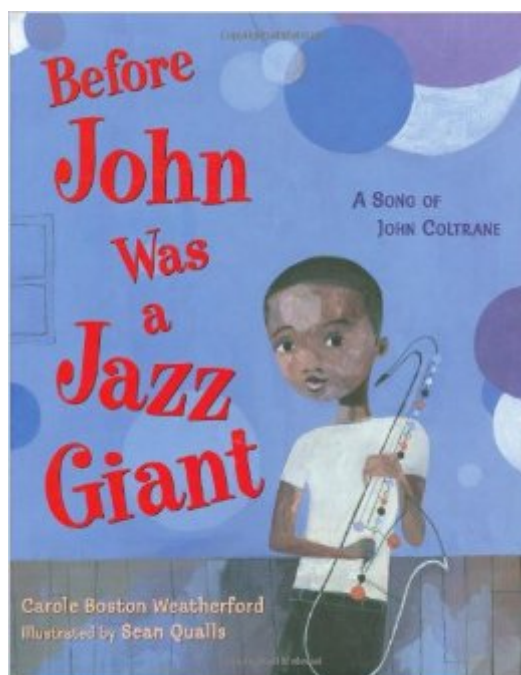


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# Before John Was A Jazz Giant: A Song Of John Coltrane



## Synopsis

Young John Coltrane was all ears. And there was a lot to hear growing up in the South in the 1930s: preachers praying, music on the radio, the bustling of the household. These vivid noises shaped John's own sound as a musician. Carole Boston Weatherford and Sean Qualls have composed an amazingly rich hymn to the childhood of jazz legend John Coltrane. *Before John Was a Jazz Giant* is a 2009 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Book and a 2009 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1090L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Henry Holt and Co. (BYR); First Edition edition (April 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0805079947

ISBN-13: 978-0805079944

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.3 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (15 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #591,551 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Jazz #128 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Performing Arts #143 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Musical

Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

## Customer Reviews

Picture books about jazz are the oddest little critters, aren't they? There are a surprising number of them, first of all. Sometimes I think that all the rock and roll, blues, and opera picture books combined can't compare in number to the sheer amounts of jazz-related texts that cross library doorsteps every year. Much of this, I suspect, has much to do with illustrators feeling a kinship with that particular style of music. If jazz is an improvisational art, then it must burn in the bones of many an illustrator to bring that very concept to life. So it is that Chris Raschka comes out with his *Charlie Parker Played Be Bop* and *Mysterious Thelonious* titles while Walter Dean Myers and his son extol the multiple virtues of Jazz itself. Sean Qualls has always taken a bent that I find more practical. First he illustrated Jonah Winter's great picture book biography of Dizzy Gillespie *Dizzy* and now,

with author Carole Boston Weatherford by his side, he has John Coltrane dead in his sights. "Before John Was a Jazz Giant" won't answer any child's questions about what jazz is or why John Coltrane is important. At its core, it's just a simple story of a boy growing to love music and how that affects him later when he's an adult.

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