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Dizzy



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Synopsis

From the author of FRIDA comes a jangly, jumpy, beboping book about Dizzy Gillespie, the clown prince of jazz.This is the story of Dizzy Gillespie, a real cool cat who must have been born with a horn in his hands, judging from the way he played the trumpet. Jazz was his ticket on a train to better days, and he left his hard life in a small town for New York City and the hottest band around. But did Dizzy stand straight and play right? NO! He was a clown. He hit high notes, low notes, never-been-heard notes, and before he knew it, Dizzy created a whole new music: BEBOP.This is a story about a boy who breaks all the rules -- and finds his own personal heaven along the way.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #648,211 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Jazz #163 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Musical #849 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 3-8Ã¢â ¬â œThrough a powerful marriage of rhythmic text and hip and surprising illustrations, the unorthodox creator of Bebop comes to life. Beaten regularly by his father, the young Gillespie found escape in a trumpet given to him by his music teacher. For the boy with the horn/fueled with a FIRE/that burned with every whooping,/JAZZ was like a fire extinguisher./It was coooooooool. He went on to become a crowd-pleasing performer, loving jazz because it ...was like breaking the rules,/like inventing new rules. Later, in New York, he began playing his own music. He called it Bebop: It was like he had taken a wrecking ball/and SMASHED IN/The House of Jazz,/till the walls came tumbling downÃ¢â ¬Â¦. Winter's lively writing pops with energy and begs to be read aloud. Qualls's acrylic, collage, and pencil illustrations swing across the large pages with

unique, jazzy rhythms, varying type sizes and colors, and playful perspectives, perfectly complementing the text. This is a book that has a message: Ã¢â ¬Â¦the very thing that had gotten him into trouble/so muchÃ¢â ¬â œ/being a clown, breaking all the rulesÃ¢â ¬â œ/had become the thing that made him greatÃ¢â ¬Â¦. But most important, it is a delightful story that introduces readers to an influential and unique American musician.Ã¢â ¬â œLee Bock, Glenbrook Elementary School, Pulaski, WI Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Starred Review There have been many books about jazz for young readers, a peculiar topic because, as a rule, it’s not a form of music that children have an affinity for, if they are familiar with it at all. But, together, Winter and Qualls make it work. That’s because Winter recognizes that if he can get readers interested in a character--in this case, trumpet revolutionary Dizzy Gillespie--they will want to learn more about his music. And Qualls is able to translate the story (and the music) into shapes and colors that undulate and stream across the pages with a beat and bounce of their own. The story of "one real cool cat" begins with a South Carolina childhood full of blue notes. Poor, abused, and angry, young John Birks Gillespie has his life turned around after a teacher gives him a trumpet. In a two-page spread, a river of red--his anger in living color--bursts out of Gillespie’s new horn as he blows "REALLY LOUD." An explanation of jazz follows, and it is simple enough for the audience: "You took a melody and played it all different ways . . . changed every phrase--it was crazy." That is followed up with a bit more illumination dear to kids’ hearts: "If a melody was like a rule, jazz was like breaking the rules, like inventing new rules. Jazz was like getting into trouble." Tracing Gillespie’s ascent in the New York jazz world of the early 1940s, the story catches the excitement of the city, meshing it with the trumpeter’s crazy personality (which earned him the nickname Dizzy); meanwhile, the artwork zigs and zags in color combinations that evoke the nightclub scene--greens, tans, a bit of peach, all counterpointed with muted grays. An author’s note fills out Dizzy’s story and lauds him for a personal life that was as composed as his music was wild. Turn up the stereo: kids will want to hear his music for themselves. Bill OttCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

The book did not seem as new as the seller stated. The paper cover was missing and many of the pages were "dog eared".Other than that, the story is great, my son and his grandfather love it.

I purchased this for my nephew along with other books. I think this is a great gift idea and it went

over well with his parents.

Pristine condition, great book...

Everything was great!

I’m a read aloud mom with a family of boys. To address the beatings in this book - bad things, sad things happen in life. We need to develop the character, the manliness, to rise above the bad stuff. To not be crushed, but to grow up, be respectable, be responsible anyway. Life isn’t fair. It isn’t fair that some little boys are beaten by their fathers. It isn’t fair that some musicians grow up to be world famous. Fairness has nothing to do with it. It’s about character, and being willing to work hard, and overcoming problems and the circumstances of life to be successful.Loved the comment in the endnotes: Dizzy coached many young musicians over 5 decades, he never used drugs, and he stayed married to his wife. Inspirational.I loved the read-aloud rhythms of this book. Share this one with your family. If you need to, skip the eight pages of beatings. But don’t miss the rest of the book!

The beginning of this book made me so sad and rightly so but as the book pulled me through it’s story, I felt the life of music fill me as it must have filled Dizzy (who was not actually named that, to find out how he got the name you will have to read this book.)A powerful and binding biography about the one and only Dizzy Gillespie.Written by Jonah Winter, illustrated by Sean Qualls and published by Arthur A. Levine Books.#PB #biography #mustread #diverse #bullying #music #jazz

I do not like jazz music. At all. But this biography of jazz great Dizzy Gillespie is so engaging. It combines fabulous, playful language with lots of facts plus insight into what made Dizzy so great. Excellent picture book biography!

I have read this book and studied the illustrations several times now and still have not made up my mind about "Dizzy." Why so difficult? You see, that’s the problem--I don’t know. Let me walk you through the story.I love the colors: pinks, chocolates, purples, grays, blacks, pale turquoise, and burgundy. The end pages are chocolate--symbolic of the color of Dizzy Gillespie’s skin, then following the new trend in children’s books--beginning the illustrations before even reaching the title page. There are two angels blowing their trumpets, announcing the delivery of a new baby--little John Birks Gillespie to a man in overalls and a woman in an orange dress walking down a country

road in South Carolina."This is the story of one real COOL cat...born very poor and very tough." Displayed against rose pink walls are three boys, one downcast and two ugly-faced. The other boys beat up John Birks, until "one day he just couldn't take it anymore...and he whooped the living tar out of some big bully." Now John is ugly-faced, too. Those rose pink walls are smeary gray and rusty pink."He was always mad./ You see, his dad/ was always beating on HIM...." And a big-fisted, ugly-faced man stands over a puzzled little boy. The colors are grays and browns with one wine-colored rug because---the next two pages show a boy with a trumpet given to him by his music teacher. He blasts his anger through that horn and the sound is clotted-blood-red, pink, smeary white.He plays and plays until the pages turn pale pink and show birds and butterflies (though they are gray). Even his shadow is gray, but the music, ah, the music has turned a smooth wine red. What he learns to play is JAZZ. "Jazz was like getting in trouble--it was FUN!"Very pale yellows and somber ochres appear in the illustrations when he takes a train to Philly and gets a job in a jazz band. But the boy, now a man, uses shenanigans on stage for attention. "He'd fall off his chair...flail around willy-nilly" against a pale turquoise background. Finally, the musicians start to call him "Dizzy" because of his behavior.In New York Dizzy finds himself, "soaking it in, the rumble and the roar/of the A train and the brass and the saxes and the drums/ of the jazz clubs." Lavenders, purply-reds, lilacs, grays find their way in the illustrations. He starts puffing out his cheeks for attention. During breaks, up on the roof, he starts to teach other "hepcats...how to play 'dizzy.'" The grays and pinks and lilacs become sophisticated, as does the color of his music.By the time his name is on the billboards his music is so smooth out of his trumpet like the color of fine aged red wine, but this music is BEBOP, "going ziddly dee-boo-dah-boo/ hiddly on his horn...."The last image of Dizzy shows him playing his Bebop in Jazz Heaven with the angel Gabriel against pale yellows and ochres. Dizzy wears an angel's crown with a white circular halo. An Author's Note concludes the book by providing biographical and musical notes about the man called Dizzy Gillespie, followed by two chocolate pages. The back cover displays one word--Bebop designed against all the loveliest colors of the book.This book is an introduction to one of the great jazz musicians. Despite my aversion toward the "ugly" faces, they did have a role in creating the Dizzy we know and love. I'm thinking I like this book very much. But the proof is in the pudding. Will children like it? I'm also thinking I will pair the book with a recording by Dizzy Gillespie--maybe "Night in Tunisia" in a two-for-one lesson. Dizzy and Bebop--an introduction to great jazz music. Yep, I'm thinking this is a very good book.

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