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When The Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc And The Creation Of Hip Hop (Coretta Scott King - John Steptoe Award For New Talent)



Synopsis

A John Steptoe New Talent Award Winner Before there was hip hop, there was DJ Kool Herc. On a hot day at the end of summer in 1973 Cindy Campbell threw a back-to-school party at a park in the South Bronx. Her brother, Clive Campbell, spun the records. He had a new way of playing the music to make the breaks—the musical interludes between verses—longer for dancing. He called himself DJ Kool Herc and this is *When the Beat Was Born*. From his childhood in Jamaica to his youth in the Bronx, Laban Carrick Hill's book tells how Kool Herc came to be a DJ, how kids in gangs stopped fighting in order to breakdance, and how the music he invented went on to define a culture and transform the world.

Book Information

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Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 1 - 5

Customer Reviews

Gr 3-5—As a child in Jamaica, Clive Campbell aspired to be a DJ. At 13, he moved to the Bronx, where he gained the nickname Hercules because he grew to be more than six feet tall. He shortened the name to Herc, added Kool, and is credited as a pioneer of hip hop. He created a new art form for his parties when he plugged in two turntables to create longer breaks for dancing and began chanting the names of his friends during the breaks. Hill's descriptive writing is paired with Taylor's vibrant artwork, which features large crowds dancing, close-up shots of breakdancing, or

Herc's hands masterfully spinning the dual turntables. This is a fine introduction to the topic, and the extensive time line, which spans from 1973 to 1986, will help students with reports and show them how this American art form was created. — Glynis Jean Wray, Ocean County Library, Toms River, NJ (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

This picture-book biography introduces one of the unsung creators of hip-hop, Clive Campbell, who was born in Jamaica in 1955. He was entranced by the massive dance parties thrown by a neighbor, and when his family moved to the Bronx, he took up the name Kool Herc and created the innovative techniques behind hip-hop DJing. Stacking musical breaks on top of each other to fuel long stretches of dancing frenzy, calling the kids with the best moves — “break-dancers,” — and sending shout-outs to friends and little offhand rhymes over the music — Kool Herc unique and hip-hop wouldn't exist without any one of these flashes of inspiration. By the time rap music really took off, in the early 1980s, he was already out of the limelight but not without leaving a massive legacy. Aside from the bouncy bio of the book's star, Hill also highlights the positive social force of hip-hop and the boundless energy of musical joy. It's all matched by Taylor's freewheeling artwork. A treat from an underrepresented corner of music history. Grades 2-4. —lan Chipman

Bought kindle, digital version and cannot read or enlarge to read....for that only one star.Update: I was able to read on my desktop using Kindle Reader, but this is not acceptable for Kindle Download.Even on my Desktop, the type is small and poorly chosen style, making it difficult to read.The story was told well, although some words were missing or incomplete...not sure if this is only digital version.I would like to have this book in my collection, but very disappointed with Kindle version.If copy is more readable in physical book, I would give a better rating....5 stars for content - 1 star for quality and readability.

I teach music to kids who don't come from the best homes. I used this book as a jumping off point for dance music and some history. My kids, who wouldn't listen to anything else when I taught them, or other books, listened to this one. They loved it, and it was great for a lot of them because they listen to rap, and so this is a good intro into some history about hip hop and rap.

I gave this book to a couple who is expecting their first son because they are really into hip hop.

They loved the book. I bought myself one to read to my son as well.

Nice illustrations and it's about an Black American cultural product and gives credit to the Black Americans who created it! Hip Hop Hooray!!!

Entertaining and historically accurate. Vibrant illustrations too. Both my son and I enjoyed reading it. My husband loved it too as this is his Era and thought it is important to make sure everyone knows the real hip hop history

I bought this for my son but he's a bit too young for it yet, so I read it myself. I LOVE it! Why isn't learning about the TRUE roots of hip hop more mainstream?!?!?!? It's an engaging and educational read about how this cutting edge form of music came to be. I felt like I was watching an animated short film as I was reading because the artwork is so dynamic and vibrant. A smart and gorgeous work of art!

My son loves this book and so do I! Great story with good pictures.

This book is fabulous! I read it at the school library, but immediately bought one for my husband (a former DJ). He enjoyed reading it. The illustrations fit the book perfectly.

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