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# John's Secret Dreams: The John Lennon Story



## Synopsis

John Lennon's influence on music and culture is legendary. From a young age he dreamed of fame and fortune. When he achieved it as one of the Beatles, he recognized the need for a deeper meaning in life. His inner search for happiness shaped his life and brought new dimension to the world of rock 'n' roll. As a follow-up to their award-winning title, *Martin's Big Words*, Doreen Rappaport and Bryan Collier present John Lennon's life through a combination of narrative and song lyrics, cut-paper collage and watercolor art-capturing the energy and the essence of a man whose vision and creative genius continue to inspire people today.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 1 and up

Grade Level: 1 - 3

## Customer Reviews

...and the world will live as one. These inspirational words from John Lennon from his 1971 mega hit, "Imagine" beautifully underscore this book. The gentle illustrations of John as a young boy to the man he became are sure to delight all ages. This is a wonderful way to introduce children to the Chief Beatle, the man who founded the World's Number One Band as well as to see what influences helped John create the poignant lyrics that he did. John's sad classic, "Mother" was about how his natural mother Julia very reluctantly turned him over to her older sister and brother-in-law to raise; "Imagine" was the vision that John had for a peaceful world where we all live as one. Please read this book and share it with somebody. It is not only a deeply moving book, it is one that will resonate in the heart and mind as well.

For children whose parents steeped them in the Beatles as mine did, this book of swimming, beautiful collages about the life of John Lennon is a wonderful treat. The story is essentially a highlight of the good and the not-so-good parts of John's life and the many poignant, moving, and splendidly beautiful things he had to say. It deals with the sadness of John's abandonment by his mother ("Mother, you had me, I never had you"), the jubilation of creating a rock'n'roll phenomenon that shook the world and his wild sense of the absurd (Goo Goo Ga'Joob!). The book is punctuated by lyrics from many Beatles songs and is, basically, very moving. Although a few aspects of John's life mentioned in the book, divorcing his wife to marry Yoko Ono for example, may take a bit of explanation for younger children they are certainly important parts of John's life. The message of the book is John's constant message to the world: "Yes" is the answer and Love is all you need.

I am a fifth grade teacher but I totally bought this book for myself! I LOVE Doreen Rappaport and have several of her biographies. I was so excited to come across this one on Lennon. The illustrations are wonderful and the text is perfect - not too much detail, but enough to make it interesting. I loved how Lennon's lyrics are weaved in and out throughout the text - typical of this author. Great book for any Beatles fan!

John's Secret Dreams by Donna Rappaport, illustrated by Bryan Collier Everyone will recognize John Lennon on the front cover of this book and will want to collect this image created by the illustrator Bryan Collier. It's the story of John. Lyrically told, the words express meaning and history. He grows up in London, learns to express himself and creates music that is diverse, humanizing and that searches for peace. A dream, maybe, but John was a man of his time and his contributions live on. All this is captured in this captivating book.

Beatles fans will love sharing this beautifully illustrated mini-picture book biography of John Lennon with their children. The narrative and multi-media images are woven charmingly together with Beatles lyrics and there is an interesting forward written by both the author and the illustrator describing their approach to creating this work.

My 21 yr. old son is a huge fan of Lennon. He's an art student and musician and this was his favorite Christmas gift! Beautiful illustrations, fantastic paper quality! This was an excellent buy.

wonderfully illustrated chronicle of john lennon's life, music and legacy. this is a great book for introducing your children to the music of the Beatles.

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