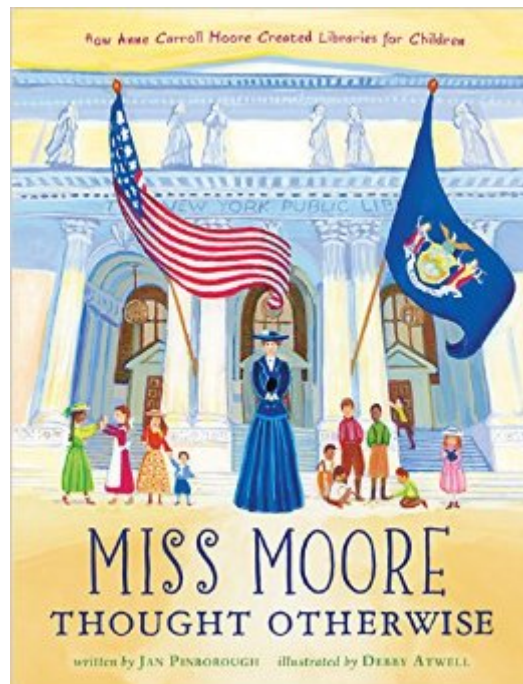


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# Miss Moore Thought Otherwise: How Anne Carroll Moore Created Libraries For Children



## Synopsis

Once upon a time, American children couldn't borrow library books. Reading wasn't all that important for children, many thought. Luckily Miss Anne Carroll Moore thought otherwise! This is the true story of how Miss Moore created the first children's room at the New York Public Library, a bright, warm room filled with artwork, window seats, and most important of all, borrowing privileges to the world's best children's books in many different languages.

## Book Information

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Hardcover: 40 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (13 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

In her debut book for children, author Jan Pinborough offers a charming picture book biography of Anne Carroll Moore, an individual not well known among the general public but whose advocacy of library services for children are worthy of being celebrated in this handsome new volume released just in time for Women's History Month. The book begins almost like a fairy tale: "Once in a big house in Limerick, Maine, there lived a little girl named Annie Carroll Moore. She had large gray eyes, seven older brothers, and ideas of her own." We soon learn that Annie is a bit of a rebel, not content to do what a girl was supposed to do in those days. She loved books, but in those days children weren't allowed in the library. When she grew up, she went to New York City on her own to enroll in library school, and soon went to work in a library where they had something brand new--a

room just for children, where Annie even read aloud to them. An advocate for children, she later became head of the children's rooms at the New York Public Library's many branches. At this time, children weren't allowed to take books home, since the librarians thought the children wouldn't bring them back. Pinborough portrays Anne Carroll Moore's feisty personality with a constant refrain in the book: "Miss Moore thought otherwise." When a grand new central library was built in the city of New York, Miss Moore was responsible for creating and designing the special place for children, complete with child-sized furniture. She brought authors, musicians and storytellers to entertain the children, and entertained them herself with her special doll Nicholas Knickerbocker and stories of his life. Even when she retired, she continued educating librarians across the country on how to create wonderful libraries for children. Back matter includes more details about Miss Moore, the "trailblazing librarian," and a list of sources. The lively artwork by Debby Atwell, executed with brightly colored acrylics in a folk-art influenced style, is a wonderful match for Pinborough's breezy writing style. Every children's librarian will want to have a copy of Pinborough's tribute to this remarkable woman on his or her shelf. She was a true hero for children and librarians everywhere.

Being an elementary school librarian, I have a special appreciation for those who've paved the way for me to share books with children. Anne Carroll Moore was one of those people. I really enjoyed reading about her efforts to help open public libraries to children. She worked hard to create spaces that were child-friendly and full of great books for them to read. I can understand where the libraries were coming from in terms of children returning books damaged or forgetting to return them at all because those things do happen regularly, but on the other hand, of what value is a book just sitting on a shelf? I found myself cheering Moore on as she helped design the Children's Room in what would become the New York Public Library and as she urged publishers to make more stories available that were especially for children. Reading is such a valuable life-long skill and the sooner it can be instilled in children the better. I've seen that personally on many occasions. Our information rich society is dependent on the ability to read and one's reading ability is dependent on the availability of a variety of interesting informative materials. Thanks be to those like Anne Carroll Moore who saw this early and helped bring it to pass! While there is still much to be done, we have come a long ways from those libraries that refused to even let children inside. Highly recommended.

My son and I read and reviewed this book for Mother Daughter Book Reviews. Here is my interview with my son about the book and my own bottom line. Visit us for the full review. SON SAYS: 1. This is a non-fiction book. Did you enjoy it? I enjoyed it because it told the story of someone who used to

live and is now dead.2. What do you think about the cover and the pictures? I like the picture of the big white house at the start of the book because I want to go there. I also liked the picture of the Children's Room in the New York Public Library. It looks comfy and I would like to go there too. The picture of New York City is cool - it's one of my favorites.3. What did you learn from this book? I learned that girls couldn't do lots of stuff that they can now do and that kids weren't allowed in libraries.4. How are children treated differently today than the way they were in this book? Now children can go to libraries and then they couldn't. It would be bad to not be able to go to the library because I get books and videos from the library all the time. Girls can do whatever they want and go to school to become lawyers and doctors. I know some girls who are doctors and lawyers like Dr. Lamb and Isabella's Mom.5. If you had to choose between going to the library and going to a bookstore where would you go and why? I would like to go to the bookstore because you get to keep the books that you buy. It makes me sad to return books to the library when I really like them.6. What are your favorite books that you've read recently? I really like the Nature Elves series - Dream Robbers, The Witch Sticker Ball, and the Shadow Beast by R.C. Scott.7. Who do you think would like this book? I learned some stuff with this book. I think boys and girls 20 years old and younger would like this book.MOM SAYS:Miss Moore Thought Otherwise is a well-written, beautifully illustrated account of the life of Anne Carroll Moore who helped create libraries for children in America which became the model for libraries around the world. I would recommend this book to children aged 5 years and older who enjoy reading non-fiction titles about historical figures whose actions resulted in a real perceivable change in society.\* This book was provided to us by the publisher free-of-charge in exchange for our honest review.\*

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