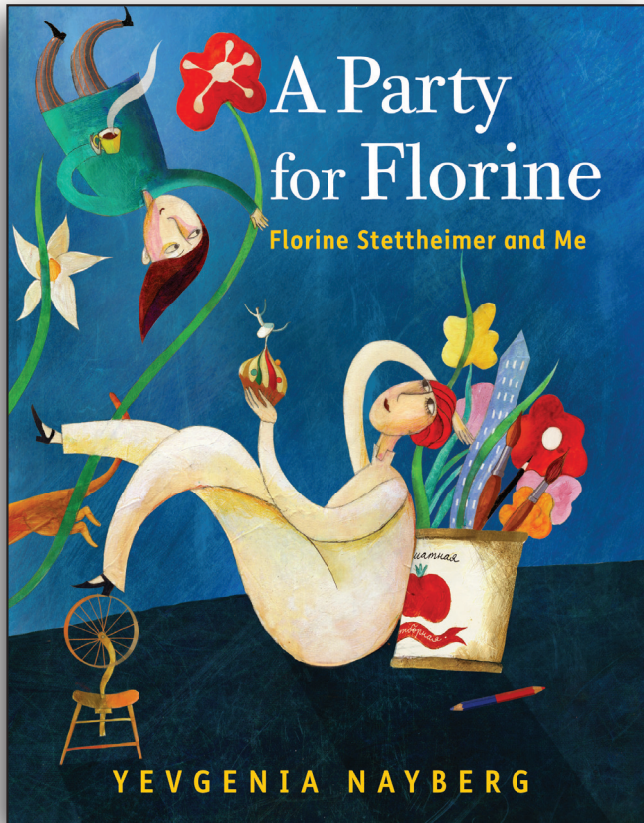


HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



A Party for Florine *Florine Stettheimer and Me* by Yevgenia Nayberg

★ “A passionate ode to a pioneering female artist whose influence endures and inspires.” —*Kirkus Reviews*, Starred Review

ABOUT THE BOOK

A young girl forms a special connection to the modernist painter Florine Stettheimer, and imagines herself joining in on Florine's exciting life.

When a young girl visits the museum, she finds an unexpected friend in a self-portrait of Florine Stettheimer. They're both artists; they both have Jewish families; they even look alike!

Florine's life was wild and glamorous. She painted people in flight and buildings that grew from the ground like crooked trees, bright colors and shapes and animals. She threw parties frequented by other famous visionaries like Marcel Duchamp and Carl Van Vechten.

Soon, our narrator is dreaming up her own fantastical parties for Florine, with table spreads of colorful treats, and painting and dancing and poetry. With Florine in her life, even a rainy day can't make the world seem humdrum anymore.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Describe the cover of the book. Point out Florine Stettheimer. What do you learn about her from the cover art?
- Point to the narrator of the book on the first double-page spread. Why does she say the girl in the painting is looking at her? How does the painting cause the girl to want to know more about Florine Stettheimer? Explain what the girl and Florine Stettheimer have in common. Contrast their art teachers, and their art training.
- A simile is a type of figurative language that compares two unrelated things using “like” or “as.” Discuss the following simile: “To draw tilted buildings growing like trees from the ground” (p. 9). In what way do her buildings look like trees? Find other similes in the book.
- Florine moved to Alwyn Court, a building in New York City, with her mother and two sisters. Describe their life there. What is special and unique about the building? Turn the page to the narrator looking out her window. Contrast her life on a rainy day to that of Florine’s life at Alwyn Court.
- Define “exuberant,” “levitating,” and “whimsical.” Discuss why art critics use these words to describe the art of Florine Stettheimer. How are the illustrations of the book similar to Stettheimer’s art?

Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.

ABOUT THE CREATOR



Photo Credit: Anton Krasnov

Yevgenia Nayberg is an award-winning illustrator, painter, and set and costume designer. She has received multiple awards for her picture book illustrations, including a Sydney Taylor Honor and two notable recognitions. She is the author/illustrator of the picture books *A Party for Florine*, *Anya’s Secret Society*, *Typewriter*, *Mona Lisa in New York*, and *I Hate Borsch!*, and the illustrator of the book *Drop by Drop* by Jacqueline Jules, among others. Born and raised in Kyiv, Ukraine, she now lives in New York City. Learn more at Nayberg.org.



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