

Write Your Own Book Review!

Lots of books have been written about musical styles, performers, composers and the different instruments that make music. Some are true stories (non-fiction) like biographies and essays and others are made-up stories (fiction). No matter what type of book you choose, you can always learn something new. Find a book that has something to do with music or a musician and write your own review by answering the questions below. You can find books at your local library or by searching online. Find a list of books about pianos at www.ptg.org/learningcenter.

What is the name of the book? _____

Who wrote the book? _____

When was it written? (look at the bottom of the first few pages) _____

How many pages does it have? _____

Who is the main character? _____

Describe the main character in one sentence. _____

What other people are in the book? _____

Where did the story take place? _____

What was the story about? _____

Was there a problem or situation in the story? What was it? _____

How was it solved? _____

What does this book have to do with music? _____

What new or important thing(s) did you learn about music, musicians or musical instruments by reading this book? _____

This report written by: _____

The Piano in Children's Literature

The following is a sample of books that feature pianos, piano playing and piano lessons in their storylines. Check amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com and your local booksellers for purchase information.

Storybooks and Picture Books

Anatole and the Piano, Eve Titus, *Bantam Books* • Anatole, the conductor of the Mouse Symphony Orchestra, travels deep inside a grand piano to solve a perplexing problem.

A Piano For Julie, Eleanor Schick, *Greenwillow* • A young girl and her father search for the perfect piano.

Miranda, Tricia Tusa, *Aladdin Books* • Miranda loves to play Bach, Haydn, and Mozart – until the day she discovers boogie-woogie, a day her family quickly regrets.

Mrs. Merriwether's Musical Cat, Carol Purdy, *Putnam & Grosset* • A cat named Beethoven inspires the students of a dedicated music teacher to play their best.

The Cat Who Loved Mozart, Patricia Austin, *Holiday House* • The music of Mozart creates a special friendship between a girl and her new pet.

Henry the Steinway and the Piano Recital, *Henry the Steinway: A Star Is Born*, and *Henry the Steinway Tours the World*, Sally Coveleskie, Peter Goodrich & Laura Friedman, *Yorkville Press* • Three wonderful stories about the adventures of a famous grand piano and a little girl.

Gus and Grandpa and the Piano Lesson, Claudia Mills, *Farrar, Straus and Giroux* • Gus has a hard time with his piano lessons until Grandpa shows him how to get the music in his fingers.

Nana Hannah's Piano, Barbara Bottner, *Putnam Publishing* • When Nana Hannah twists her ankle and needs cheering up, her grandson moves in for a week and is inspired to learn a song and discover that maybe there is more to life than baseball.

Piano With A Soul, Richard Krzys, *Ivy House Publishing* • Anxious to honor her mother's memory by learning to play Beethoven's "Für Elise" on the piano, Elise soon discovers that the instrument her grandmother has purchased has a soul of its own.

Polly and the Piano, Carol Montparker, *Amadeus Press* • Polly is a dog who becomes involved in her owner's desire to play a piano concert at Carnegie. The story is told by Polly from her perspective. Polly's "most unusual doghouse in the world" is under the piano, where she is close up to her owner giving piano lessons and practicing Bach, Mozart, and Brahms in the hope of appearing in Carnegie Hall one day.

My Friend the Piano, Catherine Cowan, *HarperCollins* •

Nate the Great and the Musical Note, Marjorie Sharmat, *Yearling* • Miniature detective Nate the Great has yet another case to solve. Rosamond turns a phone message from Pip's mother into a music lesson with a secret meaning and Nate steps in to solve the mystery. For beginning readers.

Arthur Plays the Blues, Stephen Krensky, *Little, Brown & Co.* • Arthur has a new piano teacher, the renowned Dr. Fugue. After his teacher "fires" him, Arthur needs to decide how much he wants to learn to play the piano -- and then tries to win back his teacher.

Stories About Real People

The Music Box: The Story of Cristofori, Suzanne Guy & Donna Lacy, *Brunswick Publishing*

Blind Boone: Piano Prodigy, Madge Harrah

Mozart Finds A Melody, Stephen Costanza, *Henry Holt & Company*

Look for other titles featuring individual composers and performers.

Reference Books

The Living Piano, Barrie Carson Turner, *Alfred A. Knopf Living Instrument Series* • Features information about piano history, how a piano is made, parts of the piano, bios of famous composers and pianists with a CD of ten great piano compositions.

Piano, David Crombie, *Backbeat Books* • A beautifully illustrated book highlighting piano history and design.



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What is the name of the book? *A Piano For Julie*

Who wrote the book? *Eleanor Schick*

When was it written? (look at the bottom of the first few pages) *1984*

How many pages does it have? *29*

Who is the main character? *Julie*

Describe the main character in one sentence. *Julie is a young girl who wants to learn to play the piano.*

What other people are in the book? *Julie's father, Julie's mother, Julie's grandmother, piano movers*

Where did the story take place? *In an apartment in a big city.*

What was the story about? *Julie and her family go to visit her grandmother and Julie's father always plays the piano her played when he was little. Julie wants to learn to play the piano, too. One day her father decides it is time to buy a piano and he looks in the For Sale ads. Finally he finds a piano to buy and movers deliver it to Julie's house. Julie's father plays the piano and teaches Julie to play "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."*

Was there a problem or situation in the story? What was it? *Julie's father wants to buy a piano and Julie wants to learn to play.*

How was it solved or ended? *The family bought a piano for their house and Julie's father gave her piano lessons.*

What does this book have to do with music? *Julie loved to hear her father play the piano and wanted to learn, too. Her father teaches how to sit correctly on the bench and how to play a song. She practices until she can play the song by heart. When her father plays she thinks the music sounds like moonlight and wants to play just like her father someday.*

What new or important thing(s) did you learn about music, musicians or musical instruments by reading this book? *When the movers bring in the piano, they roll it in on a board with wheels and tilt it just the right way to fit against the wall. There is also the right way to sit on the piano bench so that you are just far enough away to reach the keys. It also takes lots of practice to play a song correctly.*

This report written by: _____SAMPLE_____