

# Book Marketing Kit – Amaka in New York

Published by Accomplish Press

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## Book Information

**Book Title:** Amaka in New York

**Author:** Olachi Okoroafor

**Genre:** Children's fiction

**Recommended reading age:** 7 – 12-year-olds

**Publisher:** Accomplish Press

**Copyright:** Olachi Okoroafor (c) 2021

**Language:** English

**Formats:** Ebook

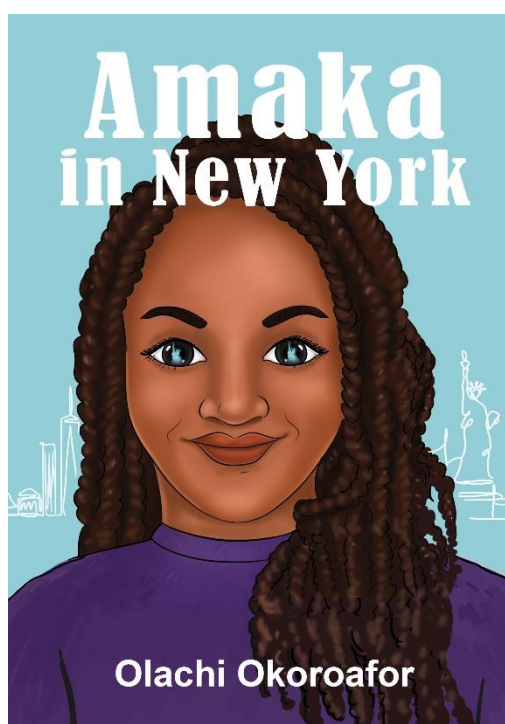
**Release Date:** 30 October 2021

**Available from:** [Amazon US](#), [Amazon UK](#), [Smashwords](#), [Apple](#), [Barnes and Noble](#), [Kobo](#) and most online retailers. Readers in Nigeria can download the ebook from [Okadabooks](#).

**Book Description:** Amaka is on the move from Lagos to New York. Amaka hopes to make new friends, but she encounters bullies at school who make her school days miserable. She has to overcome challenges with fitting in and being different because of her skin color, her hair, and her accent. Will she return to Lagos, or would she be able to stand up for herself?

**Unique Points:** Amaka in New York tells an interesting story of Amaka, a young Nigerian girl who had to leave her home in Lagos and move with her mother to a new country and city without her father, whom they had lost before the move.

The book is set predominantly in New York City, and it features a cast of interesting characters – Amaka, the main character, her mum, her grandmother, and a whole lot



of new faces in a new place. It also includes beautiful illustrations of the characters, the scenery, and recognisable landmarks of the city.

The story follows the adventures of Amaka, as she deals with the issues surrounding migrating to a new country, getting started in a new school, a different culture, adjusting to a new environment, being teased and bullied for her skin colour, her hair, and foreign accent. Children who have had to make this transition will really relate to Amaka's story. The reader gets to see how Amaka copes with these challenges and how she eventually overcomes them. There are some excellent reading and discussion points for parents and guardians too.

### About the Author



Olachi Okoroafor is ten years old. She loves reading and writing. She lives in California with her mom, dad, and three siblings. Amaka in New York is her first book.

## Press Release

Contact: Sarah Lupa, Head of Marketing and Promotions  
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### **Ten-Year-Old Author launches Debut Novel, “Amaka in New York”**

Accomplish Press is pleased to announce the official publication of **Amaka in New York**, a debut novel by **10-year-old author, Olachi Okoroafor**. The story is a compelling tale of a young girl’s struggle to adapt to a new life in New York City, after her mother had to relocate to the United States. The book is set predominantly in New York City, and it features a cast of interesting characters – Amaka, the main character, her mum, her grandmother, and a whole lot of new faces in a new place. It also includes beautiful illustrations of the characters, the scenery, and recognisable landmarks of the city. The book is aimed at young readers aged between 7 to 12 years old, and it also has excellent reading and discussion points for parents and guardians.

Nigerian US-based author, Olachi Okoroafor, taps into her experience of living in the United States as a young, black girl, to write a book about themes that are relevant to children of her age – such as bullying, standing out for being “different”, being teased for her skin color, her hair and her foreign accent. The story also shows how young people can be caught up in experiences but cannot always get the attention of their parents and other adults.

“I’ve always loved reading, and I enjoy writing,” the author said. “I read a lot of books by authors such as Enid Blyton.” Regarding her own personal experiences, she said, “I haven’t been bullied, but I have siblings who have been bullied due to their skin color, so part of my writing is my empathy for how they felt. There were also times I have felt like no one was listening to me, so I wanted to use the story to share how children feel when it seems they are not listened to.”

The story captures the ups and downs in the life of a Nigerian girl, adjusting to her new environment after moving from Lagos, Nigeria, to New York City. The themes highlighted are issues such as migration, new experiences, bullying, friendship, standing up for yourself, fitting in, self-esteem, family, and confidence. Each theme is dealt with in a sensitive yet interesting way that all readers will be able to relate to.

For an enticing preview of Amaka in New York, visit the Accomplish Press website to download sample chapters at <http://www.accomplishpress.com>.

Amaka in New York is available as an ebook from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Smashwords, Apple, Kobo, Okadabooks, and other online retailers. The book was officially released on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2021.

## Interview with the author, Olachi Okoroafor

### **1. Please tell us a bit about yourself, your hobbies and interests.**

I am Olachi Okoroafor, the first child out of four children. I am in 5th grade at Escondido Elementary, where I am the secretary of the school's leadership council. In my free time, I love to write, read, or draw. I am interested in coding and movie production.

### **2. How long have you been writing?**

I have been writing for as long as I can remember. I used to write short stories and bind them in book form since I was in first grade. But this new one I started working on in 4th grade felt different.

### **3. Please tell us a bit about your new book, "Amaka in New York".**

My book is about a young Nigerian girl who recently moved to New York and goes to a new school, where she encounters bullies and mean girls, and wonders if she would ever find a friend.

### **4. Is this your first book? What inspired you to write it?**

This is my first published book. I was inspired to write about it when I thought of my skin color, and when my school taught us about segregation and people like Martin Luther King.

### **5. What was the easiest and hardest part of writing this book?**

The easiest part was writing what came to my mind, and the hardest part was describing how Amaka felt, what she saw, what she heard, what she smelled.

### **6. How did you come up with the title?**

The book started out as "Sarah in New York" when I learned some writing tips and about New York from my 4th-grade teacher. When I began rewriting it, I felt that Nigerians would relate more to a Nigerian name, so I changed it to Amaka, the name of one of my mother's friends. Also, I felt Amaka, compared to some other Nigerian names, is easy to pronounce for people who are still sounding words in phonics.

### **7. How much of the book is based on your experiences?**

I haven't been bullied, but I have siblings who have been bullied or segregated due to their skin color, so part of my writing is my empathy for how they felt. There were

also times I have felt like no one was listening to me, and I wrote about how Amaka felt when it seemed her mother was not listening to her.

**8. Are there any similarities between you and Amaka, the main character?**

Yes! Amaka and I are both black, both afraid of going to new schools, dislike moving, and both have a mother who is often busy. I remember there were days in the past year when I would see my mother for only a few hours because she was preparing for her Ph.D. defence. I am glad those days are over.

**9. What lesson(s) would you want readers to take away from the book?**

I think maybe something like 'Friendship is power' or 'Bullying always comes with consequences.'

**10. What are the challenges you encountered in writing and publishing the book?**

Well, one of them was waking up early on my precious Saturdays to write. And another one of them was running out of ideas because I didn't know where my story would take me. I am glad I had a writing coach whom I call "Aunty Tolu" who helped me think when I got stuck.

**11. What inspires you as a writer?**

I don't really know! My mom says I have a good way with words, and sometimes mini-stories just come up in my head. I am moved a lot by things that happen around me, and I want to make wrong things right by rewriting the story of that wrong thing.

**12. What book are you reading now?**

I am reading many books now, but my favorite one is 'The Twins at St. Clares.'

**13. Who are your favourite authors, and what do you admire in their work?**

My favorite author is Enid Blyton, and what I admire about her works is even though there are no pictures, she puts enough description for the readers to imagine what's going on. I feel I am in a different world when I read her books.

**14. What skills have been particularly helpful in your writing?**

Learning and using the story arc has been very helpful in teaching me how to plan and outline my work. My mom taught me about using all five senses in writing, and I have been trying to apply that. Also, as I started self-editing, I had to do some research about New York, especially how the place would be in fall and winter.

**15. What are your current projects? Are you working on the next book?**

I have no current projects, but I have been looking back at my past writings and seeing if there is anything I can make out of it. For example, I have a story “SuperSarah” with the theme “you do not have to be a superhero to save the day,” which I started in 3rd grade. Maybe during the holidays, I can focus more time on it and see what happens.

**16. Do you have any advice for other young aspiring writers like you?**

Yes! Young writers, don't let anyone stop you from doing what you love doing. If you have an idea, write it down and keep building on the idea.

**17. Where can your readers buy the book?**

You can get the book from [Amazon US](#), [Amazon UK](#), [Smashwords](#), [Apple](#), [Barnes and Noble](#), and most online retailers. Readers in Nigeria can download the ebook from [Okadabooks](#).

Thank you very much Olachi, and we wish you much success in all your endeavours.