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When The Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc And The Creation Of Hip Hop (Coretta Scott King - John Steptoe Award For New Talent)



Synopsis

A John Steptoe New Talent Award Winner Before there was hip hop, there was DJ Kool Herc. On a hot day at the end of summer in 1973 Cindy Campbell threw a back-to-school party at a park in the South Bronx. Her brother, Clive Campbell, spun the records. He had a new way of playing the music to make the breaks—the musical interludes between verses—longer for dancing. He called himself DJ Kool Herc and this is *When the Beat Was Born*. From his childhood in Jamaica to his youth in the Bronx, Laban Carrick Hill's book tells how Kool Herc came to be a DJ, how kids in gangs stopped fighting in order to breakdance, and how the music he invented went on to define a culture and transform the world.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 910L (What's this?)

Series: Coretta Scott King - John Steptoe Award for New Talent

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (26 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #49,865 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Rap & Hip-Hop #12 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Musical

Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 1 - 5

Customer Reviews

At the American Library Association's mid-winter Conference last month I spotted this new children's book on the "true" history of Hip Hop music and rap and recently got a copy. It's hard to believe that it's been 40 years (!) since a replanted Jamaican kid - Clive Campbell (known to his friends as Little Clive - decided to get two record turntables together (and some big speakers) to spin the instrumental portion of R&B records (known as the "beats") for his friends in his Bronx, NY neighborhood. At the same time he started calling out the kids' names during the music. This was

the beginning of "DJ"-ing and Hip Hop (a name coined by DJ Lovebug Starski in that same year. Rap and "Hip Hop" have come a long way (both for good and bad) since then but it started innocently with dance parties to keep gangs off the streets. The author - Laban Garrick Hill - didn't discover Hip Hop until 1980 but he uses his story to go back to the beginning and obviously did his research. The 10-inch by 10-inch book is slim - at xx pages - but, in addition to the colorfully illustrated story, the author provides a well written two-page "Author's Note" as well as a detailed "Timeline" of major events from 1973, when high school student Kevin Donovan changes his name to Afrika Bambaataa and forms Zulu Nation to 1988 when the Beastie Boys album took hip hop to the mainstream audience. Not only will reading - or giving this book - to a child help them understand that "hip hop" was not originally about "commercializing" the culture with clothes and x-rated raps. It was about fun. A lot has changed in those forty years - 40? Really? - but this book takes us back to the beginning. A wonderful volume and highly recommended. I hope you found this review both informative and helpful. Steve Ramm "Anything Phonographic"

I teach music to kids who don't come from the best homes. I used this book as a jumping off point for dance music and some history. My kids, who wouldn't listen to anything else when I taught them, or other books, listened to this one. They loved it, and it was great for a lot of them because they listen to rap, and so this is a good intro into some history about hip hop and rap.

Entertaining and historically accurate. Vibrant illustrations too. Both my son and I enjoyed reading it. My husband loved it too as this is his Era and thought it is important to make sure everyone knows the real hip hop history

When the Beat Was Born is a surprisingly educational and informative picture book about the early days of the hip hop scene and someone who helped bring together people through a lifestyle. This filled in some gaps in my own understanding of the creation of hip hop, break dancing, and the influence on the current scene. I had never heard of DJ Kool Herc. His personal story is as much hip hop as the music he helped create. The illustrations have the feel of graffiti art fitting to the topic and go with the text well without either feeling out of place or taking over the overall feel of the book. This is a wonderfully informative book that includes a bibliography for people who want to know more and a timeline of important events in hip hop in the 1970s and 80s.

This is the masterfully told story of the kid that popularized hip-hop, DJ Kool Herc. This easy reader

is engaging. It tells the life story of Clive, a boy that came from Kingston, Jamaica to New York with an idea of how to express rap, rhyme and break dancing. This book expresses emotions, determination and creativity as Clive is transformed into the kind of DJ he wants to be. From rocking his first party, creating his own crew of rappers, to a national personality and recording artist, there is so much music history on the pages and well characterized in the paintings on every page. The book also contains a chronology of DJ Kool Herc's hip hop journey and life changing remarks from the author. This book is a Coretta Scott King Award Winner.

this book is so cute and the pictures was so colorful, it was what I had expected and more. it was brought for my daughter home school book report and it must of been good she loved reading it.thank you

Even if you don't love music it's an inspiring story of believing in yourself and your dreams! Hard work and dedication are a winning combination. it is also great to have some diversity on the shelf!

I bought this for my son but he's a bit too young for it yet, so I read it myself. I LOVE it! Why isn't learning about the TRUE roots of hip hop more mainstream?!?!?!? It's an engaging and educational read about how this cutting edge form of music came to be. I felt like I was watching an animated short film as I was reading because the artwork is so dynamic and vibrant. A smart and gorgeous work of art!

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