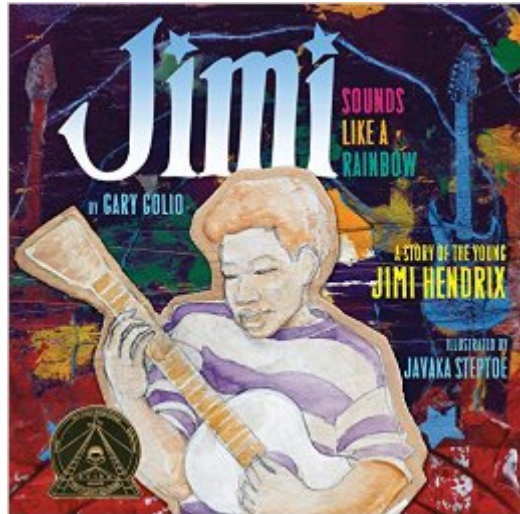


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# Jimi: Sounds Like A Rainbow: A Story Of The Young Jimi Hendrix



## 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

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

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #612,095 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Rock #133 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Performing Arts #149 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Musical

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

At first glance, Jimi Hendrix, who tragically died at age 27 from a combination of prescription drugs and alcohol, may seem like an unlikely subject for a picture book. But Golio, an artist and musician himself as well as an author, manages to bring to life Jimi as a young boy and his unique way of looking at the world. What we might think of as ordinary sounds took on extraordinary colors to this musically gifted young boy. "A child was laughing, squealing like a clarinet on one of Dad's big band records," writes Golio. Music of all kinds set off "fireworks in his mind," and he begs for a guitar of his own. With his guitar, he could make a "rainbow of sounds," and with these visual analogies, Golio explains how Hendrix taught his guitar to make unconventional sounds, using it "as an artist

uses paint."Golio's text is set off by extraordinary collage illustrations by Javaka Steptoe which evoke the psychedelic colors and shapes of the 1960's. The illustrations with their wild colors (i.e. Hendrix painted completely in shades of purple and blue) and varied textures suggest the rainbow of sounds produced by Hendrix' guitar. Jimi has already received starred reviews in Kirkus and School Library Journal and would be a great purchase for libraries as well as parents who would like to share one of rock's legends with their children.

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 daughters 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 could prove to be a ground-breaking work. Golio uses words like electric current, flashing them at the reader in a story of sound and color, telling the story of a young Jimi Hendrix and his dream of creating any and every sensation - with a guitar. Steptoe's illustrations lie somewhere between sculpture and painting, connecting - in my mind at least - Rauschenberg and Ezra Jack Keats, but emerging totally original and perfectly fitted with the text. This could be the book that allows authors and illustrators of books for younger readers to tackle subjects like 60s and 70s rock stars, Beat authors, and 'hands-off' subjects ranging from Arthur Rimbaud to Kurt Cobain. Golio's book reminds us that all were young, and despite - or because of - troubled lives and experiences, they managed to create works of art of honesty and original brilliance, transforming our own lives in the process.

Bold and imaginative illustrations match the biography of young Jimmy and bring life to the words on the page, making it easy to grasp how Jimmy felt and what that music inside his head sounded like. Golio and Steptoe successfully capture the essence of the fever this young musician felt and compel young readers to hear their own music, encouraging them to paint with brush and musical

instrument. After a vivid story, the author provides further biography and deal straight on with the fact that Hendrix experimented with drugs. Sources are provided for children to help them avoid drug usage. - Biblio Reads Children's Book Review

Jimi Hendrix was a flamboyant rock icon who flamed out instead of fading away due to his also being a substance abuser who dabbled in everything from alcohol to marijuana to amphetamines to hashish to heroin to LSD before succumbing at the tender age of 27 to a combination of red wine and sleeping pills. Ostensibly enough time has elapsed since his passing that Hendrix can now serve as a role model to children, at least in terms of overcoming childhood adversity, exploring one's creativity and, of course, making beautiful music. Adults familiar with Hendrix's hits are more apt to appreciate how author Gary Golio has imperceptibly woven allusions to songs like "The Wind Cries Mary" and "Purple Haze" right into the story. A little less subtle are Javaka Steptoe's psychedelic illustrations evocative of flower children fave Peter Max. Read the full review and more book reviews from AALBC.com on your Kindle Edition

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.

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!

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