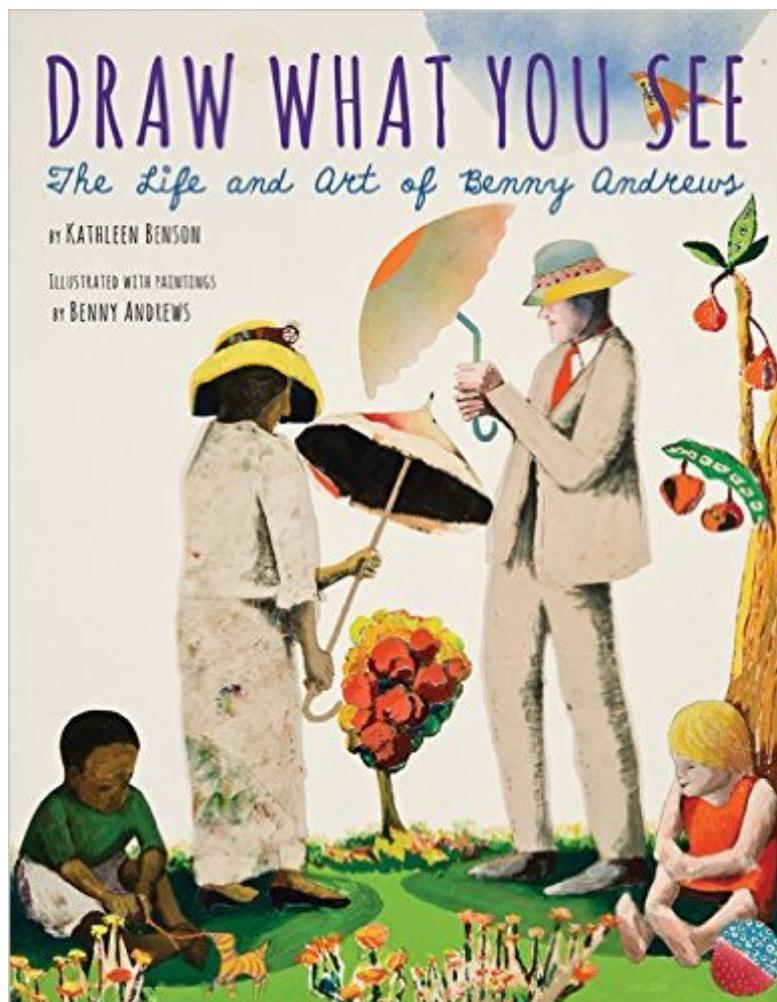


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# Draw What You See: The Life And Art Of Benny Andrews



## Synopsis

Benny Andrews loved to draw. He drew his nine brothers and sisters, and his parents. He drew the red earth of the fields where they all worked, the hot sun that beat down, and the rows and rows of crops. As Benny hauled buckets of water, he made pictures in his head. And he dreamed of a better life—“something beyond the segregation, the backbreaking labor, and the limited opportunities of his world.” Benny’s dreams took him far from the rural Georgia of his childhood. He became one of the most important African American painters of the twentieth century, and he opened doors for other artists of color. His story will inspire budding young artists to work hard and follow their dreams.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 840 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Clarion Books; 1 edition (January 6, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0544104870

ISBN-13: 978-0544104877

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.4 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #821,161 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #158 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art > Painting #323 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Art #610 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

[View larger](#) Benny Andrews: Too Short a Time - The Author's Personal Story Behind The Book In the fall of 2005, I was invited to Savannah, GA, to autograph copies of the children's picture book Delivering Justice: W.W. Law and the Fight for Civil Rights. My late husband, Jim Haskins, had written the book, but sadly had not lived to see it published. I knew that the book's illustrator, Benny Andrews, had also been invited to Savannah, but I had never met him. As I sat in the departure lounge at La Guardia Airport in New York City, I noticed a man in

a red sweater with a white beard and a shock of white hair and knew it must be him. I introduced myself, and we started to talk—“and we hardly stopped until our “Southern venture,” as Benny called it, ended two days later. Benny was the kind of man whom you felt you had known all your life the moment you met him. And, as it turned out, we had a lot in common: Back in the late 1960s, he was part of an artists’ group that had picketed the museum where I was employed, demanding exhibitions of the work of artists of color. I had been the museum representative chosen to speak to the protesters, so we had probably met all those years ago. He had taught painting at Union Settlement Association, a nonprofit organization in East Harlem with which I had close ties. We also shared lots of stories about the book business. After that, Benny would sometimes send letters, along with clippings and notices of new books or exhibitions. He wrote the letters in longhand. He said he had tried email for one day. A friend had sent him an email message, then another email message asking if he had received the first one. He decided that people who communicated by email were just too impatient. In the early months of 2006 I attended an exhibition of Benny’s illustrations for another children’s picture book at The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and an exhibition of his collages at the ACA Gallery. At both I met artists, photographers, and writers whom Benny had befriended, encouraged, and helped. When both events were over, he treated everyone to dinner at local restaurants. I did not know that he had been diagnosed with cancer and had decided to celebrate his life and work and friends in this way. Benny and my husband had started work on a second children’s picture book together: *John Lewis in the Lead: A Story of the Civil Rights Movement*. After Jim passed away, I completed work on the text. By the time I traveled to San Diego, CA, in the fall of 2007 to accept the Carter G. Woodson Award for the book, neither Jim nor Benny was alive to share the honor. I felt very lonely accepting the award in their memories. I hope this book will give you some sense of the Benny Andrews I was privileged to know for too short a time.

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