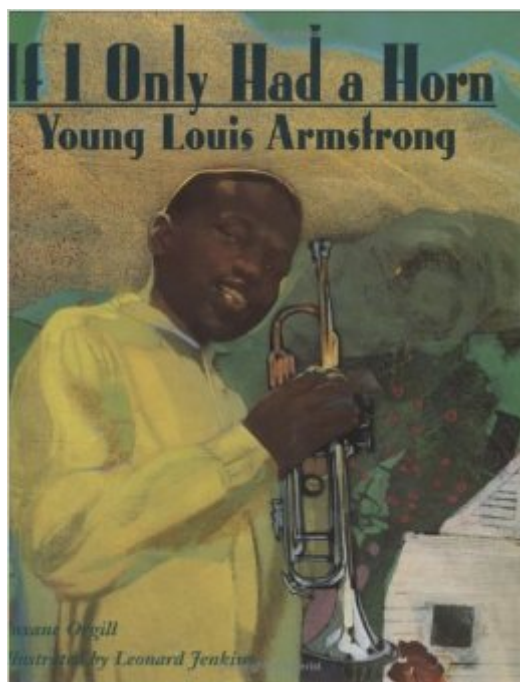


The book was found

# If I Only Had A Horn: Young Louis Armstrong



## Synopsis

Roxane Orgill's vivid words and Leonard Jenkins's dramatic pictures combine to tell the story of a boy who grew up to be a giant of jazz - the legendary and beloved Louis Armstrong. As a poor boy in New Orleans, where music was everywhere - dancing out of doorways, singing on streetcorners, crying from the cornet of the great Joe Oliver for all to hear - Louis longed for a horn so that he too could sing, bring home pennies, and, most of all, tap happy-feet blues till the sun rose. It wasn't going to be easy. Many things, not all of them good, had to happen before he got his horn. But when at last he did, he sent music spiraling up into the New Orleans night sky like a spinning top gone crazy.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 860L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Library Binding edition (September 29, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0395759196

ISBN-13: 978-0395759196

Product Dimensions: 10.3 x 8.6 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #923,643 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Jazz](#) #230 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Musical](#) #1239 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

I bought this book after reading the recommendation for ages 4+. I should've noted the grade level recommendation (2nd grade+), as I purchased this book to read to my Kindergarteners. I had to basically "re-write" the book at their level and read the script I had come up with myself. I also skipped the part about Louis shooting off a gun and getting arrested. I just told the children in the class that Louis got into some trouble and had to go stay at a special home for older kids who get into trouble a lot. I wish, so badly, that there would be a biography series, a decent, or even, excellent! (oh my!), series for younger grades, as in Pre-K/K. It seems that most biographies try to

pack so much information into one book and the children honestly become overwhelmed. This book wasn't too bad about the information overload, it was more or less an issue of just being above grade level for my Kindergarteners. So I suppose if I had read this to 3rd graders I would give it 4 stars. I don't know, something left me wanting more. I feel like there would still be a lot of explaining to do for even third and fourth graders. Anywho... I would love to see more simplistic biographies come out that get to the "meat" of it for younger children who can not tolerate listening to tons of dates and locations. (Which, by the way, this book did not do too much... The most confusing parts for me were the mentioning of the gun issue - what elementary school wants teachers reading about that? Also confusing was how his sister was called Mama... Mama something. I can't remember now. I had to stop and explain to the kids why I thought she may be called that.) TLDR: Anyways, to sum it up, as I'm clearly rambling..

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