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John's Secret Dreams: The John Lennon Story



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Synopsis

John Lennon’s influence on music and culture is legendary. From a young age he dreamed of fame and fortune. When he achieved it as one of the Beatles, he recognized the need for a deeper meaning in life. His inner search for happiness shaped his life and brought new dimension to the world of rock ’n’ roll.Ã Â Ã Â As a follow-up to their award-winning title, Martin’s Big Words, Doreen Rappaport and Bryan Collier present John Lennon’s life through a combination of narrative and song lyrics, cut-paper collage and watercolor art-capturing the energy and the essence of a man whose vision and creative genius continue to inspire people today.

Book Information

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Age Range: 1 and up

Grade Level: 1 - 3

Customer Reviews

Grade 5-8Ã¢â ¬â œUsing a combination of simple prose, song lyrics, and illustration, this heartfelt picture-book biography traces Lennon’s life from his childhood to his death. Striking in both its simplicity and complexity, it captures this enigmatic singer, artist, songwriter, and folk hero in a way that will move and fascinate those too young to remember the man but are surrounded by his music and myth. Collier’s remarkable illustrations begin on the cover from which Lennon’s emotionless face stares out from behind his trademark granny glasses. Inside the book, soft pastel circles appear everywhere. On some spreads, they are on the sidebars on which the text rests, accompanying an illustration. On others, they overtake the pagesÃ¢â ¬â œsometimes as simple

circles and other times incorporating themselves into the collage artwork, becoming records, or orange slices, or flashbulbs. Alternatively they trace over the illustrations, giving them a dreamlike appearance and reinforcing and celebrating Lennon’s messages as his hopes for the world. Rappaport’s text portrays him as a creative and tortured soul, referring only casually to his more controversial actions. His death is described simply as "murder" with no further details. His wishes for world peace and tolerance are reflected in most of the lyrics selected. This beautiful and stirring tribute will surely send readers to bookshelves and the music stores to learn more about the man.Ã¢â ¬â œJane Marino, Bronxville Public Library, NY Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Gr. 4-8. The creators of Martin’s Big Words (2001) use free-verse text and pictures that tumble across the pages to introduce Lennon to a new generation. As a child virtually abandoned by his parents, John found comfort in writing and drawing. Then rock and roll shook up his life, and a meeting with Paul McCartney sent it in a new direction. Lennon’s life was a panorama of talent, inspiration, dreams, and despair, and making it manageable for young readers is a mighty task. In some respects Rappaport and Collier succeed. The bold collage and watercolor artwork will draw curious eyes, and the staccato text and song lyrics provide a solid biographical framework. But as a whole, the book is overwhelming. Kids familiar with the music are the best audience, of course. Those who have heard "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds," for instance, will enjoy peering at the accompanying spread showing John surrounded by tangerine trees, whose fruit is replicated on his clothes (though here, the overriding color, maroon, doesn’t fit the mood). Some spreads, like the one showing legs and feet crossing Abbey Road, will resonate only with kids who understand the reference. This will work best with Lennon’s music playing in the background; kids will need that visceral connection to appreciate the textual and visual rhythms the book is trying to evoke. Ilene CooperCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

I am a fifth grade teacher but I totally bought this book for myself! I LOVE Doreen Rappaport and have several of her biographies. I was so excited to come across this one on Lennon. The illustrations are wonderful and the text is perfect - not too much detail, but enough to make it interesting. I loved how Lennon’s lyrics are weaved in and out throughout the text - typical of this author. Great book for any Beatles fan!

My 21 yr. old son is a huge fan of Lennon. He’s an art student and musician and this was his

favorite Christmas gift! Beautiful illustrations, fantastic paper quality! This was an excellent buy.

Great book in great shape.

Pairs well with ReadWorks comprehension units

Great book written in free verse!

I absolutely love this book. The illustrations are beautiful! The story is great and I lovethe way his song lyrics are incoorperated into the book.

In keeping with the truth, I must say it’s a lovely book just too old for the younger set and too little for the older set.

John Lennon was a peaceful poet who wanted the world to be more loving and understanding why is shown in this poignant picture book biography written by Doreen Rappaport and illustrated by Bryan Collier.The story itself is heartfelt and satisfying and the illustrations take you into John’s world. Showing some of the lyrics to famous Beatles and Lennon songs gives us clues into John’s life as any Beatles/John Lennon fan already knows. But his music was so much more than just about himself though he himself was his favorite subject.Published by Hyperion Books for Children.#PB #NF #biography #JohnLennon #YokoOno #TheBeatles #lyrics

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