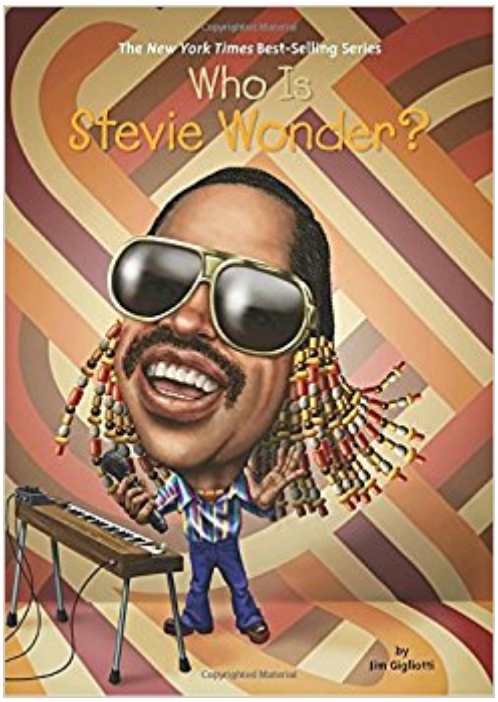
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Who Is Stevie Wonder? (Who Was?)



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Synopsis

Discover more about Stevie Wonder, the music prodigy whose awards include 25 Grammy Awards and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.Stevie Wonder is one of the most successful singer-songwriter-musicians of our time. Signing his first record deal when he was only eleven, he had his first No.1 hit when he was thirteen. Since then he has had thirty US top ten hits, won a range of awards for his music and his civil rights work, and created such iconic songs as "Isn’t She Lovely" and "I Just Called to Say I Love You." Stevie Wonder is a beloved entertainer who continues to tour and perform around the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jim Gigliotti is a freelance writer based in Southern California. A former editor at the National Football League, he has written more than 50 books for all ages. His writing credits include biographies for young readers on Olympian Jesse Owens and baseball star Roberto Clemente.

Who Is Stevie Wonder?Ã Â Steveland Judkins walked into the Motown Record Corporation in Detroit, Michigan, one day in the fall of 1961. He was there to audition for the studio bosses. Every day, other musicians came to Motown for the same reason. They all hoped to become stars. Stevie,

as he was called, was just like themÃ¢â ¬â •except that he was only eleven years old, and he was blind. Ã Â Stevie started off by playing the piano. Then he banged on the drums for a while. He was wearing dark sunglasses indoors, but plenty of young musicians thought wearing shades like that looked cool. And Stevie found his way around the instruments with no problem. Not everyone in the room realized Stevie was blind. Ã Â At first, Berry Gordy, who was the man in charge of Motown, didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t think Stevie was such a big deal. Gordy already had enough people who could play the piano and the drums. But after playing the drums, Stevie sang for a bit. Then he played the harmonica. Gordy was impressed that not only could Stevie do so many things well, but he did them with a wide smile on his face. Stevie clearly was enjoying himself, and everyone watching him was having a good time, too. Gordy decided then and there that he was going to sign Stevie to a recording contract. Ã Â That was more than fifty years ago. Today, Stevie is known around the world by his stage name, Stevie Wonder. He is a groundbreaking musician who has entertained millions of fans, performed in front of world leaders, and worked hard for social change. He has earned the highest honors awarded to composers, singers, musicians, and citizens of the United States. And he has done it all with the same positive attitude and wide smile on his face that he had in the Motown studio that day in 1961. Ã Â Ã Â Chapter 1:Ã Â Difficult BeginningsÃ Â Ã Â Music had always been a big part of Stevie WonderÃ¢â ¬â„¢s life. He was still a baby when he began pounding on bongo drums in his crib. When he was a little boy, he grabbed whatever spoons he could find in the kitchen and played on the pots and pans. When he was about five years old, a barber on his street gave him a harmonica, and Stevie learned to play it. Stevie never had any formal lessons, but he always seemed to know how to make music with any instrument that was available. Ã Â Stevie was born as Steveland Hardaway Judkins on May 13, 1950, in Saginaw, Michigan. His motherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s name was Lula Hardaway, and his fatherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s name was Calvin Judkins. Stevie had two older brothers, Milton and Calvin Jr. Two more brothers, Larry and Timmy, and a sister, Renee, were born in later years. Ã Â Stevie was born about six weeks earlier than expected. He probably was not blind when he was born. But when babies are born too early, they usually remain in the hospital until they are strong enough to go home. The hospital puts them in an incubator, which is supposed to keep conditions just right for them to be healthy. Stevie was in an incubator for more than a month. He seemed healthy in every way, except that doctors noticed his eyes didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t seem to respond to movement or light. They had not developed properly. Ã Â Naturally, Lula was upset at the news. She begged the doctors to do something to restore StevieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s sight, but there was nothing they could do. He was permanently blind. Ã Â Stevie couldnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t see, but his hearing was incredible. When he was growing up, his siblings would

drop a coin on a table. Ã¢â ¬Å“What is it, Stevie?Ã¢â ¬Â• they would ask. Ã¢â ¬Å“A dime,Ã¢â ¬Â• Stevie would reply, correctly. They would drop another coin. Ã¢â ¬Å“How about that one?Ã¢â ¬Â• they would ask. Ã¢â ¬Å“A quarter,Ã¢â ¬Â• Stevie would say. Right again. StevieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s hearing was so good that he could identify the coin simply by the sound it made. Ã Â Stevie was so tuned in to sounds that naturally he was drawn to music. It started with the bongo drums in his crib. StevieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s father gave those to him. Calvin Sr. had been a pretty good musician himself, and he taught Stevie songs and encouraged his sonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s love for music. However, Calvin didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t have a regular job. He would sometimes leave the family for long periods of time. No one knew where he was or what he was doing. When Calvin was around, he wasnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t very nice to StevieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s mother. Ã Â Lula thought that maybe in a bigger city Calvin could find a job and things would be better. So, when Stevie was four years old, the family moved about one hundred miles away to Detroit, on the eastern edge of Michigan. Ã Â Calvin joined Lula and the kids in Detroit, but he didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t change there. He still didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t work at a regular job, and he still went away sometimes. Ã Â Lula found a good job, though. Every morning, she would get up before the sun rose to work at a fish market. It was hard work, but she had a plan. At the time, the family lived in an apartment that wasnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t in a nice part of town. Lula wanted a better life for her kids. So she saved a little bit out of each paycheck and stuffed it under a mattress to hide it from Calvin. Ã Â When she had enough money, she made the first payment on a house in a good neighborhood. She moved there with her children, leaving Calvin behind.

Another bio that does not disappoint. The series is a wonderful way for kids to learn about a variety of people - my family really loves the whole series.

My third graders love these books!

I brought 2

Purchased as a gift. Have heard no complaints about them

Before I read this book I didn’t even know who Stevie Wonder. But now that I read this book, I feel like I have known him my entire life. this book is filled with lots of details and it is filled with interesting facts. I would definitely recommend this book.Written by a 9 year old

This book was perfect for my 3rd grader doing research on Stevie Wonder! Easy to read, informative and gave info in chronological order. There is whole page explanations on things a young reader may not understand when reading in text: what is a synthesizer? What is segregation? What are the Blues?. Gives a snapshot page of important events at the back of the book. Also has illustrations to help captivate a young reade. This had all the info my daughter needed in one place for her paper!

Thanks

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