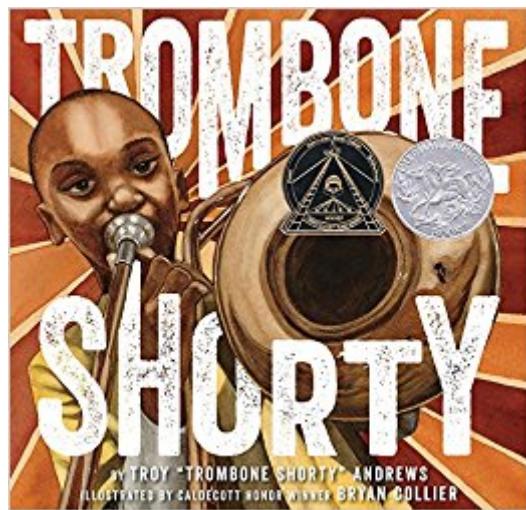


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# Trombone Shorty



## Synopsis

A 2016 Caldecott Honor Book and Coretta Scott King (Illustrator) Award Winner Hailing from the Tremé neighborhood in New Orleans, Troy “Trombone Shorty” Andrews got his nickname by wielding a trombone twice as long as he was high. A prodigy, he was leading his own band by age six, and today this Grammy-nominated artist headlines the legendary New Orleans Jazz Fest. Along with esteemed illustrator Bryan Collier, Andrews has created a lively picture book autobiography about how he followed his dream of becoming a musician, despite the odds, until he reached international stardom. Trombone Shorty is a celebration of the rich cultural history of New Orleans and the power of music.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 760 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Abrams Books for Young Readers (April 14, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1419714651

ISBN-13: 978-1419714658

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 47 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #21,501 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Jazz #7 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Musical #44 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Gr 1 “4 “Where y’at?” Troy Andrews, aka Trombone Shorty, opens his book with this phrase, letting readers know that it’s New Orleans parlance for hello. In this stunning picture book autobiography, multi-instrumentalist and vocalist Andrews shares the story of his early years growing up in the Tremé neighborhood of New Orleans. Andrews desperately wished to emulate the musicians in his family and those he saw performing all over his city, so he and his friends made their own instruments out of found materials, played in the streets, and marched with bands. When one day he found a battered, discarded trombone bigger than he was, Andrews finally had a real

instrument to play, and he practiced day and night, acquiring the nickname Trombone Shorty from his older brother. The moment Bo Diddley pulled Andrews on stage to play with him during the New Orleans jazz festival was a turning point, and he hasn't stopped performing since. Collier's beautiful watercolor, pen-and-ink, and collage artwork picks up the rhythm and pace of Andrew's storytelling, creating an accompaniment full of motion and color. Each spread offers a visual panoply of texture, perspective, and angles, highlighting the people and the instruments. Andrews's career is still on the rise, his music gaining an ever wider audience, and this title will be an inspiration to many.

VERDICT Coupled with a selection of Trombone Shorty's music, this work will make for fun and thoughtful story sharing. A must-have. —Jody Kopple, Shady Hill School, Cambridge, MA

STARRED REVIEW "This well-told and exquisitely illustrated story of a musician with a steep career trajectory will inspire young readers to pursue their passions, despite the challenges." (Kirkus Reviews 2015-02-01)STARRED REVIEW "If a fairy tale were set in New Orleans, this is how it would read." (Publishers Weekly 2015-02-09)"Sharp panels of color and image, perspective that dips and soars, and layers of mixed-media collage unite to feel like renditions of brass band music itself." (Amina Chaudhri Booklist)"[T]his work will make for fun and thoughtful story sharing. A must-have." (Jody Kopple, Shady Hill School, Cambridge, MA School Library Journal)"Collier's expressive watercolor collages layer and texture each page, creating a mix of images that echo the combination of styles Andrews uses to create his own 'musical gumbo'...Read this one aloud to capture the sounds and sights of Trombone Shorty's New Orleans." (The Horn Book Magazine)"The storytelling is imbued with a touch of storybook glamour and generous humor...Collier's vibrant mixed-media illustrations ably complement the text with a skillful melding of paint and photo collage that underscore the 'gumbo' of street sounds and musical styles that influence Andrews' works." (The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books)

“Trombone Shorty” is a 2016 Caldecott Honor book and a winner of the Coretta Scott King award. In this auto-biography, the author, Troy Andrews, tells his story of how he came to be the famous Trombone Shorty. This book truly belongs in the hands of all children as it is a beautiful story of how a young boy who comes from meager means, discovers not only his love of music but also a trombone that would change his life. The big idea of this story is to show that when you hold on to what you love at all costs, great things can happen. This story is steeped in rich New Orleans culture as Troy Andrews begins his story with a traditional New Orleans, “hello” by saying “where Y’at?” on the first page and throughout the entire story. He

credits his city and his older brother with igniting his passion for music. In the beginning of the story, Andrews says that he and his friends would watch his older brother's jazz band and they would pretend to play along. One day, at only six years of age, Troy found a trombone in severe disrepair, but he that did not stop him from trying to fix it and play it. The trombone was bigger than he was which is how he got the nickname Trombone Shorty. One day his mother brought him to the Jazz Festival to see the famous jazz musician, Bo Diddley. Troy brought his trombone to play along to the music. As Bo Diddley was playing on stage, he stopped the show to ask who was playing in the crowd. Little Troy Andrews was passed across the crowd to the stage where he played along with the band. This proved to be only the first of many, many concerts and a lifelong career in music. Bryan Collier, who also illustrated *Uptown and I, Too, Am America*, has a very unique illustration style which pairs well with the uniqueness of the story. He uses a surprising combination of watercolor and collage and begins every project by having his friends and family act out scenes of the story to inspire him. The collage pictures seem to keep the story grounded in reality which adds an interesting complexity to the feel of the autobiography. I especially enjoyed the pictures of Troy Andrews as a young child playing the trombone where Collier shows the music spiraling out of the trombone making the music appear as if it is its own character in the book. This book is filled with information from cover to cover. Even the jacket is loaded with information on Trombone Shorty and Bryan Collier. The only drawback is that occasionally the text is set too close to the gutter and as a result becomes difficult to read. The author's main goal is to show the reader that it is not how you start but how you finish. He encourages children to pursue their dreams and he captures the tradition and flavor of New Orleans perfectly. I believe the author does a great job encouraging children to work hard to achieve their goals. I especially like how the story is about a young black boy but, it does not mention civil rights or slavery. It is simply a good story with a young black boy as the main character. As a result, I believe more young African American children will be able to identify with this story and it may have a greater effect on them. This book is geared toward children in grades one through four however, children of all ages will enjoy it. I would certainly recommend this book to many different grade levels, especially those interested in music. I plan to use this story as writing prompt for my fifth graders. After reading this story to them, I will have them reflect on and write about something that they love to do, or want to do in the future, and the obstacles they have had or anticipate having to overcome.

This book is beautiful, from the illustrations to the story. I want to buy copies for all of my friends kids to show them where passion and practice can get you and that there are places in the world where

music truly is life.

My daughter who is seven got this book for Christmas. She had read it before but requested it last night when we were reading together as a family with her sister and dad. We all loved it. What a great true story and about someone with whom I wasn't familiar. The lessons about working hard to pursue a goal are FABULOUS as is the positive role model the older brother was. I was super impressed. Not surprised this book won awards! The illustrations are clever and creative and the "Where Y'at?" phrase really caught my kids' attention. Their favorite part was the message by Trombone Shorty himself at the end of the book with pictures from his past. Super cool! I am especially pleased to have my kids read, learn about, and be excited by a character/real person who doesn't look like them and grew up in a neighborhood that's totally different from their environment.

I bought this as a birthday present for a four year old boy. I accompanied it with the Bontempi Toy Trumpet Horn for Kids. He loved the toy and the book.

My 2 year old daughter loves this book. I find it has been a great learning tool in introducing music and instruments into her life.

Great story and very informative on how Trombone Shorty began his love of music. Inspirational for any child, I purchased for my daughter but I ended up loving it too!

Trombone Shorty's book is wonderful, loving and inspiring! Any child or adult should have this in their collection. Love his work with the Trombone Shorty foundation, to help New Orleans area kids to keep the soul and cultural alive for future generations ;)

A perfect picture book. They really truly honestly don't get better than this.

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