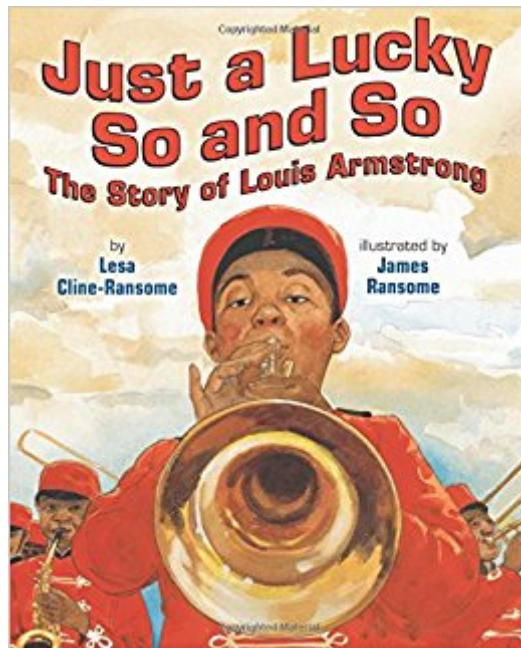




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Just A Lucky So And So: The Story Of Louis Armstrong



Synopsis

Louis Armstrong has been called the most important improviser in the history of jazz. Although his New Orleans neighborhood was poor in nearly everything else, it was rich in superb music. Young Louis took it all in, especially the cornet blowing of Joe "King" Oliver. But after a run in with the police, 11-year-old Louis was sent away to the Colored Waif's Home for Boys where he became a disciplined musician in the school's revered marching band. By the time he returned to his neighborhood, the "King" himself became his mentor and invited Armstrong to play with him in Chicago. Here is a joyful tribute to the virtuoso musician and buoyant personality who introduced much of the world to jazz.

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Holiday House (February 27, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0823434281

ISBN-13: 978-0823434282

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.6 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,644,043 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #47 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Jazz #366 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Musical #1973 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 3 • The iconic and groundbreaking musician gets a gorgeous picture book biography from the wife-and-husband team who created *Benny Goodman and Teddy Wilson: Taking the Stage as the First Black-and-White Jazz Band in History* (Holiday House, 2014). The mostly lyrical work touches upon the jazz performer's humble beginnings in New Orleans, his musical influences, and his career highlights. The watercolor illustrations elevate the narrative; ranging in color from murky browns to gem-toned hues. Ransome's depictions are reminiscent of Jerry Pinkney's artwork in *Marilyn Nelson's Sweethearts of Rhythm: The Story of the Greatest All-Girl Swing Band in the World* (Dial, 2009). The variation of design, with square-shaped insets, joy-filled profiles, and

vivacious dance scenes, makes the paintings reverberate off the page. The sometimes dry text doesn't shy away from the not-so-lucky moments of the entertainer's early life, including his scrapes with the law, which landed him at the Colored Waif's Home for Boys. One scene, in which a young Armstrong holds a gun at a New Year's Eve celebration, may shock sensitive readers. It was at this home where Armstrong found his true calling as a musician. Quotations from Armstrong are sprinkled throughout, but, unfortunately, source notes aren't provided. However, the detailed author's note offers more background information for young researchers, and the back matter includes age-appropriate further reading and links to websites that feature archive photos and sound recordings. Armstrong's connection to the "Just a Lucky So and So" referenced in the title, a song written by Duke Ellington and David Mack, which Armstrong and Ellington performed on a famous 1961 recording, is fleshed out in the author's note but doesn't receive much elaboration in the text. VERDICT A solid choice for school libraries and collections looking to freshen up biography collections for school-age readers. —Shelley Diaz, School Library Journal

Lesa Cline-Ransome Lesa Cline-Ransome was written ten picture books for children including an ALA Notable Book. James E. Ransome's numerous accolades include a Coretta Scott King Award. The Ransomes live in Rhinebeck, New York.

What a wonderful book about Louis Armstrong! Both the text and the illustrations are stellar. Trust me, I'm a librarian. Highly recommended for elementary school librariesand for EVERYONE!

Perfect for young readers according to my daughter/teacher who keeps a classroom library for her students.

Biography picture books are so much fun to read and Just a Lucky So and So does not disappoint. Louis Armstrong began life in what many would consider to be a rough start: living in poverty, working hard manual labor to help earn money for his family, and having a number of run-ins with the law causing him to be sent away to a home for boys. However Louis found the sound of jazz at a young age. He started playing a tin horn and then with a five-dollar loan he was able to purchase a second-hand cornet. Over time and with mentorship Armstrong's musical ability opened doors for him. He traveled throughout the United States and Europe, recorded records in Hollywood, and performed on Broadway. Lesa Cline-Ransome has packed numerous examples of figurative language throughout the story; while James Ransome has created illustrations that lift off

the page. There are many famous musicians from New Orleans, musical instruments and terms mentioned in the book. Making this a great read aloud for elementary music teachers. After reading the book students would benefit from listening to Louis Armstrong play. Finally inside the back cover are additional books, places to visit, and websites for students to research.

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