Reading List

Despite living over 100 years ago, Owney has been the subject of many children’s books published in the last 20 years. We have compiled a list of books that will complement any Owney lesson in your classroom. If you plan to use a story to teach social studies-based units, please refer to the first list. The books in the second list provide great resources for creative writing and reading lessons.

Historically Accurate Owney Books

The following books are recommended by the Smithsonian Institution’s National Postal Museum because of their historical accuracy.

**Owney: Tales from the Rails** by Jerry Rees and Stephen Michael Schwartz

Published in 2011, and in support of this curriculum and the stamp launch, this book of historical fiction represents the Smithsonian Institution’s most recent scholarship on Owney the Dog. It is highly interactive and provides many opportunities to travel with Owney and see the people and places he visited on his journeys. This book is only available in e-Book and online formats. It is available and free of charge from the iTunes store or the Postal Museum’s website, after fall 2011.

**Owney the Mail-Pouch Pooch** by Mona Kerby

Another strong option, this book provides the Owney story for younger readers (ages 4-8). The information is all accurate, if not as thoroughly researched. The illustrations are inviting and whimsical. Ms. Kerby has also created numerous teacher aids for her book; they are available on her website.

**A Lucky Dog: Owney, U.S. Rail Mail Mascot** by Dirk Wales

Rooted in quality historical research, this richly illustrated book provides an engaging introduction to the Owney unit. If the classroom lacks the technical tools to access the e-Book, this is the Postal Museum’s recommended book, in terms of content. Reading level is scaled at ages 9-12.

**Owney—Mascot of the Railway Mail Service Publication of the National Postal Museum**

Written in 1990, this book is written for adults but provides a detailed amount of background and is the only true non-fiction book in the list. A lot of the scholarship has been improved upon (and available on our website). But this still provides a strong hard-copy reference book for educator or student research. It is available only by ordering from our publications website: [www.npm.si.edu/resources/6a_publications.html](http://www.npm.si.edu/resources/6a_publications.html)

Fictional Owney Books

The following books share in the spirit of Owney’s adventures, but don’t ensure historical accuracy. They will surely add to your classes’ enjoyment of the Owney Story, but they are fiction and should be recognized as such.

**The Further Adventures of a Lucky Dog: Owney, U.S. Rail Mail Mascot** by Dirk Wales

**A Small Dog’s Big Life: Around the World with Owney** by Irene Kelly

**All Aboard Owney! The Adirondack Mail Dog** by Jennifer Gordon Sattler