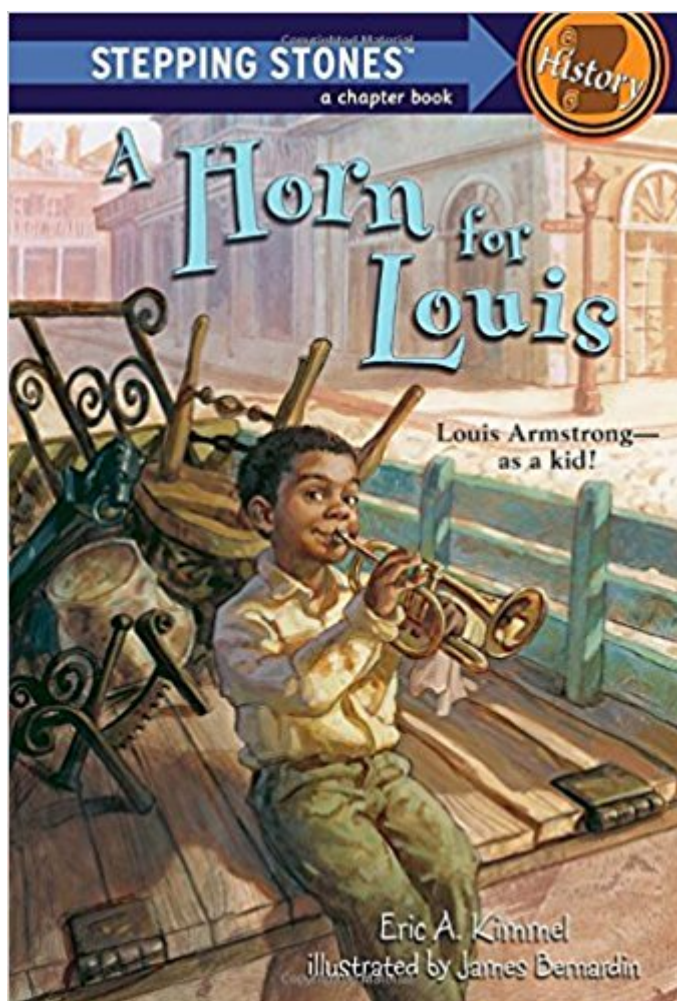


The book was found

A Horn For Louis: Louis Armstrong--as A Kid! (A Stepping Stone Book(TM))



Synopsis

How did famous New Orleans jazz trumpet player Louis Armstrong get his first horn?

Seven-year-old Louis Armstrong was too poor to buy a real instrument. He didn't even go to school. To help his mother pay the rent, every day he rode a junk wagon through the streets of New Orleans, playing a tin horn and collecting stuff people didn't want. Then one day, the junk wagon passed a pawn shop with a gleaming brass trumpet in the window. . . . With messages about hard work, persistence, hope, tolerance, cooperation, trust, and friendship, *A Horn for Louis* is perfect for aspiring young musicians and nonfiction fans alike! *History Stepping Stones* now feature updated content that emphasizes Common Core and today's renewed interest in nonfiction. Perfect for home, school, and library bookshelves!

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0560 (What's this?)

Series: A Stepping Stone Book(TM)

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (November 14, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375840052

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.2 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #539,371 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Jazz](#) #138 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Musical](#) #417 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1900s](#)

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

Grade 2-4 Adapted from an unpublished memoir, this beginning chapter book is an account of Armstrong's youthful acquisition of his first true horn. It also offers a snapshot of New Orleans's Brick Row at the turn of the 20th century that reveals the hardship yet intimate connection of its residents. Streets and neighborhoods come to life with the sights and sounds of the city's

multiethnic communities. Young Louis lived in a rooming house with his mother and sister and dreamed of a bedroom of his own, with a real bed instead of quilts on the floor, and he helped to support the family. His musical gifts became apparent early on to those on the streets as he revealed a talent beyond the capabilities of a seven-year-old playing a tin horn without a mouthpiece. Kimmels skilled narrative accentuates the diversity of the boys surroundings and the early influence of local music upon his innate gift. Bernardins dynamic black-and-white artwork captures the vivacious subject well and includes many period and cultural details. This biographical slice-of-life reveals much about the background of this famed musician. Simple sentence structure provides encouragement for fledgling readers and makes this an entertaining addition for most collections. --Mary Elam, Forman Elementary School, Plano, TX Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 2-4. During his lifetime, Louis Armstrong offered at least two stories of how he started playing the trumpet. In this version, Kimmel retells how a Russian immigrant family paved the way for Armstrong to become the most famous jazz player in history. Seven-year-old Armstrong works for Karnofsky's, collecting junk to support his family. He knows little about being Jewish but recognizes how unusual it is for a white family to treat him so well. When the Karnofskys give him a cornet for Hanukkah, they fulfill his wish to own a real horn. By downplaying the gritty details of poverty in Armstrong's family and neighborhood, Kimmel sacrifices historical authenticity, but his vibrant images of the rich culture of New Orleans in the early 1900s, with its hot jazz scene, ethnic diversity, and Mississippi River setting, will captivate readers. Despite a slight discrepancy between narrative descriptions and the jacket art, Bernardin's realistic cover presents a vibrant image of young Armstrong, with a bit of the Crescent City in the background. Black-and-white inside art completes the package. Nancy Kim Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is tailored to younger readers than similar books available on . It focuses mainly on his economic disadvantages, passion for the horn and the jewish family that employed him. It dedicates a significant amount of time to explaining jewish customs. I was disappointed it neglected to include much beyond this.

An amazing story for Black history month and very easy to create lesson plans and activities for.

NOT A SHORT BOOK FOR THE MUSIC CLASSROOM But a cute book

This nicely illustrated little book is a great way to introduce kids to the life and music of Louis Armstrong. The biographical information dramatized is accurate (according to the latest footnoted biography of Pops by Terry Teachout -- also recommended) and presented in an engaging way. Highly recommended!

Children's books that take place in New Orleans have started popping up like daisies in a field. Not too long ago I discovered "Maggie's Amerikay" by Barbara Timberlake Russell, which discussed the mixing of Irish and former slaves in The Big Easy. And now I've found Eric A. Kimmel's, "A Horn For Louis" which in turn discusses the mixing of former slaves and Jews in The Big Easy. Now I consider myself to be a number one fan of author Kimmel's remarkable picture book, "Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock", so I was intrigued by this particular title. Kimmel has attempted to write an early chapter book on the slightly fictionalized youth of Louis Armstrong. Early chapter books, by the way, are rarities. Finding a well-written story that adheres to simple words and small chapters but STILL seems interesting... well that's a toughie. Few writers are up to the challenge. A big round of applause then to Mr. Kimmel who not only brings us some great factual information but a story with a full helping of heart, guts, and sass. A rare and wonderful find. It's 1907 and young Louis Armstrong is off to work. He may only be a kid, but with his job at the Karnofsky junkyard he's bringing in a much-needed dollar a day for his mom and kid sister. It doesn't hurt that the Karnofskys are wonderful people. They feed Louis great food like kasha and black bread and treat him like a member of the family. On this particular day, it's the first night of Hanukkah. Louis doesn't know much about the holiday, but he knows how to do his job on the junk cart. With a little dinky tin horn that he keeps in his pocket, the boy is able to announce to customers that the junk cart is near. Louis yearns to someday be a brilliant musician like his idol Joe Oliver, the man the people call King. Unfortunately, a clash with some local boys ends with Louis destroying his little tin horn. It'd be great if he could buy beautiful new horn, but he just doesn't have the money. Fortunately for him, it's Hanukkah and the Karnofskys are not going to rest until Louis Armstrong gets a horn of his own. In his Author's Note, Kimmel mentions that he personally went to New Orleans to do some research on this book. It seems to me that he must have written the story just before the tragic events of Hurricane Katrina. The book deftly captures street names, neighborhoods, and little details that most young reader titles would eschew in favor of plot. That's what sets "A Horn For Louis" outside

of the pack. Add in the multiple facts about Jewish immigrants to America, and a full glossary of Yiddish terms, AS WELL as a really remarkable Bibliography, and you have one of the finest titles for early chapter readers to hit the market in quite some time. That's not even mentioning the black and white illustrations by James Bernardin either. Bernardin gives us a Louis Armstrong that feels and looks realistic. This kid has a spark of life to him. The pictures in this book are plentiful and Bernardin is just as adept at portraying a New Orleans mausoleum as he is at showing Louis buttoning and unbuttoning his shoes. So let's do some recap here. You've got an award-winning author with a gift of the gab and an illustrator with some artistic chops to match. You have tons of factual information, great source notes, and a glossary of terms for spice. Top it all off by noticing that this is an early chapter book (one of the most neglected literary forms in children's literature) and you've got yourself a fabulous, nay necessary, addition to your library. There is no excuse for not purchasing this book. It's as good as it gets and then some.

This simple chapter book takes an episode from the life of jazz great Louis Armstrong and makes it accessible to children. At the same time, it provides a glimpse into Armstrong's positive relationship with a Jewish family in New Orleans, making the book of particular interest for Jewish readers. As a young boy, Louis worked on a junk wagon owned by the Jewish Karnofsky family. He attracted customers to the wagon with his burgeoning musical talent by playing on a simple toy horn. The incident related in this book shows how the toy was lost, and how the kindly Karnofskys helped him obtain his first real horn. Kimmel brings the characters to life in this engaging tale. The rough life of Storyville is whitewashed, but this is appropriate in the context of a book for youngsters. The focus remains on the relationships between Louis and his loved ones, and on his dreams of becoming a great musician. The book makes an excellent introduction to Louis Armstrong as a famous personality and to the importance of jazz in the American experience. At the same time, it provides an encouraging look at interracial and interfaith relations in our history. An unusual but desirable selection for Jewish libraries serving children. Recommended for ages 7 -10. Reviewed by Heidi Estrin

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