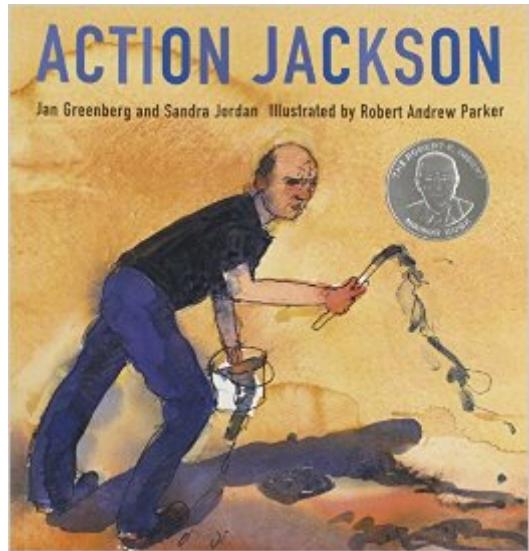


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# Action Jackson



## Synopsis

One late spring morning the American artist Jackson Pollock began work on the canvas that would ultimately come to be known as Number 1, 1950 (Lavender Mist). Award-winning authors Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan use this moment as the departure point for a unique picture book about a great painter and the way in which he worked. Their lyrical text, drawn from Pollock's own comments and those made by members of his immediate circle, is perfectly complemented by vibrant watercolors by Robert Andrew Parker that honor his spirit of the artist without imitating his paintings. A photographic reproduction of the finished painting, a short biography, a bibliography, and a detailed list of notes and sources that are fascinating reading in their own right make this an authoritative as well as beautiful book for readers of all ages. *Action Jackson* is a Sibert Honor Book, a New York Times Best Book of the Year, and a Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 650L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (22 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #37,402 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art > Painting #13 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art > History #25 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Art

Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 1 - 5

## Customer Reviews

When modern art is brought to the table, the question for the untrained is quite often: Is this art? What makes art? Can I do this? For such questions, answers always vary. It is art if you think it is art even if it may not be good art. The final consensus is that it is art if it challenges and sustains. Such art is universally held to be art. Early on, modern art broke tradition, broke stereotypes, and set the art world on its heels. Until this time artists tried to capture a realistic experience--people,

objects, landscapes--and put them on canvas. The moderns were the first to ignore the boundaries of the canvas. In fact, iconoclasts that they were, they acknowledged the confines of the canvas and its two-dimensional world and started experimenting with new techniques. The Impressionistic painters were the first, then the Post-Impressionistic painters went jumps ahead. Instead of painting broad realistic pictures, they began defying shapes, colors, time. Jackson Pollock represents one segment of this new modern art, that which is called "action painting," or "spatter painting." This book, "Action Jackson," details Jackson's technique of creating art and making the viewer feel and appreciate his vision and told simply enough for a child to understand. How did Jackson work? He lay out a huge canvas on the floor of his studio, studied it, then spattered house paint across it--directly from the can, from a stick, a brush. He worked over a series of days to get everything just right. His vision was to lay out colors and patterns and the intermixing of colors and patterns to create a canvas that spoke of something more cosmic than a bowl of apples. For Jackson the process of painting said as much as the final product. This book beautifully conveys the idea of his vision and his process and his final product. I never dreamed a writer and an illustrator could capture the essence of Pollock's work in one thin children's book, but this most definitely does. Perhaps the success of this book in capturing Jackson's style and work earned it an Honor Award in the Robert F. Siebert contest, and a New York Times Best Book of the Year, and a Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year. "Action Jackson" was published in 2002. Jackson Pollock died in a car crash in 1956.

Award winning authors, Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan introduce a whole new generation to the brilliance of painter, Jackson Pollock as they focus on just two months in the artist's life, and the creation of one of his most famous paintings, No. 1, 1950 (Lavender Mist). Based on firsthand accounts from friends and family, and often using the painter's own words and quotes, this well researched and enlightening picture book biography lets the reader get into Pollock's head, hear his thoughts, feel his energy and joy as he works, and actually peek over his shoulder as he paints. "An athlete with a paintbrush, he uses his whole body to make the painting. Layers build with each gesture, new colors emerging, blending, and disappearing into the wet surface. He swoops and leaps like a dancer, paint trailing from a brush that doesn't touch the canvas..." Their eloquent and lyrical prose is engaging and complemented by Robert Andrew Parker's bold, bright, and busy watercolors. Together word and art paint a dazzling and evocative portrait of the artist, his work, and his times. "Some people will be shocked when they see what he has created. Some Angry. Some confused. Some excited. Some filled with a happiness they can hardly explain. But everyone will

agree- Jackson Pollock is doing something original, painting in a way that no one has ever seen before..." Perfect for youngsters 7-11, Action Jackson includes a short biographical sketch at the end to augment the story and fascinating notes and sources about his life and paintings. This is non-fiction at its very best. Kudos to Greenberg, Jordan, and Parker

this book portrays an imaginative reenactment of Pollack creating a famous work. The art is well done.I used this to give an art lesson to a bilingual classroom of first graders(1/2 English 1/2 Spanish speakers) They enjoyed the story and creating their own action paintings.The book contains a biographical section at the end including photos of the painter as a boy.

This is a non fiction book about a painter named Jackson Pollock. Jackson Pollock was the first painter to do an abstract painting. He paints different than other painters. He lays out his canvas on the ground instead of on the wall or on an easel. He does not touch the canvas with his brush instead he paints with his whole body and lets it drip off the brush wherever it goes and he doesn't know where his pictures comes from. I think any kids interested in art would like this book. My favorite part of the book was when he started dancing with the brush in his hand and it dripped everywhere. Kids ages 5 - 7 would like this book, both boys and girls.Reviewed by Mensan Katie, age 6

Great book, simple enough for kids but with enough detail to be used in a classroom. Beautiful illustrations to go with the story of how Jackson made his paintings. I read this to my students before we did our own drip paintings and they all listened intently during the story.

This is a wonderful picture book in which the two writers and one illustrator imagine what it was like for Jackson Pollack to think about and then create one of his paintings -- specifically, "Number One, 1950 (Lavender Mist)." It's fascinating to watch Jackson go into "action" as he twists and turns his body in order to better throw paint on the canvas and continue the "line" he seeks. It's also fascinating to read about the influences on Jackson (Indian sand painting, for one). The authors imagine with great insight and respect and create a wonderful book. I particularly like turning one of the final pages and encountering the painting that Jackson works on throughout the book: very dramatic.

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