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Bird & Diz



Synopsis

An award-winning author and a Caldecott Medalist improvise a playful tribute to the creators of bebop—“Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie. When sax player Charlie “Bird” Parker and trumpeter John “Dizzy” Gillespie make music together, they toss notes back and forth like a game of tag and chase each other with sounds. As Dizzy’s cheeks puff out like a frog with glasses, the two friends beep and bop and push each other to create a new kind of music—a thrilling fast jazz full of surprises. Blending a playful, rhythmic narration with expressive illustrations as fluid and dynamic as their subjects, this tribute to the masters of bebop by acclaimed biographer Gary Golio and beloved artist Ed Young will have readers hankering to listen for themselves.

Book Information

Hardcover: 26 pages

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,191,734 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Jazz #293 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Musical #1473 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Great book for the music classroom and library for Black History Month. Loved the concept of this well-written book.

Trying to write about music is an almost impossible task. but Golio and Young have pulled it off. Not going for the obvious of merely telling a story, Golio has instead recreated in words the feeling that you get when you listen to - and maybe even play - the Bebop created by Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie. The back and forth, the reaching for new heights, the attempt to outdo while also

supporting the other. With Ed Young's illustrations carrying the words along, the two musicians Bird and Diz are recreated on the page, or at least the feel of their music is. It's something new and exhilarating, and leaves the reader breathless and yet wanting more. A fascinating way to write about and depict any work of art, A very good job.

In Bird and Diz Gary Golio captures the unique give-and-take, call-and-response, central to jazz giants Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie and simultaneously likens it to the back-and-forth in child's play, like a rousing game of tag. In his delightful story, he echoes this legendary bebop duo in dualities of theme and structure, making concrete for children the sound and speed, the melody and rhythm, as well as the comedic and the kinetic. Ed Young brilliantly complements the story in line and color, with lyrical, racing, colorful illustrations. Best of all, the book itself is kinetic—the pages unfold like a giant accordion, making for a dynamic, absorbing activity for children while they read or listen to the story. This is a book to be enjoyed by children and adults alike.

I saw a copy of this at the library before I bought it, so I knew exactly what I was getting. The artwork is really cool, and I like the way the pages fold out. One of the first pages has "salt peanuts" written on it, which I think is neat, and there is a small biography about Bird and Diz in the back. I think it's a great way to introduce my youngster to the title artists.

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