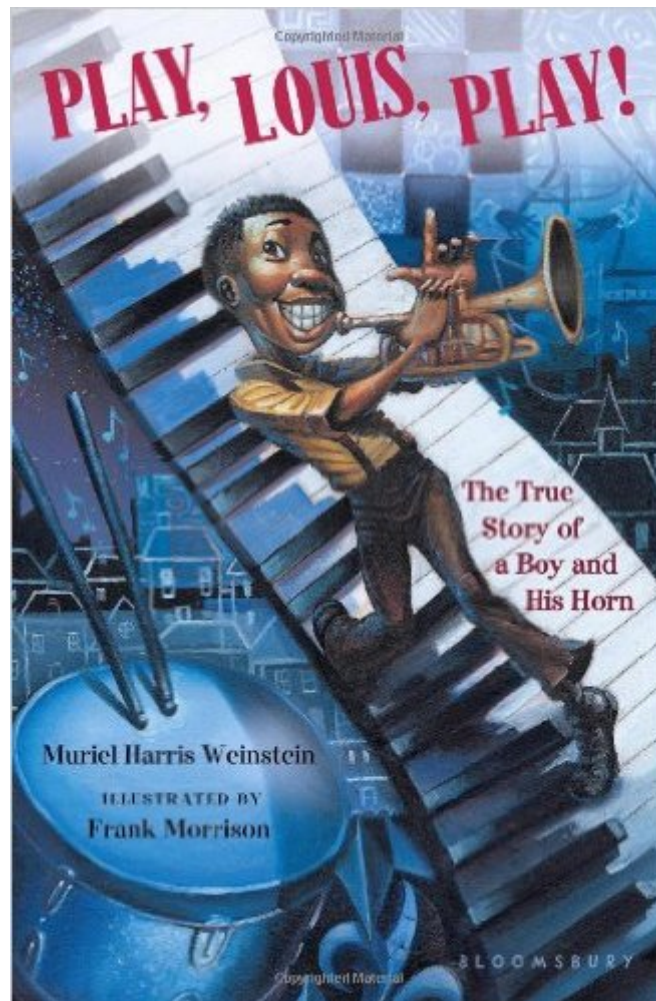


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# Play, Louis, Play!: The True Story Of A Boy And His Horn



## Synopsis

The childhood of Louis Armstrong was as fascinating as the great musician himself-and this chapter book biography tells it like never before. *Play, Louis, Play!* is written from the point of view of Louis' closest companion throughout his youth-his horn! In a jazz-inflected, exuberant voice, this unusual narrator tells it all, starting with the small New Orleans hock shop where little Louis bought his first trumpet for five hard-earned dollars. As Louis goes from a street quartet to the marching band of the Colored Waif 's Home to the big sounds of New Orleans jazz clubs, author Muriel Harris Weinstein creates a moving portrait of the jazz legend. Includes a detailed author's note, glossary of jazz terms, and bibliography.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 740 (What's this?)

Paperback: 112 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.4 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (19 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #536,002 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Jazz](#) #124 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Performing Arts](#) #126 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Musical](#)

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 4

## Customer Reviews

This new biography of jazz great Louis Armstrong tells the story of his childhood from the perspective of his first trumpet, bought from a run-down pawn shop in New Orleans. This unusual narrator provides a distinctly different point of view in this engaging biography for young children. Author Weinstein describes Armstrong's very poor childhood in the toughest neighborhood in New Orleans (known as The Battlefield), but notes that Louis never complained; "he said [complaints] hurt his ears as much as a horn's sour notes." Despite his poverty, Louis had the ability to look on the bright side of life. From an early age, Louis was known for his huge smile, which

everyone said was as wide as an open satchel. So they called him "Satchelmouth," eventually shortened to Satchmo. We see Louis introduced to jazz, so fascinated by the pulsing rhythms that he would sneak into clubs and hide under tables to listen to the music. Although it was clear from an early age that Armstrong had a great gift for music, with his family's poverty, there was no money for an instrument or music lessons. But when he was about seven, he went to work in the junk business of the Karnofskys, a Russian Jewish family who lived on the edge of the black neighborhood. The Karnofskys fed Louis, gave him work, and in honor of their kindness, he wore a Star of David necklace his entire life. According to this book, the Karnofskys loaned Louis money to buy his first cornet, our narrator, the five dollar horn in the pawn shop. With the need to make money, there was little time for Louis to go to school, and he dropped out in the 5th grade to take up singing with a quartet of boys on a street corner.

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