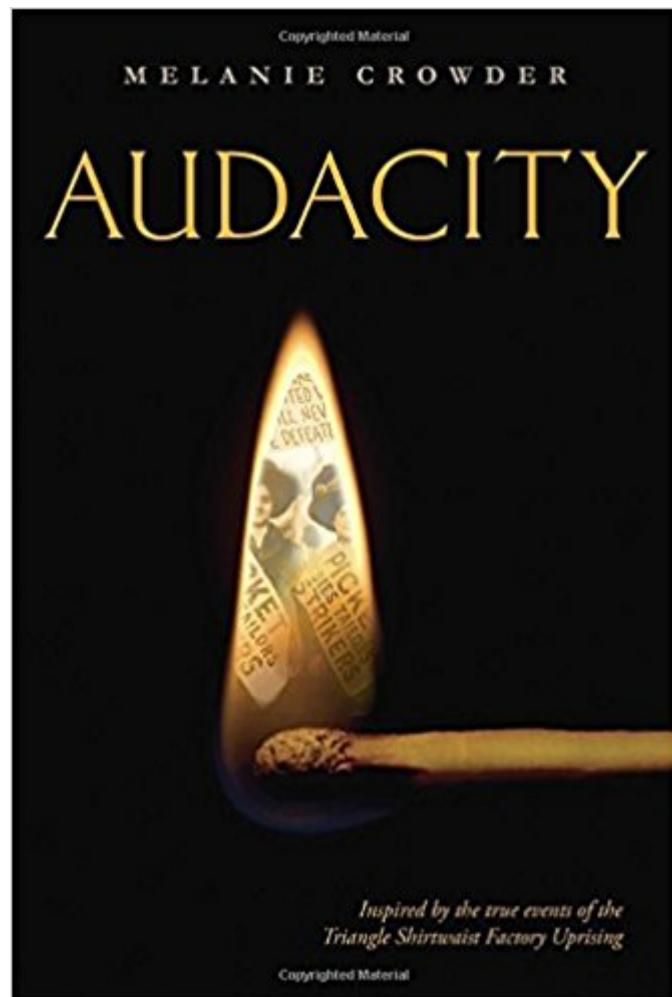


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# Audacity



## Synopsis

A 2015 National Jewish Book Award finalist The inspiring story of Clara Lemlich, whose fight for equal rights led to the largest strike by women in American history A gorgeously told novel in verse written with intimacy and power, *Audacity* is inspired by the real-life story of Clara Lemlich, a spirited young woman who emigrated from Russia to New York at the turn of the twentieth century and fought tenaciously for equal rights. Bucking the norms of both her traditional Jewish family and societal conventions, Clara refuses to accept substandard working conditions in the factories on Manhattan's Lower East Side. For years, Clara devotes herself to the labor fight, speaking up for those who suffer in silence. In time, Clara convinces the women in the factories to strike, organize, and unionize, culminating in the famous Uprising of the 20,000. Powerful, breathtaking, and inspiring, *Audacity* is the story of a remarkable young woman, whose passion and selfless devotion to her cause changed the world.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1120 (What's this?)

Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher: Speak; Reprint edition (January 5, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0147512492

ISBN-13: 978-0147512499

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.1 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 31 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #109,032 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #72 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > 20th Century #172 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s #349 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Stories In Verse

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up • Written in verse, this novel is loosely based on the life of Clara Lemlich Shavelson, the leader of New York shirtwaist strike of 1909. Clara and her family are Jewish Russians who flee the anti-Semitism of turn-of-the-century Russia to find a better life in America. However, Clara still

experiences gender and religious oppression in New York. She is unable to gain the education she desires, because she is forced to work in a sweatshop, and she can't rise above her given status as an immigrant worker because foreign women are taught only rudimentary English. But "Inside I am anything/ but fresh off the boat./ I have been ready for this/ possibility/ all my life," Clara declares, and she proves that she has the audacity to do the impossible for a female and a Jew: organizing a woman's union and ultimately having her voice heard. The verse form of the narrative lends lightness to an otherwise bleak topic and moves the story along quickly, while artful formatting of the text creates and sustains mood. This book stands alone in its topic and time frame, with only Michelle Markel's picture book *Brave Girl* (HarperCollins, 2013) as a nonfiction companion. With historical notes, interviews with Clara's family members, and a glossary of Yiddish terms, *Audacity* is an impactful addition to any historical fiction collection. --Brittany Staszak, Glencoe Public Library, IL --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Praise for *AUDACITY*: A 2015 National Jewish Book Award finalist -- *Washington Post* -- Best Children's Books for April: Poetry Edition An ILA Notable Book for a Global Society A 2016 NCTE Children's Notable Verse Novel A New York Public Library Best Book for Teens An ALA Top 10 Best Fiction for Young Adults Pick An ALSC Notable Children's Book nominee A BCCB Blue Ribbon winner \* "Crowder breathes life into a world long past....Compelling, -- powerful and unforgettable." --Kirkus Reviews, starred review \* "This book stands alone....an impactful addition to any historical fiction collection." --School Library Journal, starred review \* "With a thorough historical note, glossary of terms, and bibliography, this will make an excellent complement to units on women's rights and the labor movement, but it will also satisfy readers in search of a well-told tale of a fierce heroine." --BCCB, starred review \* "This is an excellent title that can open discussions in U.S. history and economics courses about women's rights, labor unions, and the immigrant experience." --School Library Connection, starred review "Based on the true story of Clara Lemlich, *Audacity* -- throbs with the emotions of this exceptional young woman who fought for equal rights and improved labor standards in factories. Melanie Crowder's verses spit out Clara's rage, cradle her longing and soar like the birds that are her constant companions." --Bookpage -- "Crowder's (Parched) use of free verse in this fictionalization of Russian-Jewish immigrant Clara Lemlich's life brings a spare poignancy to a familiar history." -- Publishers Weekly -- "Audacity is an evocative reimagining of a fascinating historical figure who should be remembered for her determination in the face of great odds and powerful opposition -- and for her role in changing America. Melanie

Crowder's powerful verse reveals a long-past world, but the combination of hope and outrage that Clara Lemlich brought to her struggle should be both recognizable and inspirational to teen readers longing to right the injustices of our day. •Margaret Peterson Haddix, critically acclaimed, bestselling author of *Uprising*

This is a beautifully written story. I am using this with a group of high school students who are learning about child labor and immigration. It has been well received by all of the students. Everyone is impressed by the amount of information and emotion in the use of writing the story as a poem. It demonstrates the power of words and in this odd day and age, that powerful stories can be told in many formats.

This is an extraordinarily satisfying read. The free verse form of poetry made the book pull the reader further into the story and the character. At first I didn't think that I would be hooked into the telling of this true account but it was riveting and a must read by a larger group of readers. Bravo Melanie for this superb work.

I haven't read a lot of novels in verse, but I love poetry and I love YA and historical novels, so this was a win-win-win for me. Crowder's poetry is lyrical but easy to read. The pages flew by as we saw Clara grow and become this firebrand of a woman. The end also has a brief biography and interviews with Clara's surviving family members. A brilliant read. It deserves all the starred reviews it's been receiving!

I wasn't thrilled when our book club chose this book to read; poetry is not my thing. I was encouraged by a friend to give it a try, and I'm so glad I did. It was a quick read, literally a page-turner. The story of Clara grabbed me from the first pages. As an added bonus, I got to meet delightful Melanie Crowder at a lecture, and was enthralled by the details of her research, including speaking to some of Clara's descendants. What a wonderful book to share with your teenage daughters or granddaughters!

This was a beautiful, short, incredibly powerful read and exactly the reminder I needed about how organizing and activism works. This is a wonderful book for young adults, but I was inspired by it as an adult. Highly recommended.

Prose is such a grand way to invite a reader to want more. I admire anyone who is able to say more with efficient use of words. Melanie has accomplished this with Audacity. This does not even touch on the beautiful topic she choose about workers rights, particularly working women's rights. Sadly, something which has yet to be resolved world wide.

Audacity is a true work of art. The lyrical telling of the story is at times gorgeous, vivid, gut wrenching, and inspiring. Anyone who appreciates historical novels MUST read this!

One of the most powerful and beautifully written books I have had the pleasure to read

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