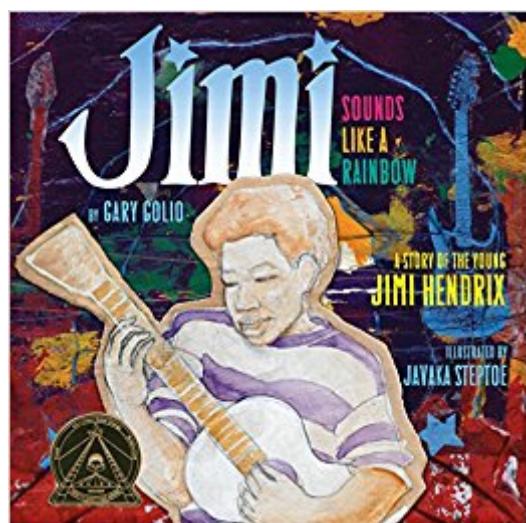


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# Jimi: Sounds Like A Rainbow: A Story Of The Young Jimi Hendrix



## **Synopsis**

Jimi Hendrix was many things: a superstar, a rebel, a hero, an innovator. But first, he was a boy named Jimmy who loved to draw and paint and listen to records. A boy who played air guitar with a broomstick and longed for a real guitar of his own. A boy who asked himself a question: Could someone paint pictures with sound? This is a story of a talented child who learns to see, hear, and interpret the world around him in his own unique way. It is also a story of a determined kid with a vision, who worked hard to become a devoted and masterful artist. Jimi Hendrix--a groundbreaking performer whose music shook the very foundations of rock 'n' roll.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: AD900L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Clarion Books; First Edition edition (October 4, 2010)

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Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #108,099 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Rock #28 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Musical #41 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Performing Arts

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## **Customer Reviews**

Gr 4-8 "Before he was famous, little Jimmy Hendrix tuned into a world colored with the sounds of the city outside the Seattle boarding house where he lived with his father. As a boy he strove to reproduce those sounds on his one-string ukulele, and eventually on a secondhand guitar. Golio's lyrical text sings with delicious description, and Steptoe's wildly colored mixed-media illustrations show the hues of the boy's imagination, with Hendrix always standing out from his surroundings. The story itself focuses on the musician's rise to fame, with a supplementary note and a bibliography providing more detailed background information. His tragic death is dealt with in a separate author's note, accompanied by a list of resources about substance abuse. A fascinating

"Illustrator's Note" illuminates the process behind the intriguing artwork and underscores the book's theme of exploring the creative process. This book is likely to fascinate older children and reluctant readers who might be familiar with Hendrix's music, and could easily be tied into art and music curricula. Kathleen Kelly MacMillan, Carroll County Public Library, MD © Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Although Jimi Hendrix's music typically sits in the wheelhouse of teenagers discovering their countercultural streak, this picture book deigns to introduce the revolutionary musician to younger readers. By no means a straight bio, it describes his formative early life with lines like "A truck engine backfired, pounding like a bass drum, as a neighbor's rake played snare against the sidewalk. . . . The sounds of life were calling out, and Jimmy Hendrix wanted to answer them." It is, however, a convincing portrait of a boy who was electrified by music and heard the world very differently from anyone else; his single-minded drive to "paint with sound" in his own fashion will inspire young artists of all stripes. Steptoe's chaotic, textured artwork screeches in feedback wails on the page, filled with impressions in lieu of representations. Hendrix's struggle with drugs is addressed in an afterword, but as pure virtuoso, guitar heroes don't get any bigger, and readers with hands itching for frets will be entranced. Grades 3-5. --Ian Chipman

This is a beautifully written book well in keeping with Hendrix' philosophy and love of music as expressionistic art! The book itself is a work of art and the words poetic. I very much appreciate the educational aspects of this book and the references section in the back in regards to addiction and emotional troubles. I also love the further reading info on Jimi Hendrix and his wonderful music! I would love to see all children's books flow to the artistic message-driven and insight-laden format this book so significantly and respectfully conveys. BRAVO TO THE AUTHORS/ARTISTS/CREATORS OF THIS WONDERFUL READ! My six-year-old daughter loves it!! And her mother does too (I keep reading it even after my daughter falls asleep)!!Update: 09/22/2012:I gave this book last week as a reading addition to my daughter's first grade class; her teacher loves it and even spoke about other unique musicians and artists to the kids; this book is beautiful and opened other interests for the teachers and the kids!

This book has wonderful stories illustrated in a beautiful and creative way. Gary Golio seems to have connected with both children and Jimmy while bringing his own illustrative style to express an overall joyful and playful mood to the piece. While the artist, Javaka Steptoe, uses a sort of painting

collage with a wonderful pallet of colors to draw you further in to the text. It is only a guess, but I feel that the artist must have spent some time at the actual locations and drawn from that experience to create these illustrations. Jimi Sounds Like A Rainbow is an amazing idea that has been wonderfully executed!

Great for my first graders

Awesome book. This was on my 3rd grader's summer reading list. We all loved the book. It's a great keepsake and would also make a great gift.

Neat story, dynamite animation--artist's use of color definately helped bring out the best in this childhood story of Jimi Hendrix. Would especially recommend this to Hendrix fans and children as well.

Excellent!

This is a wonderful book - something new to consider for Black History Month or any school library. Incredibly engaging with beautiful illustrations and great writing. Different from any other children's book out there.

If you teach 5th grade you will love this book, because it packed with figurative language. I spent a whole week dissecting it with students. It had similes, onomatopeia, etc.

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