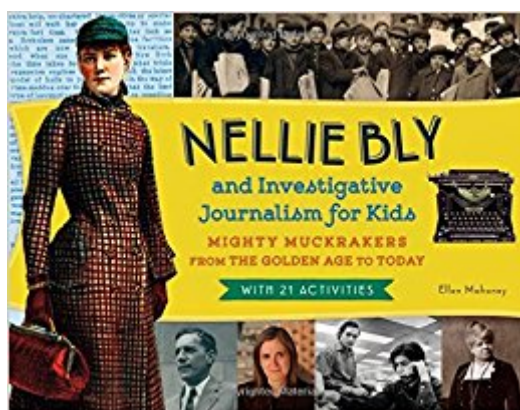


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# Nellie Bly And Investigative Journalism For Kids: Mighty Muckrakers From The Golden Age To Today, With 21 Activities (For Kids Series)



## Synopsis

In the late 1800s, the daring young reporter Elizabeth Cochrane—known by the pen name Nellie Bly—faked insanity so she could be committed to a mental institution and secretly report on the awful conditions there. This and other highly publicized investigative “stunts” laid the groundwork for a new kind of journalism in the early 1900s, called “muckraking,” dedicated to exposing social, political, and economic ills in the United States. In *Nellie Bly and Investigative Journalism for Kids* budding reporters learn about the major figures of the muckraking era: the bold and audacious Bly, one of the most famous women in the world in her day; social reformer and photojournalist Jacob Riis; monopoly buster Ida Tarbell; antilynching crusader Ida B. Wells; and Upton Sinclair, whose classic book *The Jungle* created a public outcry over the dangerous and unsanitary conditions of the early meatpacking industry. Young readers will also learn about more contemporary reporters, from Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein to Amy Goodman, who have carried on the muckraking tradition, and will get excited about the ever-changing world of journalism and the power of purposeful writing. Twenty-one creative activities encourage and engage a future generation of muckrakers. Kids can make and keep a reporter’s notebook; write a letter to the editor; craft a “great ideas” box; create a Jacob Riis–style photo essay; and much more.

## Book Information

Series: For Kids series

Paperback: 144 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.4 x 8.5 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #776,518 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #87 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Modern](#) #227 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Literary](#) #543 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1900s](#)

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4-6 • This illuminating book covers the life and career of Nellie Bly (1864-1922) as well as profiling other reform-minded journalists, including Jacob Riis, Ida B. Wells, and Upton Sinclair. Mahoney's descriptive writing informs without overwhelming. Excerpts from the writings of the journalists are woven into the book, offering a taste of the vivid, sensationalized text characteristic of the muckraking genre. Readers will get a rich sense of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when mentally ill patients endured abuse, racial and gender prejudices were flagrant, and many suffered through dire poverty. A dozen activities scattered throughout the text are weak additions, lacking strong relational ties to the content. For instance, the Ida Tarbell chapter includes information on making yogurt parfait because "if [Tarbell] did splurge for a treat, she may have had a delicious dessert called a parfait." The vivid illustrations consist of period photos and ephemera. VERDICT A worthy purchase. • Jennifer Prince, Buncombe County Public Libraries, NC

“What an engaging concept! Not only is this book very informative about Nellie Bly and other investigative journalists, but the activities are extremely engaging and complement the well-researched narrative. It's not hard to imagine a new generation of muckrakers being inspired by these pages.” • Arthur Tripp Fritz, editor, The Nellie Bly Collection, and creator, nellieblyonline.com “An engaging book with very rich stories about the early muckrakers who helped to define journalism as a public service. Ellen Mahoney's storytelling approach is perfect for young readers, and each chapter unfolds as an adventure.” • Suzanne Lysak, assistant professor, broadcast and digital journalism, Syracuse University Newhouse School of Public Communications “This outstanding work of nonfiction is sure to inspire a new generation of investigative journalists.” • Teacher Librarian “With excellent content, an appealing layout, and an exciting topic, this book is a joy to read and explore.” • Booklist

This is a tremendous book, especially for young people interested in journalism. Nonetheless, it is also a lot of fun for adults interested in history.

Great information!

*Nellie Bly and Investigative Journalism for Kids* is at heart, an adventure tale. A tale with well-defined heroes and villains. The “good guys” in this case are investigative reporters, while the “bad guys” are the people in Big Business, Government, Mob Rule, etc. that are trying to hoodwink the American people. The first half (approximately) of the book is devoted to the life and career of famed reporter Nellie Bly, talking about her youth and the events that inspired her to research issues and to write about them. The rest talks about other muckrakers, and the causes that inspired them. Interspersed throughout are hands-on activities meant to inspire the young reader that is the target audience of this book. I enjoyed the tales told within the book, and thought they were inspiring. I wouldn’t exactly say they were well-rounded; the goal in this book is to provide role models for future reporters, not to document their entire life, especially their dark sides and failures. As such, I treat this as an intentional oversight rather than a glaring omission. The same is true for the profession of journalism – there is no need to describe the sleazy paparazzi and their writer equivalents, nor to discuss the economic issues facing the print newspaper in the Internet age. I was disappointed in the suggested crafts meant to follow up on the stories and lessons of the book. In some cases, I thought that their connection to the narrative was tenuous. Further, I questioned the age level for each – some seemed a bit juvenile for older readers while others were too advanced for the younger reader. Overall, I thought the book succeeded in its goal of inspiring young readers through the example of others. I think the path to that goal wasn’t as smooth as a typical reader might desire, but it still makes its mark on the intended audience. **RATING:** 3 1/2 stars, rounded to 4 stars where 1/2 stars are not permitted. **DISCLOSURE:** This book was provided free of charge by the publisher in a random draw, in the hopes of an honest and prompt review (although such was neither required nor agreed upon prior to receipt).

**NELLIE BLY AND INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM FOR KIDS** by Ellen Mahoney is an engaging exploration of the muckraking era beginning in the late 1800s. Using Nellie Bly as the focus, this outstanding informational book explores the life of this well-known investigative journalist while teaching readers about the art and science of journalism. In addition to Bly, the book also features other key muckrakers from the era including Jacob Riis, Ida Tarbell, Ida B. Wells, and Upton Sinclair. It concludes with connections to modern times. Alluring quests are woven throughout the book. These 21 fun activities help readers learn the basics of journalism. Youth are involved in

investigations such as finding the 5Ws and conducting an interview, writing assignments such as writing a short story and sending a letter, and multimedia experiences such as designing a board game, creating a comic strip, and building a diorama. The compelling narrative will immerse readers in history and bring alive the experience of these important journalists. The highly visual text incorporates a timeline, digital reproductions of primary source materials, period illustrations, and historical photographs. The use of sidebars, captions, famous quotes, and an attractive layout add to the appeal. Librarians are always looking for engaging works of nonfiction to tie with Common Core informational reading experiences. The combination of an appealing narrative, primary source materials, and creative activities makes this a "must purchase" for school librarians. Add this to your social studies reading list for 2015. This outstanding work of nonfiction is sure to inspire a new generation of investigative journalists. Published by Chicago Review Press on May 1, 2015. Reviewed through NetGalley.

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