city from my seat. The beeping horns, sidewalk squabbles and screech of braking subway cars became the backing track to my everyday life. And the chaos? It just feels like home.

City kids know a lot about New York, but there's one group of people who might know even more: the Metro reporters at The New York Times. Their whole job is to cover the city — including the government, the bridges and tunnels and the colorful people (and animals) who live here. We asked them to share their most memorable reporting moments that could happen only in New York.

FOSTERING A PAIR OF PIGEONS

New York City does not have an official bird, but if it did, it would be the pigeon. They are everywhere. And for a couple of months, two lived in my bathroom. My wife found an orphaned baby on a subway escalator — a scraggly little lump. We named it Willet, and brought it to a rehabilitation center. They gave us an older pigeon named Sunflower to serve as a mentor and sent us home with both. Every day, we fed them a mush of birdseed, dog food and water. Mostly we left them in the bathroom, because it was easy to clean. One day when I opened the door, the birds were on top of the sink. They had taught themselves to fly! We released them in Central Park. I wrote one of my favorite stories about it. My daughter even helped report it. *Andy Newman*

RUNNING AFTER THE MARATHON

As a Metro reporter, I've filed reports from sidewalks, Central Park and even the top of the Empire State Building. But my most New York moment was probably covering the New York City Marathon last November. I interviewed two sisters who were dressed as bananas, spoke to a wife who was cheering for her husband outside the bar where they first met and walked 40 blocks as the runners made their way toward the finish line. It's amazing to see people not just cheering their friends on but also screaming for people they don't even know. By the end of the day, I am embarrassed to admit, my legs were sore from all the pounding of the pavement. After a six-hour shift, I went home to put my legs up. *Claire Fahy*

SWEATING ON THE SUMMER SUBWAYS

Most New Yorkers avoid subway cars that don't have functioning air-conditioning when it's hot out. But one day last year, I was assigned to seek them out alongside Jeenah Moon, a photographer. We stood on platforms in Manhattan and the Bronx for hours tracking those cars down. And then, once we found them, we hopped on. I interviewed passengers in the sweltering heat while Jeenah snapped photos. She even got down on the floor of the subway car for a shot, which really showed her dedication to the work! Everyone was covered in sweat — including us! But it's something every New Yorker has experienced before. Commiserating was part of the fun. *Lola Fadulu*

PUZZLE

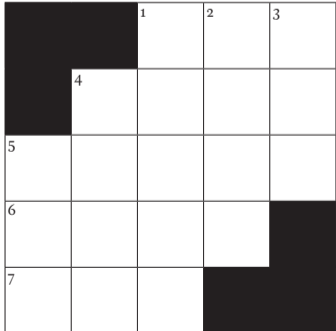


NO HELP NECESSARY

BY CHRISTINA IVERSON

The crossword puzzles in The New York Times increase in difficulty as the week progresses. The three here — created just for you — get harder, too. This month, the puzzles are buzzing with New York City-themed clues. Good luck! ♦

EASY



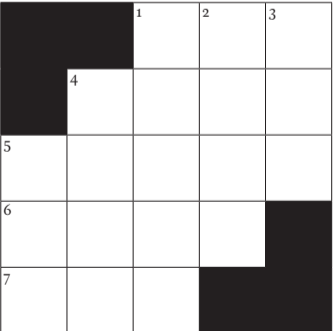
ACROSS

- Container for soda, soup or Spam
- Lego's is a red square with the word LEGO in white
- ___ Square (colorful tourist area in New York City)
- Dollar bills with George Washington on them
- "Have you done your chores ___?"

DOWN

- Santa's reindeer whose name is also a ball of ice in outer space
- Bluey's and Bingo's are 7 and 5
- Opposite of yeses
- Something you stand in when checking out at the grocery store
- Squishmallow or scooter

MEDIUM



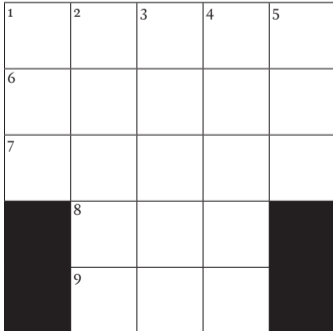
ACROSS

- Spring month
- Green fruit flavor in Sprite
- Yellow vehicles seen around New York City
- Kitchen appliance with a timer
- Knee ___ (roller skater's protection)

DOWN

- Combined, like ingredients while baking
- "I ___ sixth grade!"
- "That's correct!"
- Hot stuff that spews from a volcano
- Word after "crop" or "tank"

HARD



ACROSS

- The Big ___ (nickname for New York City)
- What rain might cause, in a sports game
- The Empire ___ (nickname for New York)
- Bug that marches in a kid's song
- Name that's a kind of fish when read backward

DOWN

- Annoying parts of YouTube videos
- Colorful part of a flower
- What a pilot flies
- Milky coffee drink from Starbucks
- Body part that you can blink

ANSWERS ON PAGE 12



The New York Times Magazine



ON MY very first trip to New York City, I ate grape-flavored bubbles. I was 12, and my aunt and uncle took me to F.A.O. Schwarz, a toy store. There was an adopt-a-doll center, piano keys so big you played them with your feet and those edible bubbles. *What a city, I thought then, and still do.* This issue is full of awe for New York, and we think it will rub off on you too. Dozens of local kids have given us their best tips and recommendations. So whether you live here or will make your first visit soon, you're bound to have a good time! *Amber Williams*

The New York Times for Kids appears in the paper on the last Sunday of every month. The next issue will be on June 30.

NYT FOR KIDS

Editorial Director: AMBER WILLIAMS
Design Director: DEB BISHOP
Editors: MOLLY BENNET, JOHN KENNEDY, LARA SOROKANICH
Senior Designer: FERNANDA DIDINI
Designer: MIA MEREDITH
Photo Editors: JESSICA TANG, RORY WALSH
Copy Editor: ANDREW WILLETT
Production Editor: HILARY SHANAHAN
Social Editor: ALEXA DÍAZ
Editorial Adviser: CAITLIN ROPER

National

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH? THIS SUMMER, KIDS
GET TO CHOOSE

BY COLBI EDMONDS • ILLUSTRATION BY CHELSEA BECK



FOR MOST KIDS,

SCHOOL IS the furthest thing from their minds during summer vacation. But last year Gabriel Shelton, 14, had to think about it all the time. He's part of a government program that lets kids from lower-income families get free or reduced-price meals in the school cafeteria, including during the summer. So every day, he had a choice: Find his way over to his school to pick up food, or stay home. Some days, he'd get on his bike and ride to pick it up. But most of the time, he couldn't be bothered. Who wants to go to school when you're on summer break?

About 30 million students get free or reduced-price lunch every school year. The idea is that even if

families have trouble affording groceries at home, kids can always eat at school. But when school is out for the summer, only about one in six of those kids actually ends up going to get their meals. This summer, though, things are going to be different. That's because the U.S. government recently passed a new program to change how summer meals work. Instead of reporting to schools for meals, families will actually get to go grocery shopping. They'll get prepaid cards with \$40 per month loaded on them, which they can use to buy food that they pick out themselves. Tamara Baker, who works at the Carolina Hunger Initiative, calls it a "game changer," because it will make life easier. Students won't have to worry about

transportation to school, or skip the meals if their family goes away on a trip. Ashlynn Leach, 13, thinks it's a great idea. "I think it's really nice and helpful," she says, and she's excited to pick out her own food. She's hoping to buy yogurt, cereal and fruit for delicious breakfasts. Gabriel's happy about the change, too. He plans to go to the grocery store with his mom and pick out his favorite cereals, Cinnamon Toast Crunch and Cap'n Crunch. The extra money will help his family be less stressed about groceries. And now he and millions of other kids in the program will get to spend the summer the way kids are supposed to: healthy, fed and as far away from school as humanly possible. ♦

THE NEWEST (AND CUTEST!) GRADUATE:
A GUIDE DOG

BY CLAIRE FAHY • PHOTOGRAPH BY DOLLY FAIBYSHEV



Ten is named after the New York Giants player Eli Manning, whose jersey was No. 10. He's always ready for "game time," his owner says.

ON A FRIDAY afternoon in mid-April, an important event was taking place: a graduation ceremony for a student who had spent nearly two years in school. And at this moment, the student in question was . . . lying underneath a chair. Snoozing. Meet Ten. He's a guide dog, whose job is to help blind people navigate the world. He can guide his owner across streets, through crowded places, around obstacles. He may be adorable, but don't be fooled — he's a total professional. Just like all guide dogs, he had to go through a lot of school to get the job. Here's what it looked like.

THE FIRST TEST
Ten was born at the organization Guiding Eyes for the Blind, which specializes in training and matching guide dogs to people who need them. His first "test" came a few weeks after he was born, in April 2022. He was just a puppy, but trainers were already looking for signs that he'd be good at the job, like not getting freaked out by strange noises. Ten and other puppies were exposed to lots of different sounds. Those that seemed curious but not scared passed the test. The others got adopted out as pets.

TRAINING, TRAINING, TRAINING
Next, Ten went to live with a "puppy raiser." They practiced basic commands and harder

lessons too. One crucial skill for guide dogs is to "settle," or lie down in a busy place while their owner does everyday stuff. "It's such a difficult thing for dogs to do," says Ten's puppy raiser, Darlene Jacobs. Once he was working, Ten would have to wear a guide-dog harness everywhere, so they also practiced "getting dressed" with lots of different outfits: coats, bandannas, rain booties, even Halloween costumes.

WRAPPING UP HIS STUDIES
After a year and a half with Jacobs, it was time for Ten to go back to the Guiding Eyes campus to learn more skills. He had to prove that he could follow commands while ignoring distractions. He also learned to safely

guide through or around tricky and unexpected obstacles, like sidewalk curbs, escalators and construction. Ten was a "rock star," his trainer Jolene Hollister says.

SETTLING INTO HIS NEW JOB
Finally, Ten became an official guide dog and moved in with his new owner, Thomas Panek. He still does normal dog things when he's not on duty: He loves playing fetch and cuddling with his adopted brother, Onyx. But when his harness goes on, "it's game time," Panek says. At any moment, Ten's ready to get up and help Panek navigate through the world. Or quietly sleep under a chair during his graduation ceremony. That's part of the job, too — and he's great at it. ♦

CAN YOU GUESS THE CANDIDATE?

BY IAN PRASAD PHILBRICK

THE 2024 PRESIDENTIAL election is on, and it's Joe Biden vs. Donald Trump — again. The candidates will spend the next five months trying to convince people that they have the right point of view on the country's biggest issues. So . . . what are their positions, again? Each question below includes one quote from Biden and one from Trump. See if you can match the quote with the candidate who said it. Then read more about their positions in the answer key below.

1. ON CLEAN ENERGY

- A.** "I'm cutting our carbon emissions in half by 2030, creating tens of thousands of clean-energy jobs."
- BIDEN ☐ TRUMP ☐
- B.** "I want you to use gasoline a lot, because we have more gasoline than any country anywhere in the world."
- BIDEN ☐ TRUMP ☐

2. ON IMMIGRATION

- A.** "This is an invasion of our country. An invasion like probably no country has ever seen before."
- BIDEN ☐ TRUMP ☐
- B.** "We can fight about fixing the border, or we can fix it. I'm ready to fix it."
- BIDEN ☐ TRUMP ☐

3. ON GUN LAWS

- A.** "There's no excuse for this carnage. We have to ban assault weapons."
- BIDEN ☐ TRUMP ☐
- B.** "This is not a gun problem. This is a mental-health problem. This is a social problem. This is a cultural problem. This is a spiritual problem."
- BIDEN ☐ TRUMP ☐

4. ON THE STATE OF THE COUNTRY

- A.** "We are a nation in decline. We are a failing nation."
- BIDEN ☐ TRUMP ☐
- B.** "I've never been more optimistic about America than I am today."
- BIDEN ☐ TRUMP ☐

ANSWER KEY

1. **A = BIDEN, B = TRUMP**
Biden and Trump have very different views on climate change: Biden believes that it's a serious threat. He has worked with other countries to lower the world's carbon emissions, and he and Democrats in Congress passed a major clean-energy law. Trump has called global warming a hoax. He wants to burn more fossil fuels, and says that mental-health issues are to blame for gun violence. Instead, he has said that teachers should carry guns to prevent school shootings.

2. **A = TRUMP, B = BIDEN**
Many migrants have come into the United States illegally during Biden's presidency, and voters are split on what they think the government should do about it. Trump says these immigrants are "poisoning" America and has promised to send all of them away. Biden supports allowing many of them to stay, but also making it harder for more to come in. (Republicans in Congress stopped his plan from going through.)

3. **A = BIDEN, B = TRUMP**
Biden wants to ban the powerful kinds of guns that have been used in school shootings. He thinks that making it harder for some people to get guns will mean less violence in the country. But Trump thinks that would step on Americans' rights, and that he's the only one who can save it. Biden has a different take — he tends to sound hopeful and sometimes adds that young people are what gives him that hope. So which candidate will voters believe? We'll find out this November.

4. **A = TRUMP, B = BIDEN**
When Trump talks about the future of the country, he frequently says that the United States is being destroyed by his political rival, and that he's the only one who can fix it. Biden has a different take — he tends to sound hopeful and sometimes adds that young people are what gives him that hope. So which candidate will voters believe? We'll find out this November.

Style



The new characters in "Inside Out 2" are all based on teen moods: Embarrassment, Anxiety, Envy and Ennui.

MEET THE SECRET PANEL OF TEEN GIRLS BEHIND
'INSIDE OUT 2'

BY LEXI PANDELL

THE MOVIE studio Pixar is famous for taking its research seriously. Crews spent hours at the zoo to animate red pandas for "Turning Red" and traveled to Oaxaca, Mexico, to get exact location details for "Coco." So when it came to making "Inside Out 2" — a sequel to the 2015 hit, following the emotions inside a girl's head — they went straight to the source: real teenage girls!

In 2021, the company created a special team of advisers, ages 13 to 18, called Riley's Crew, after the movie's

main character. The girls' recruitment was top secret. Ariana De La Torre applied to what she thought was a Pixar summer camp. After she signed up and was interviewed, she discovered that she was being brought onto Riley's Crew. "We were really surprised when we realized what it was," Ariana says, "but it was supercool."

About every four months, the team of nine girls would receive clips of the in-progress movie. Then they'd meet with filmmakers over Zoom and give their honest feedback. Most sessions started by letting the girls talk about what they found relatable in the film. Then they'd cover the harder stuff: What didn't work?

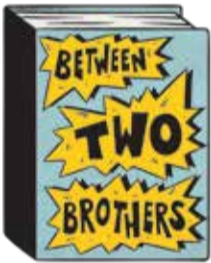
What didn't feel true? "They wanted to know everything that we had to say," Ariana says, "whether it was how Riley was acting or just something about the film that we didn't like."

Another Riley's Crew member, Amalia Benenati, says she was surprised by how much their opinions mattered to the filmmakers: "We were being taken seriously, and they really liked our ideas."

Sometimes the girls' suggestions were small, like advising on slang terms teenagers actually use today. In the film, for example, Riley meets Valentina, the cool captain of the varsity hockey team. The girls explained that Valentina is

Riley's "squish," a word for someone you really admire and want to be like. There were bigger changes, too: Originally, the film had a scene in which Riley peed her pants. The girls thought it felt more like something that would happen to a little kid than a 13-year-old, so the filmmakers took it out.

After three years of advising, the girls will finally get to see the final product when the movie premieres on June 14. "I'm really excited to see what stuck or what didn't," Amalia says. The movie gets inside a teenage girl's head — but for a little bit, Riley's Crew got to get into the heads of the filmmakers, too. ♦



"BETWEEN TWO BROTHERS,"
by Crystal Allen

VAL'S TAKE: "Ice and Seth are two brothers that have a really strong bond, but one day they have a huge argument. That night, Seth gets into a serious car accident. While he's in the hospital, Ice is trying to process what's going on and the possibility that his brother might never recover. This book is a very emotional ride, but it's touching and heartfelt. The lesson I learned was to never take time with someone for granted."



"FINALLY HEARD,"
by Kelly Yang

VAL'S TAKE: "This book follows a 10-year-old named Lina and her experiences on social media — and how it can hurt a kid's mental health and shift real-life relationships. Lina gets influenced into following certain online trends, like 'glazed-doughnut skin,' where influencers use skin care to make their faces smooth and shiny. And she compares herself a lot with other people, especially her classmates. I really connected to this book, because Lina's interactions on social media are so relatable and realistic. She's just a character you really root for."

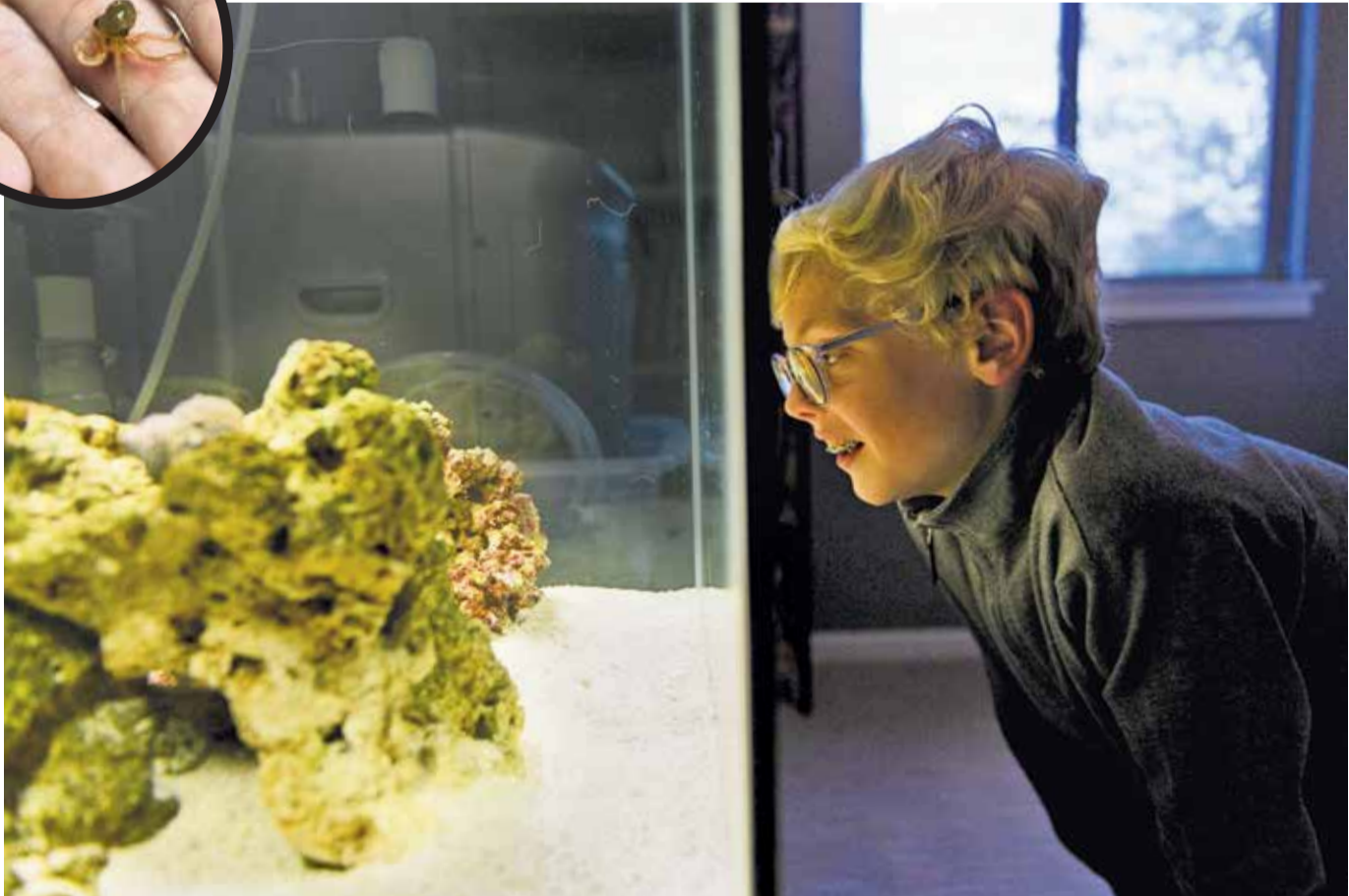


"THE GIRL WHO SANG,"
by Estelle Nadel with Bethany Strout and Sammy Savos

VAL'S TAKE: "This graphic memoir is about a Jewish girl living in the rural farms of Poland during World War II. She's had a carefree, happy, memorable childhood. But once she turns 5, the bombs and raids from Germany start. She is forced to go into hiding and lives in constant fear. I think many readers will sympathize with all the trauma that she has to go through. And it connects to the wars going on right now in Gaza and Ukraine — it shows how war can disrupt and displace innocent civilian lives." ♦

MOVE OVER, GOLDFISH — THIS 9-YEAR-OLD HAS AN ARMY OF
PET OCTOPUSES

BY MICHAEL LEVENSON



Cal Clifford was overjoyed when he got one pet octopus. He was even more shocked when she had dozens of babies (pictured above).

LOTS OF KIDS

ADOPT DOGS or cats for pets. If they're more adventurous, their families might take in a snake, a parrot or a potbellied pig. But when it comes to weird animals, Cal Clifford, a 9-year-old from Edmond, Okla., takes the prize. A few months ago, he and his family unexpectedly became the caretakers of ... dozens of baby octopuses!

It's not quite as random as it sounds — Cal has loved octopuses since preschool. They're "just so different from all other animals," he says. "They're superintelligent, they can be huge and they're so cool." So for his birthday last October, his dad got him a real, live California two-spot octopus. Cal was overjoyed. "I could barely speak," he says.

He named it Terrance and put it in a tank in his bedroom. Octopuses aren't easy pets. They need water at just the right temperature, and eat live crabs, snails and clams. Cal's family was ready for all that. What they weren't ready for was what came next. A few weeks after Terrance's arrival, the family found 50 Tic Tac-size eggs in the tank. Terrance, it turned out, was a female octopus. And soon, those eggs hatched into dozens of tiny, wriggling octopus babies. "My family was just shocked," Cal says. But also kind of charmed! "They all looked so cute," he says.

As adorable as they were, his family realized they couldn't possibly take care of 50 octopuses. So Cal's dad went on a mission to find scientists around the country who could give them permanent homes. In the

meantime, they had to set up a baby-octopus day care. It was all-hands-on-deck: They bought lots more tanks, food and equipment and even called in a family friend to help. And sharing a house with an army of octopuses isn't always easy — for a while, one of the family bathrooms was completely taken over by an aquarium.

But Cal says it's worth it. Especially because the babies were a silver lining to something sad that happened: Terrance died last month, which is common after octopuses have babies. Now she'll live on through them. And those babies may help researchers learn even more about the amazing sea animals. "It really shows the meaning of life, and the cycle of life," Cal says. After all that, he's still hoping to keep one as a pet. ♦





WHEN SCHOOL BECOMES A SECOND HOME

BY TROY CLOSSON AND LAUREN HARD



Most kids don't mind staying late at Brooklyn Charter School — especially when they have activities like drumming lessons.



ON A TUESDAY afternoon in April, students at Brooklyn Charter School gathered in the cafeteria. At the center of a room, a girl stood on the “stage” — an overturned crate — as students banged on the lunch tables, mimicking a drumroll. “Why did the cow go to the theater?” she asked. “Because he wanted to watch a moooooooooooovie!” The room erupted in laughter.

This isn’t a scene from a Fun Friday or special assembly. It’s just a normal day at Brooklyn Charter’s after-school program. Each day, kids are allowed to come to school as early as 7 a.m. and stay as late as 7 p.m. It’s an unusual setup in New York City — and a great help to local families. The program was designed to help parents who were having trouble balancing their jobs with the

school schedule. “School hours aren’t made for working people,” says the principal, Joanne Hunt.

After the regular 4 p.m. dismissal, students head to the cafeteria for dinner (recently, they’ve had chicken tenders, mozzarella sticks and fish sandwiches). Then it’s off to activities. On the same day as the comedy session, students in Room 320 got a drumming lesson on bongos. In another classroom, first graders designed their own robots, using markers and card stock. Some kids did homework, while others just hung out. Whenever their parents were ready, they came and picked them up.

The program has been great for Jada Lee Morris, 10. Before, her grandmother used to have to come pick her up from school. Now, her mom comes when she’s

done with work, around 6 p.m. It has helped her family, and also helped Jada make new friends. “Now I’m in separate friend groups — and they’re amazing,” she says. Meila Jones, 9, says staying after school is also really helpful for her mom, who is a teacher. She can stay late and grade papers or plan lessons while Meila has fun. “She’s happy I have after-school, so she doesn’t have to worry about me,” Meila says.

The program has gone so well that even students who had other after-school plans are asking to join. “It just looked so, so cool,” says Chase Arneaud, 9. He asked his parents and joined in January. It may be the first time in history that students are begging to stay at school even longer. ♦

HOW I BECAME A

SANITATION WORKER



BY ALICIA SHORTER

WHEN I WAS 10, my family moved from Jamaica to Queens, New York. My dad was always building and working on projects, and I thought it was so cool. I was a bit of a tomboy: I played with Barbies, but also a lot of Transformers and toy trucks. More than anything, I always wanted to help people. After college, I went into occupational therapy, helping older people in a nursing home and kids with autism. Then I became a personal trainer.

One day, a friend suggested that I should look into the Department of Sanitation — the agency that picks up garbage, gets rid of graffiti and even plows snow. It had never been on my radar before, but I had always been interested in getting my license to drive big trucks. I thought it would be something different. So I applied.

It took seven years before I got a call back. I had to study to get my license. But with big machinery, you can’t just read about it in a book — you need to practice. So I did on-the-job training, moving the garbage from the hopper (the part we dump the cans into) to the body of the truck and dumping it at the transfer station.

Now I’ve been a sanitation worker for two years. One day I might be doing my favorite job, driving a front-loader at the dump. The next I might be on a truck, or picking up trash from the baskets on street corners. We see kids while we’re driving, and a lot of the time they say, OMG, it’s a girl! We always wave and say hi.

I don’t think I’ll ever be able to turn my nose off to the smell — it gets really stinky in the summer. But I really love my job. I get to drive the trucks I played with as a kid. I get to see the city at all times of day. And I’m making a difference by getting the garbage off the street. If we don’t pick up the garbage and sweep the streets, people can’t live healthy lives. I feel like I’ve come full circle. *Interview by Elise Craig*



WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD: WASHINGTON HEIGHTS

BY JENNA MAROTTA · ILLUSTRATION BY NAP KAWON

EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD in New York is like a little city — with its own restaurants, culture and vibe. Take Washington Heights, in Upper Manhattan. Sometimes, you can see salsa dancers outside the United Palace Theater. Other times, there are musicians playing on the sidewalks. People are friendly, and there are surprises around every corner. At least, that’s according to 11-year-old Isabella Duran. “Washington Heights is very much about living your life to the fullest,” she says. She’s lived in the neighborhood her whole life, along with her mom and her grandmother, who immigrated from the Dominican Republic back when she was a teenager. Isabella is the third generation to live there — so she knows the neighborhood pretty well! We asked her for a tour of the best spots.

VISIT: J. Hood Wright Park
Isabella’s favorite place in Washington Heights is J. Hood Wright Park. And the rest of her neighborhood seems to agree. “Everybody comes around this time of year — people of all ages,” she says. There are basketball, handball and volleyball courts. The playground also has an amazing view of the George Washington Bridge, which is just a few blocks north. The jungle gym is even designed to look like a miniature version of the bridge: “Kids run through it as if they were the cars,” Isabella says.

FUEL UP: Villa Trina Meat Market
If you’re feeling hungry after playing outside, Isabella recommends stopping by Villa Trina Meat Market for a snack. It’s a bodega, the New York City word for a corner store, and they sell just about everything: Snacks, ice cream, deli sandwiches, cold drinks and even some groceries. “The peo-

ple who work there are very friendly and familylike,” Isabella says. It’s also across the street from one of the neighborhood’s many murals. This one features the singers Selena Quintanilla-Pérez, Bob Marley and Michael Jackson and the actress Marilyn Monroe.

LEARN: Dance Project of Washington Heights
Washington Heights has strong ties to musical theater: It’s where the playwright and actor Lin-Manuel Miranda lives, and he even wrote the musical “In the Heights” about it. So it’s the perfect place for Isabella, who wants to be a singer, dancer and actress when she grows up! She takes three classes each week at Dance Project of Washington Heights, where students are allowed to pay whatever they can. It also holds regular community events. At a recent one, Isabella got to meet the Broadway star Daphne Rubin-Vega, who starred in the hit

musical “Rent.” “She told me that I remind her of her younger self,” Isabella says.

DINE OUT: Floridita
If it were up to her, Isabella would have chicken tenders and French fries for every meal. But her mom and grandmother encourage her to try foods from other cultures. There are tons of restaurants to choose from — especially Latin ones, as two out of three Washington Heights residents identify as Hispanic. On special occasions, like after a dance recital, Isabella’s family loves to go to Floridita for Cuban-Dominican food. “It has a special place in my heart,” Isabella says, “because I go over there and connect with my family.” Then again, the whole neighborhood can feel like family at times: “My grandma knows somebody whenever I go outside with her.” ♦

For dozens more New York City recommendations, turn the page!



TINY STORY

1.4 MILLION

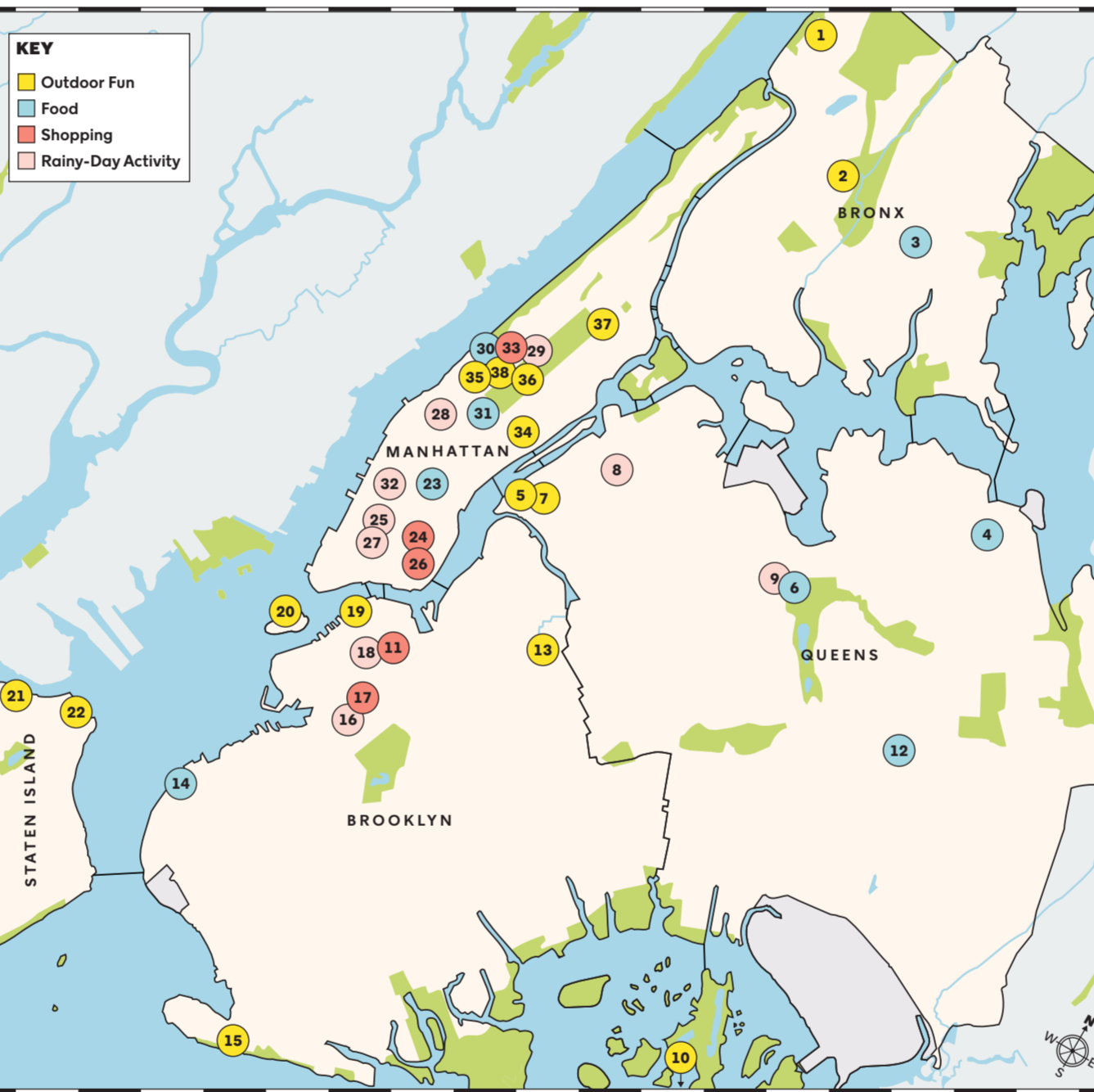
The number of people under 15 years old who live in New York City, according to the Citizens’ Committee for Children of New York. That’s a whole lot of kids! They live across five different boroughs, attend more than 1,700 public schools and can often be found in the city’s 1,700 public parks, playgrounds and recreational facilities.

New York

38 AMAZINGLY FUN THINGS TO DO IN NEW YORK CITY

ACCORDING TO KIDS WHO ACTUALLY LIVE HERE

THIS SUMMER, millions of tourists will descend on New York City, some for the first time ever. And if you're one of them: Congratulations! You're about to have so much fun. There are so many incredible things to see and do in the city that it can be hard to know where to start. Adults will tell you to go to the obvious tourist spots, and there's nothing wrong with that. But if you want to get the *real* New York experience? You need to talk to real New York kids. We asked dozens of kids from all five boroughs about their favorite places to go and things to do in the summer. Just a warning: There's no way you'll be able to do everything in one trip. Guess you'll just have to come back again next year!



DANCE AND SKATE

Central Park Dance Skaters Association, Central Park
On weekends there are skating events in the park near the band shell. There's a D.J. playing music and a million people dancing and having picnics. *Lailani Davis, 12, the Bronx*
Tip: Pack your own equipment if you want to skate!

FILM A TIKTOK

Pinebank Arch, Central Park
Basically everywhere in the park is a great backdrop. But my favorite spot is the Pinebank Arch. If someone looks at you like, *Why is that weird girl doing TikTok dances?* don't worry about it. They're just not ready to be as cool and confident as you. *Lucille Dryden Bailey, 10, the Bronx*

HANG OUT WITH BUGS

American Museum of Natural History, Upper West Side
The new insectarium is cool, because it has live insects! You can see how a whole ant colony works. *Sammy Kutinsky, 10, Brooklyn*
Tip: The Natural History museum is huge, and it's just the best. Try to set aside a full day to explore it!

CATCH A FISH

Harlem Meer, Central Park
This is a pond that has turtles and ducks, and you can also go fishing there! They have a program where they give you a rod, and if you catch a fish you can hold it in your hand to take a photo and then throw it back. *Tamayo Fowlin-Larcher, 13, Manhattan*

RIDE A WOODEN HORSE

Central Park Carousel
I love to ride the carousel. It costs \$4, and you can ride all day. There are people selling cotton candy and icees, and when you're finished there's a playground with sprinklers to run through if it's hot out. *Fenix Delgado, 11, Manhattan*

POKE AROUND A FLEA MARKET

Grand Bazaar NYC, Upper West Side
This flea market is huge. It's a lot of clothes, but there's other stuff too. Last time I went, I found a vendor who makes custom dresses. I'm getting one for my eighth-grade graduation. *Leila-Rose Torres, 14, the Bronx*

HAVE A TEA PARTY

Alice's Tea Cup, Upper West Side
This is a cafe themed around "Alice in Wonderland." They have fairy wings you can wear and towered plates with sandwiches and desserts. And you can order any drink and they'll serve it to you in your own teapot. *Lucille Dryden Bailey, 10, the Bronx*

EAT A BURGER

Burger Joint, Thompson Central Park Hotel, Midtown
You'd never know that good burgers are in a secret place in a fancy hotel! When you walk in, you go through a red curtain into a room with a neon sign in it. The food is really good — I get the classic with ketchup. *Michael Gryzjak, 12, Queens*

TRICK YOUR BRAIN

Museum of Illusions, Meatpacking District
It's a museum where there are a lot of optical illusions! And you learn how they actually work. When I went, there was this illusion where the room seemed slanted, but it actually wasn't. *Amiya Cullum, 14, Queens*

MAKE SLIME

Sloomoo Institute, SoHo
This place is a slime-making factory. You can choose what color you want and add sparkles and smell. You can also smear slime on a wall, and let people throw slime at you while you are in a clear box. It's pretty fun. *Tsejin Tea, 7, Manhattan*

VISIT AN ICE-CREAM WONDERLAND

Museum of Ice Cream, SoHo
The Museum of Ice Cream is pink and special. You can try all different kinds of flavors you've never tried before, and choose different sprinkles to decorate them. It's a fun thing to do if you want an adventure with ice cream. *Olivia Blanc, 8, Brooklyn*

LOAD UP ON CANDY

Economy Candy, Lower East Side
This place has been around since before my grandparents were born, and I've been going here for years. It is an amazing place. All types of lollipops, licorice, chocolate coins, jelly beans. ... All the candy you could ever want! *David Ramirez III, 13, Queens*

BUY A FUNKO POP

Toy Tokyo, East Village
This is a great shop that sells vintage toys and collectibles, and they all have their own unique, special aura. The most important thing I ever bought there was an anime Funko Pop that was actually signed by the voice actor of the character. *James R., 13, Manhattan*

FIND HELLO-KITTY HEAVEN

Sweet Cats Cafe, Flatiron
This is basically a Sanrio character place! First, get ice cream — I like the cinnamon roll. And then get tokens for the claw machines, which have key chains and plushies. There's also a photo booth with accessories. *Malani Montero, 8, the Bronx*

HEAD TO STATEN ISLAND

Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Randall Manor, Staten Island
There's so much stuff at Snug Harbor: art, a children's museum, a garden where you learn about Chinese culture and more. *Egyptian Harris, 11, Staten Island*
Tip: The ferry from Manhattan to Staten Island is fun and free!

WATCH A BASEBALL GAME

SIUH Community Park, St. George, Staten Island
The Staten Island FerryHawks are a minor-league team, and what's nice about their stadium is that you can see the game really well, but you can also look out onto the water. It's so calming. *Egyptian*

PLAY WHERE NEW YORKERS PLAY

Governors Island
Nobody lives on this island. People just go to have fun! There's a playground that's like a junkyard where grown-ups aren't allowed, slides, a rock-climbing area and more. You can also go on bike rides, and there is a lavender field. *Rafael Singer, 8, Brooklyn*

MAKE SOME ART

Wave Hill, Riverdale
Wave Hill is amazing. It's a garden where they have events and you can do fun stuff like family art projects. I've done lots of crafts there, like collages and a quilting project. Also, the gift shop is superior. *Naima, 10, the Bronx*

SMELL THE ROSES

New York Botanical Garden, Bronx Park
You know how in cartoons, when they show a garden it always has almost every single plant? That's what the Botanical Garden is like. And you can learn about all of them. *Elijah Montoute, 10, the Bronx*

GET A GRANDMA SLICE

Addeo's of the Bronx, Morris Park
Grandma pizza has square slices, not triangular. It's very New York! Addeo's Grandma slices are marvelous. They have a lot of tomatoes and the perfect amount of cheese and crunchy crust. *Naima, 10, the Bronx*

EAT AN INCREDIBLE BAGEL

Utopia Bagels, Whitestone
New York bagels are the best, of course, and Queens bagels are the best of New York bagels. And Utopia Bagels is the best of all! It is also opening a new location in Manhattan. *David Ramirez III, 13, Queens*

FLY OVER THE CITY

Roosevelt Island Tramway, Midtown
The tram looks like a bright red pod that zips you high above the East River to a place called Roosevelt Island. There are big windows, so everyone has a good view of the city and the Queensboro Bridge. *Thompson Chung, 13, Manhattan*

TASTE THE WORLD

Queens Night Market, Flushing Meadows Corona Park
This market is made up of tons of little stalls with food from everywhere in the world! My favorite is called Burmese Bites. You sit on the ground in a field, and usually there's a band playing. It's a magical place. *Archer G., 10, Queens*

LISTEN TO MUSIC

Culture Lab LIC, Long Island City
In the summer, this place has an outdoor space with live music. My family orders pizza and has it delivered here, and my friends and I run around and play tag or dance. You can go inside to look at art too. Every time I go, I have fun. *Maxwell Auffrey, 7, Queens*

MAKE A MUPPET

Museum of the Moving Image, Astoria
This museum is all about the origins of movies and TV. My favorite is the Jim Henson exhibit, where you learn all about the Muppets and "Sesame Street" characters, and even get to make your own Muppet. *Emma M., 11, Queens*

HIT THE BEACH

Rockaway Beach, Queens
I live close by, so I take walks here in the morning. It's a nice, big beach, and the ocean is really clear and beautiful. It's really inclusive: Any time you go, you see young people, old people — it's absolutely amazing. *Yaw Kwarteng, 12, Queens*

BUY A FANCY HAT

Portabella, Fulton Street, Downtown Brooklyn
I wear suits almost every day, so I love shopping at Portabella. The vibe is fancy and cool. It's filled with all kinds of suits, bow ties and hats. Last time, I got a felt hat with a feather in it. *Sammy Kutinsky, 10, Brooklyn*

TRY A BEEF PATTY

Jamaican Flavors, Jamaica, Queens
A beef patty is a pastry that's kind of like an empanada, and Jamaican Flavors has some of the best in the city. It's really representative of Jamaica, Queens, culture and New York culture. *Justin Woods, 15, Queens*

LOOK AT STREET ART

Graffiti murals, Bushwick
To see the real New York, come to Bushwick and see the graffiti murals. Take the L to the Jefferson Street stop. My favorite mural is the Notorious B.I.G. one on Troutman Street. *Abraham Angustia, 15, Brooklyn*
Tip: For more information, look up the Bushwick Collective.

EAT SOFT-SERVE ON A PIER

69th Street Pier, Bay Ridge
Treat yourself to some ice cream from the Mister Softie truck on the Bay Ridge Pier. My favorite is the bubble-gum snow cone. But if you are looking for the full New York effect, get a cherry-dip vanilla cone. *Nylah Smith, 11, Brooklyn*

PORE OVER COMICS

Galaxy Comics, Park Slope
This is a great place to shop because of the variety. I love going there to get different comics or books as soon as they are released. They also do special events sometimes. I can spend hours there. *Cayden Tarrington, 10, Brooklyn*

PLAY A BOARD GAME

Sip & Play, Park Slope
Sip & Play has a fun and laid-back vibe. In the front, they serve snacks and drinks like bubble tea and sodas. In the back, they have a lot of old board games and card games like Uno. It feels like an old shop run by grandparents. *Ava Pope, 14, Brooklyn*

WATCH A MOVIE ON THE SAND

Flicks on the Beach series, Coney Island Beach
They set up a big screen on the beach, and everyone brings chairs or blankets to put on the sand. Last summer I saw the Mario movie there. *James Flanigan, 7, Brooklyn*

New York



1 KID, \$75 AND A CITY FULL OF
THRIFT SHOPS

BY KRISTEN BATEMAN • PHOTOGRAPH BY JINGYU LIN



Ava Nagel, 15, is an expert thrifter: She has been shopping in secondhand stores around New York City since she was a baby. On a recent trip, we challenged her to find the coolest items possible on a budget of \$75. She came away with five amazing pieces, including the striped bowling shirt and green jacket she's wearing here.

SOME OF Ava Nagel’s first memories are of thrift stores in New York City. The 15-year-old has been shopping in them with her mom since she was a baby. But in the past few years, the secondhand scene has changed. “I’ve definitely seen a lot more teenagers thrifting now, thanks to TikTok,” Ava says. Thrifting has exploded in popularity recently, and for good reason. “It’s a great, sustainable, cheaper option,” Ava says. She and her family live in New Jersey now, but she still comes into Manhattan all the time to scour the racks — most recently to celebrate her 15th birthday. So we gave her \$75 and challenged her to find the best items at any of N.Y.C.’s many secondhand stores. Here’s how it went.

FIRST STOP: SALVATION ARMY
208 Eighth Avenue
Salvation Army is packed full of budget pieces under \$10. But you’ve got to dig to find the gems. Ava heads straight to the dresses in the back.

After a little bit of looking, she finds a pair of camo-print overalls with ruched kneepads. “Onesies are the best thing to ever happen to the earth,” she says. But they’re too big, so she puts them back. She keeps looking, grabbing an argyle sweater and some black-and-white checkered jeans from PacSun. After browsing some more, she lands on a green and orange button-down top that looks like a vintage bowling shirt. And it’s only \$6.99. Score!

SECOND STOP: 2ND STREET CHELSEA
142 West 26th Street
Just a five-minute walk away is 2nd Street Chelsea. “I like that there are a bunch of stores close together, so if one store doesn’t have great stuff you can just go to the next one,” Ava says. This place is smaller and more curated than Salvation Army, with expensive, designer pieces displayed up front. Ava gives the expensive stuff a quick glance, then heads to the back, where stores usually stash the more affordable pieces. She eyes a \$19 Kelly green 4-H jacket with logos

and patches that looks as if it could be from the 1970s. She tries it on, and it’s a perfect fit. “I really liked the four-leaf clover, because it’s lucky,” she says. “Maybe I’ll have luck if I wear it during a test.” She also chooses it because it’s something she’ll wear often. “A jacket goes with anything.”

THIRD STOP: BUFFALO EXCHANGE
114 West 26th Street
Down the street at Buffalo Exchange, the heavy mix of patterned pieces in the shop is speaking to Ava. “I don’t really have a specific aesthetic,” she says. “I find things that make me happy.” She heads straight to a rack full of psychedelic-print button-down shirts, trying on a handful of them. The winner is an orange-and-purple print. “It’s really colorful and has eyes on it,” she says. The fit for a suit blazer she tries on isn’t quite right, but she does find a pair of patterned harem pants and a colorful miniskirt. All three pieces cost just over \$50 together. That brought her total for the day to \$76. It’s a dollar over her budget — but for such a great deal, we let it slide! ♦

- AVA’S THRIFTING TIPS**
- 1. WEAR A STRATEGIC SHOPPING OUTFIT** Shop in an outfit that lets you try stuff on over your clothes. Ava likes to wear a tank top and leggings for easy try-ons even without a dressing room.
 - 2. START WITH COLOR** If you’re looking at racks and racks of clothes and you’re not sure where to start, zero in on the racks that are more colorful. That’s where you’ll often find one-of-a-kind, statement pieces.
 - 3. TAKE YOUR TIME LOOKING . . .** “Go piece by piece, rack by rack,” Ava says. “I always find the best things in the wrong places.”
 - 4. BUT ACT FAST.** If you see something you like, grab it immediately. “It might be gone by the time you go back for it,” she says.
 - 5. CHECK PIECES FOR QUALITY.** Before you buy, always check pieces for stains, holes and other damage. There’s nothing worse than getting home and realizing your would-be favorite tee has a huge ketchup stain on it!

THE HOUR
WHEN
KIDS RULE
NEW YORK

BY SOPAN DEB

WHY DID I choose this time to leave my apartment to get groceries? Couldn’t my frozen chicken nuggets wait? As soon as I step on the cracked concrete on this sunny afternoon, I realize I’ve made a mistake. Because I hear that familiar murmur. Oh no — it’s getting louder. As I turn the corner, the murmur becomes a wave of shouting and laughter that washes over me, and I see them: Flocks of kids and teenagers filling the sidewalks. It’s that time of day: kid o’clock.

I’ve just walked into a situation every adult in New York City knows all too well. I’ve gone out into the world during that moment every weekday afternoon when school has just let out across the city. It’s like walking into a wind tunnel of excitement.

As I fight my way through the backpacked masses, I ask myself: Who is really in charge here? It’s not us grown-ups. In the afternoons, the streets of New York are run by the kids. Is that a scary thought? At the moment, no. Though Gary and Harry’s T-Rex impersonation is pretty terrifying. But what if all these boys and girls on the street realize that during this hour, they outnumber us adults by a ratio of about two billion to one? That they have the power? And that I, a former big kid thrust into adulthood, don’t actually know all the state capitals the way they do? The adults are in trouble then.

But then I start listening, as they dart and spin around me. There are so many giggles that I want to be in on the joke. I hear Daniel wants to play freeze tag at the playground on 50th. I love freeze tag. Can I play? Shreya wants to race Eli to the bodega and create an obstacle course involving confused tourists. Winner gets a candy bar. That sounds fun! Marcy wants to have a play date with Rochelle. They have to gossip about who *like*-likes who. Hey, I want to know!

Suddenly, I realize I’m not overwhelmed by the kids who outnumber me on the sidewalk. I’m just jealous. I miss being one of them. ♦

TINY STORY

353

The number of tutu-wearing dancers who recently gathered in the Plaza Hotel in New York City — and broke the Guinness World Record for most ballerinas on their tiptoes in one place! The get-together was organized by Youth America Grand Prix, a scholarship program for young dancers. Many were between the ages of 9 and 19. They came from more than 20 states and even other countries to participate.



Maze



DODGE RATS. WALK FAST.

WIN THE CITY

ILLUSTRATION BY SUPER FREAK • MAZE BY RICK JASPERS

VISITING NEW YORK CITY is a blast. But it can also be a little intimidating! It's loud and crowded, and it sometimes feels as if everyone can tell you're not from here. Well, here's your opportunity to earn your credentials. Think of this maze as your journey from tourist to honorary New Yorker. As you navigate it, read pro tips from city kids on how to look like a local, and experience some classic New York City moments that everyone who lives here can relate to. Hey, it's not just a rat encounter — it's a rite of passage! *Molly Bennet*

ENTER HERE



NEW YORK MOMENT

YES, THAT WAS A RAT THAT JUST SCURRED OVER YOUR FOOT. HE'S GOT PLACES TO BE, TOO, YOU KNOW.

NEW YORK MOMENT

DIRTY A.C. WATER DRIPS ON YOU FROM THE BUILDING ABOVE. REFRESHING!

PRO TIP:

"DON'T LEAN ON THE POLE IN THE SUBWAY."

NALA JABE, 8, MANHATTAN

NEW YORK MOMENT

YOU WORK UP THE NERVE TO ASK A RANDOM PERSON WHICH SUBWAY TRAIN YOU NEED TO TAKE . . . AND THEY'RE ACTUALLY TOTALLY NICE AND HELPFUL! WHO KNEW?

NEW YORK MOMENT

3 WORDS: HOT-GARBAGE SMELL.



NEW YORK MOMENT

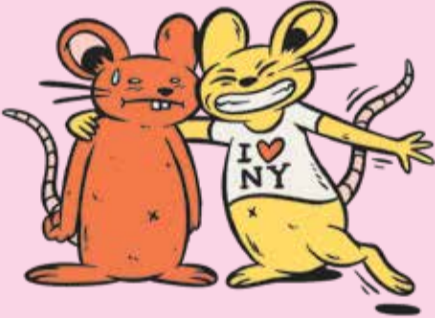
A PIGEON COMES THISCLOSE TO POOPING ON YOUR HEAD — BUT MISSES. NOT TODAY, SIR!



PRO TIP

"WALK LIKE YOU BELONG. AND BE YOURSELF."

DYLAN GARDNER, 11, THE BRONX



PRO TIP

"DO THINGS QUICKLY. EVEN WALKING! AND IF YOU NEED TO STOP, DON'T STOP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SIDEWALK."

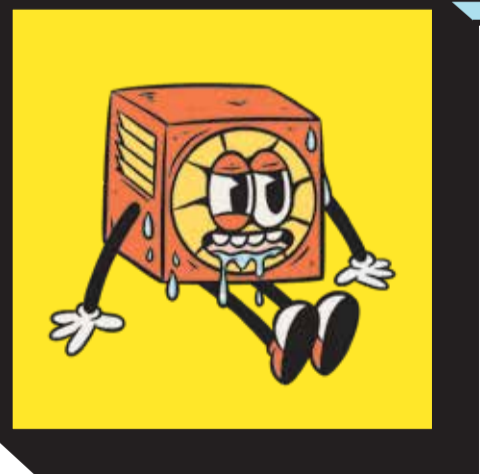
CLEO KIM, 9, QUEENS



PRO TIP

"YOU NEED A SPORTS CAP. IT DOES NOT MATTER IF IT IS A YANKEES OR METS HAT, JUST WEAR A SPORTS CAP THAT IS RELATED TO NEW YORK."

CAYDEN TORRINGTON, 10, BROOKLYN



PRO TIP

"DEFINITELY DON'T WEAR AN I ♥ NEW YORK SHIRT."

EMMA M., 11, QUEENS

NEW YORK MOMENT
HEY, SOME LOST TOURIST JUST ASKED YOU FOR DIRECTIONS. NICE.

YOU MADE IT!
NOW . . . KEEP IT MOVING!
THE END



Opinion

SPEAK



IAN SHAFER, 9

People should stop chopping down so many trees. It causes global warming, which is bad for the planet. And it's bad for the animals who live in them. Trees can make food for animals, and without them, animals will die.
The American Museum of Natural History

ARIANA ANDERSON, 9

I think every school should have a cheerleading team. I went to another school that had cheer, and then I moved, and I didn't have anything to do. I was really sad. Cheerleading allows you to show your talent. Everybody can do it!
The Sloomoo Institute

EMI EINENKEL, 9

We need cleaner subways! I take the subway every day, and I see rats, garbage and people coughing because of the dust. The M.T.A. should clean more often and start a campaign to have the people riding clean up their trash. It should say, "Throw your trash in the garbage to make subways cleaner."
Yankee Stadium

JOHN HARTLEY, 9

Kids should be able to vote. We are a part of the community that politicians influence, so why shouldn't we select them? For example, in some states, politicians have banned books from schools. They also pick how much money goes to the schools.
The Nintendo store



HARLAN ADAMS, 9

Schools should have more resources to teach kids who speak other languages. There are kids in my class who don't speak a lot of English, and they simply are not getting enough attention and opportunities. One might be an undiscovered genius!
The American Museum of Natural History



PJ FILLIN-YEH, 9

I think there should be more baseball fields in New York City. I have to bike 20-30 blocks just to get to a field. It should be more like 5-10 blocks! More fields would make baseball accessible to more kids.
The Sloomoo Institute



NAIAH CANDELARIO, 10

We need to stop all the wars and get world peace. Ukraine and Russia have been in a war for more than a year, and that's a long time! And then there's another war in Israel and Gaza. I'm worried about the future. Who knows what's going to happen in the next few years?
Times Square



SUZANNA FILLIN-YEH, 9

Let kids have longer recess. It never feels like we have enough time. Right now, we only have 20 minutes before lunch. Recess should be after lunch and for 30 minutes. This would give kids more time to exercise and get fresh air.
The Metropolitan Museum of Art



MADISON BRIGHT, 9

Animals should not be in zoos or be taken from their habitats. It's very wrong for them to be captured just to be looked at. They should be living in the wild, being free to do whatever they want to. It's nice to see animals! But not in cages.
Times Square



SHEYLA AQUINO, 9

In my opinion, everyone should get more sleep, because everyone wakes up so tired. When you wake up really early, your eyes start to close when you're brushing your teeth. When you wake up a little later, you have more control over your body.
The Statue of Liberty

YOUR

MELODY NACCARATO AND PURA LUNA'S
FOURTH-GRADE CLASS
P.S. 125, THE RALPH BUNCHE SCHOOL,
NEW YORK

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
SHIRLEY YU

ILLUSTRATION BY
VIOLET REED



ELIAH REYES, 10

Every class should have a class pet. Every day a new kid could feed it, and it would teach kids responsibility. Plus, if the kids are mad, they can talk with the pet. Not everyone has a pet at home, so this gives them a chance to have one.
Madison Square Garden



YARIANA CORIANO, 10

Pollution is the worst! People these days are inconsiderate and throw away whatever they have in the water. Once they do, fish identify it as food and eat it. Then the sharks come in to eat the fish, and it affects the sharks. If this continues, fish and sea animals could go extinct.
Times Square



TAYLA ROOBERG, 9

We need better public-school lunches. When the school food is bad, kids don't eat it, so they get hungry and can't focus. This can lead to failing tests and classes. Also, they feed us pizza all the time, and that's not healthy. Public schools should have better food, like rice and steamed vegetables.
Meow Parlour cat cafe



TAHANI DJARANABI, 10

Cats should not be abused! When I see a kitty in the street, my feelings change toward humans, because I know somebody hurt them. Animal shelters should go out to rescue more street cats, and people should adopt them, so they can have a safe home.
Coney Island Beach



MAISIE HOLBERT, 9

I do not think boys' and girls' soccer teams should be separated. People say it's because boys are stronger than girls, which is not fair! If we could play together, we could have more balanced teams. Boys would learn that they are not better than girls, and fans would see that girls are just as good.
Central Park

AIME OUEDRAOGO, 10

Countries should not have wars just to get more land. Like Russia. They're having a war with Ukraine, when Russia is the biggest country. Their population is 144.2 million! Why would you go to one of the smallest countries and take its land? And then keep killing people over it? It shouldn't be happening.
The Great Lawn in Central Park



AAMEN AGGAG, 9

Why do simple necessities have to be so expensive? Some people don't have enough money to buy water or food or clothes. People shouldn't have to eat from trash cans. Simple necessities should cost less, and be easy to get.
Food trucks

LEWIN TUCKER, 10

N.H.L. referees need to keep their eyes on the game, not on big players. I saw a game where two players on the Rangers were stuck in the face and tripped, and the other players didn't get penalized because they were small. Then a bigger player checked somebody and got penalized. That's not fair!
Madison Square Garden



MASON NOAH DENNY, 9

Let's make all school buses electric. School buses are important, but when we take buses for school trips, the smell of gasoline makes me nauseous. It makes me want to throw up.
Dave & Buster's



ANNELIE PATRICIO, 9

People shouldn't throw things at art as a protest. I heard on the news that some protesters were throwing food at the "Mona Lisa." As a lover of art, I don't agree with that. We need to protect art for our children and people who love it. I'm an artist too, and if that was my painting, I would be hurt.
Morningside Park



ISAAC SCOTT, 9

Homeless people should be able to get food, money and free shelter. We should be kind and not ignore them. Every day I see homeless people in the street, and it makes me feel mad! The streets are dirty, and they could get sick. They deserve to have a home just like everyone else.
Morningside Park



AMYAH GARCIA, 10

School lunch is horrible. I can't believe anyone actually likes this disgusting food! The pizza they serve in the cafeteria should be banned. It looks like Shrek.
McDonald's

FERNANDO RAUDALES, 9

I think that the government should create a plan to close all places that are selling drugs, and provide support to people on the street who are using drugs. There are a lot of drugs on the streets, and it's not safe.
Central Park Zoo

MIND



FOR THIS ISSUE of The New York Times for Kids, we stayed in New York and did a visit with students at P.S. 125 in Manhattan — our first in-person visit since the pandemic began! My colleague Molly Bennet and I talked to the students about the difference between a reported article and an opinion. Then we asked them to write their own opinions. They wrote about all kinds of subjects, including student protests, N.H.L. referees and why zoos are bad for animals. Here are short excerpts, along with their favorite places in New York City! *Lara Sorokanich*

KEYDY MONTENEGRO, 10
We need to do more to stop violence against women, because it's a big issue in the world. More women should be protected by policemen, and people who hurt women should be arrested.
The ice skating rink in Central Park



NASSIR DIARRA, 9

I think that the score for kids' football should go up by ones, instead of having different points for things like touchdowns or field goals. It would be easier for kids who are just starting to understand the scoreboard.
Morningside Park



CONNOR PAUL, 10

Columbia should stop arresting students for protesting against them funding Israel. The First Amendment says that we all have the right to free speech. Protesting is stating your opinion and trying to convince somebody, and you shouldn't get arrested for doing it.
Keens Steakhouse



JERRY PINCKNEY, 9

Gas prices should be lower. What if somebody doesn't have enough money to buy gas? If the person can't get enough money, they won't be able to drive their car. Cars are important, because you can't get to some places by walking, and taking a train or bus could take too long.
The Bronx Zoo



JOCELYN SALAZAR, 10

There should be different types of food in the school cafeteria. Now it's just mozzarella sticks, milk and pizza. I don't eat a lot at lunch because I don't like the food. They should have different types of food like ramen, tacos, empanadas and iced tea.
The M&M's store in Times Square



POLINA OBUKHOVA, 9

People should not shave or cut their dog's fur. Their fur should stay on their body, just like when they were born. Fur protects them from the heat and the cold. Let dogs keep their fur!
Central Park

EASY AS PIZZA PIE

A SLICE OF NEW YORK YOU CAN MAKE AT HOME

BY MELISSA KNIFIC · ILLUSTRATION BY JIAQI WANG

If you want to start a fight among New Yorkers, ask them what the best pizza place in the city is. There are, literally, thousands of them — and everybody’s got their own opinion about which is the most delicious. If you can’t make it here to taste for yourself, though, don’t worry. We’ve rounded up six fan favorites from restaurants around the city and used them as inspirations for recipes you can make at home. Whichever you choose, just make sure you don’t eat it with a fork and knife!



BASE RECIPE

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 9-by-13-inch baking pan
- Kitchen towel or plastic wrap
- Pizza or sheet pan and slicer

BASE INGREDIENTS

- A 1-pound ball of store-bought pizza dough, thawed
- Extra-virgin olive oil
- Red pizza sauce (for Pizzas 1 through 3; recipe below)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. **DIVIDE** your dough in half. Then drizzle the bottom of a 9-by-13-inch baking pan with extra-virgin olive oil. Place the two balls of dough in the pan, evenly spaced apart. Cover them with a clean kitchen towel or plastic wrap and let the dough rest at room temperature for 1 hour.

2. **HEAT** your oven to 450 degrees (do this about 30 minutes before you’re ready to bake).

3. **WHEN** the dough is done resting, grease a large pizza pan or sheet pan with oil. Transfer 1 dough ball to the pan, and use your fingers to gently stretch it until you create a 10- or 11-inch round.

4. **FOR THE** toppings, follow the instructions for one of the six pizzas at right, layering in the ingredients in the order they’re listed.

5. **DRIZZLE** the pizzas with extra-virgin olive oil, and bake until the crust is golden brown and the cheese is bubbling, 8-10 minutes. Finish with additional toppings, if there are any, then slice, eat and repeat!

FOR THE RED PIZZA SAUCE

Whisk together 1 (28-ounce) can crushed tomatoes, 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, 2 teaspoons kosher salt and 1 large garlic clove, grated.

TOPPINGS

1

CLASSIC PIZZA

INSPIRED BY THE MARGHERITA AT UNA PIZZA NAPOLETANA, MANHATTAN

It doesn’t get more classic than this. Picky eaters: Start here.

Layer ½ cup pizza sauce and 2 ounces fresh mozzarella (torn into pieces). Sprinkle lightly with sea salt. After it comes out of the oven, scatter fresh basil on top.

2

SPICY-SWEET PEPPERONI

INSPIRED BY THE HOTBOI AT SCARR’S PIZZA, MANHATTAN

If you love pepperoni, this fancier version kicks it up a notch.

Layer ½ cup pizza sauce, ¾ cup shredded mozzarella cheese, a handful of thin-sliced pepperoni and half a thinly sliced jalapeño. Drizzle the pizza with hot honey after baking. (You can find it in the condiment aisle at most grocery stores.)

3

FANCIER HAWAIIAN

INSPIRED BY THE SPECK & PIÑA AT WIZARD HAT PIZZA, BROOKLYN

Speck is a smoky Italian ham. If you can’t find it, use prosciutto!

Layer ½ cup pizza sauce, ¾ cup shredded mozzarella, 1 ounce speck or prosciutto, ½ cup diced pineapple and 2 tablespoons grated Pecorino cheese. After baking, top it with fresh basil and chile flakes, if desired.

4

OOEY-GOOEY WHITE

INSPIRED BY THE WHITE PIZZA AT LOUIE & ERNIE’S, THE BRONX

Cheesy deliciousness. Add cooked sausage for some extra oomph!

Layer on ¾ cup shredded mozzarella, ½ cup whole-milk ricotta (dolloped) and 1 tablespoon of Pecorino cheese.

5

BRINY CLAM PIZZA

INSPIRED BY THE CLAM PIZZA AT LEE’S TAVERN, STATEN ISLAND

Seafood on a pizza? Don’t knock it till you’ve tried it!

Layer ¾ cup shredded mozzarella, ½ cup chopped canned clams (drained), 1 tablespoon minced garlic,

½ teaspoon dried oregano and 1 tablespoon Pecorino.

6

CHEESE AND PEPPER

INSPIRED BY THE CACIO E PEPE AT MAMA’S TOO, MANHATTAN

This “cheese and pepper” pizza is based on a pasta dish.

Use a hand mixer to combine ½ cup mascarpone cheese, ½ cup shredded mozzarella, 2 tablespoons grated Pecorino cheese, 1 tablespoon milk and ½ teaspoon cracked black pepper. Spread it on the pizza, leaving a 1-inch border. After baking, finish it with more cracked pepper.

YIELD: 2 medium pizzas ♦



