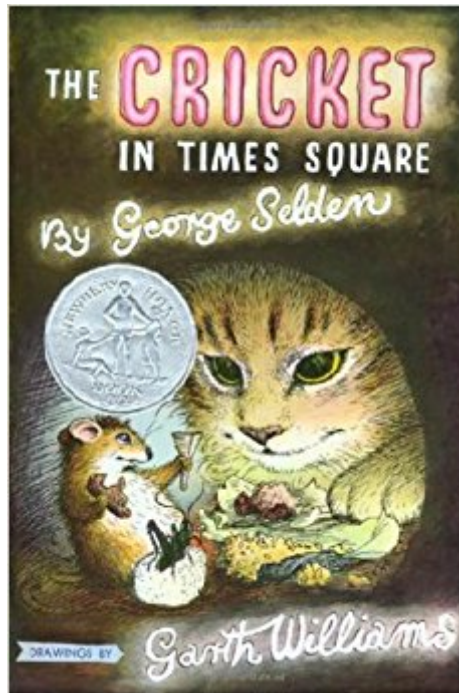




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# The Cricket In Times Square (Chester Cricket And His Friends)



## Synopsis

Tucker is a streetwise city mouse. He thought he'd seen it all. But he's never met a cricket before, which really isn't surprising, because, along with his friend Harry Cat, Tucker lives in the very heart of New York City—the Times Square subway station. Chester Cricket never intended to leave his Connecticut meadow. He'd be there still if he hadn't followed the entrancing aroma of liverwurst right into someone's picnic basket. Now, like any tourist in the city, he wants to look around. And he could not have found two better guides and friends than Tucker and Harry. The trio have many adventures—from taking in the sights and sounds of Broadway to escaping a smoky fire. Chester makes a third friend, too. It is a boy, Mario, who rescues Chester from a dusty corner of the subway station and brings him to live in the safety of his parents' newsstand. He hopes at first to keep Chester as a pet, but Mario soon understands that the cricket is more than that. Because Chester has a hidden talent and no one—not even Chester himself—realizes that the little country cricket may just be able to teach even the toughest New Yorkers a thing or two. *The Cricket in Times Square* is a 1961 Newbery Honor Book.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 780L (What's this?)

Series: Chester Cricket and His Friends (Book 1)

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Square Fish; 1st edition (April 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0312380038

ISBN-13: 978-0312380038

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.4 x 200.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 357 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #4,122 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Other Team Sports > Cricket](#) #7 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > City Life](#) #10 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Mice, Hamsters, Guinea Pigs & Squirrels](#)

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 3 - 4

## Customer Reviews

One night, the sounds of New York City--the rumbling of subway trains, thrumming of automobile tires, hooting of horns, howling of brakes, and the babbling of voices--is interrupted by a sound that even Tucker Mouse, a jaded inhabitant of Times Square, has never heard before. Mario, the son of Mama and Papa Bellini, proprietors of the subway-station newsstand, had only heard the sound once. What was this new, strangely musical chirping? None other than the mellifluous leg-rubbing of the somewhat disoriented Chester Cricket from Connecticut. Attracted by the irresistible smell of liverwurst, Chester had foolishly jumped into the picnic basket of some unsuspecting New Yorkers on a junket to the country. Despite the insect's wurst intentions, he ends up in a pile of dirt in Times Square. Mario is elated to find Chester. He begs his parents to let him keep the shiny insect in the newsstand, assuring his bug-fearing mother that crickets are harmless, maybe even good luck. What ensues is an altogether captivating spin on the city mouse/country mouse story, as Chester adjusts to the bustle of the big city. Despite the cricket's comfortable matchbox bed (with Kleenex sheets); the fancy, seven-tiered pagoda cricket cage from Sai Fong's novelty shop; tasty mulberry leaves; the jolly company of Tucker Mouse and Harry Cat; and even his new-found fame as "the most famous musician in New York City," Chester begins to miss his peaceful life in the Connecticut countryside. The Cricket in Times Square--a Newbery Award runner-up in 1961--is charmingly illustrated by the well-loved Garth Williams, and the tiniest details of this elegantly spun, vividly told, surprisingly suspenseful tale will stick with children for years and years. Make sure this classic sits on the shelf of your favorite child, right next to *The Wind in the Willows*. (Ages 9 to 12) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“The story of a musical cricket and his friends, a mouse and a cat of real character, who took up their abode in a Times Square newsstand . . . Most appealing whimsy with beautiful illustrations by Garth Williams.”  
 “School Library Journal, Starred Review”  
 “Delightful reading for the whole family.”  
 “The Horn Book Magazine”  
 “This is absolutely grand fun for anyone, a nine to ninety book with the most enchanting portraits by Garth Williams.”  
 “The New York Herald Tribune

I liked it because it was funny, sad and engrossing. I think it is a great book for many ages. Third and fourth graders can read it alone, but would recommend it read out loud by any adult. It will keep your attention. I like that there were only a few characters because I could keep everyone straight. I gave it five stars because it was well written and the development of the characters and story line was well paced and had good highs and lows.

My son had to read this for his 4th grade English class and it held his interest fairly well.

Love this story, read it to our children and have now purchased this for our grand children. It is about a boy who gets a cricket and gains some good lessons. Sweet story period.

Everyone loves an award winning children's book for their kiddos library! Thanks again, prime, for free shipping and for delivering this book on time at a fair price.

It's a book. With words. Required for 3rd grade class. Can't say I've read it myself but my child seems to think it's the bomb diggity.

My granddaughter read this book with her entire school. She loved it and went on to read the second book in the series.

Even though it's an old story, my boys and I (ages 7 and 8) really enjoyed this story of a cricket who becomes an entertainer in the New York subway but eventually returns home to Connecticut to play to his forest friends.

My grandson loves this book. It is a great read for an 8 year old.

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