



Hello, I'm Johnny Cash

G. Neri, A.G. Ford (Illustrations)

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A stirring look at the early life of Johnny Cash, from his harsh but music-filled childhood to the first flush of stardom.

There's never been anyone like music legend Johnny Cash. His deep voice is instantly recognizable, and his heartfelt songs resonate with listeners of all ages and backgrounds. G. Neri captures Johnny's story in beautiful free verse, portraying an ordinary boy with an extraordinary talent who grew up in extreme poverty, faced incredible challenges, and ultimately found his calling by always being true to the gift of his voice. A. G. Ford's luscious paintings of the dramatic southern landscape of Johnny Cash's childhood illuminate this portrait of a legend, taking us from his humble beginnings to his enormous success on the world stage.

Hello, I'm Johnny Cash Details

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Author : G. Neri , A.G. Ford (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Hello, I'm Johnny Cash for online ebook

Melissa says

This book has great illustrations that tells the story of Johnny Cash. The story seems to be written in the same manner that one would write a song.

This story gives an account of the path of Johnny Cash's life from childhood through his experiences of being a musician. This is a very informative book on the time frame and life of Johnny Cash in a rating that would fit the younger reader.

Andy says

This is an absolutely stellar book. Beautiful. Lyrical. Well-researched. Moving. If you listen to Johnny Cash at home while your kids are around (like I do) then this is the perfect introduction to share with them. Even if you don't have kids, if you just like Johnny Cash, read this book.

Roger Clarke says

I am a big fan of classic rock, and more specifically, Johnny Cash himself. This was a great way to introduce children to an American legend in the rock and roll scene. The story tells of his long, roller coaster journey of a life that Mr. Cash went through, for better or for worse. The book touches on some of his hardships during his life but keeps it appropriate for children. The illustrations are some of the best work I have seen in a picture book, with the aesthetics truly feeling like you get to see Johnny in all of these different events during his life. The word choice is very good too and keep readers wanting to see how the author will tell the next part of Johnny life with some clever word play. I would hope this could spark children's interest in American historical figures, especially in the classic rock and roll scene.

Alyson (Kid Lit Frenzy) says

It would seem to me that writing a picture book biography for children on such a complicated individual as Johnny Cash would be hard. One question comes up: Do you sanitize it or not? Neri does a remarkable job at portraying more of the life leading up to Cash's musical career than the music career itself. Certain parts of Cash's life are highlighted in the author's note at the end and with the additional resources. Regardless of how you feel about how much do you share in a book for young readers, Neri does a nice job of introducing children to the music legend of Johnny Cash. The free verse also seemed to be a good choice of writing style for the book.

Mary says

Free-verse picture book biography about Johnny Cash. Chronicles his childhood, musical influences, and

tumultuous personal life. It was clear early on in his life that music was his passion and ultimately his salvation, along with June Carter. Fans of Johnny Cash will love this book and will especially appreciate that all the poem titles are taken from his song titles.

Barbara says

Written in free verse that sprawls across the pages and tugs at readers' ears and hearts just as its subject once did, this biography of country music singer Johnny Cash pays tribute to an extraordinary man. The full-page oil illustrations that accompany each of the different sections in the book are a revelation themselves, showing slices of life and revealing long-forgotten periods of time during which the singer grew up. Readers learn about his early years in rural Arkansas and the importance of the church and religious songs to the formation of J.R. as well as the unexpected death of his beloved older brother. After a stint in the military and a door-to-door salesman job, Johnny caught a couple of lucky breaks and he was on his way. The author makes it clear that music was the one constant in Cash's life, allowing him to express his sorrows as well as his great joys. Since the biography stops just as stardom beckons, covering his next 40 years in a few lines, readers may be curious to find out more about where his music led him. Back matter includes additional information about this great singer, the historical events through which he lived, and a list of music to explore. It would have been marvelous to have a CD and a photograph of the real Man in Black included. Ah, well! My father would have loved this book almost as much as he loved the man and his music. I can still remember him singing "Ring of Fire" along with me when I was much younger. What a complicated, fascinating singer Cash was! It's hard to capture someone that complex, but this book does so wonderfully while also setting Cash's story within the appropriate historical context of the events that were swirling around him.

Christi says

Read this one out loud to my 12 year old daughter (we raised her to appreciate all the greats, Johnny Cash included). We both loved it--the words were lyrical and the illustrations beautiful.

Beth says

I loved the free verse poems to tell the story of Johnny Cash's life, though I feel like a lot was left out -- especially when you take into account that June Carter was only mentioned here in passing.

Nathan Lowry says

I am a fan of Johnny Cash's music so naturally I enjoyed this book. The illustrations are great and was a good example of a biography and free verse poetry mixed together. I learned that one of his more popular songs "A Boy Named Sue" was written by the poet Shel Silverstein, how cool!

Holly Mueller says

I loved the illustrations by A.G. Ford in this biography of Johnny Cash told in free verse. I grew up listening to Cash's music since my dad was a big fan. Be sure to read Gary Anderson's review (<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>) - he brought up a lot of good points. I realize it's a book for children, however, and the author's note touches on some of the points Anderson thought was missing. Cash had a complicated life, and his music captured the pain and joy his life encapsulated. I'm glad kids can be introduced to such a gifted musician through this book.

Amy Rae says

I really want to give this one five stars for the illustrations and idea alone. I love Johnny Cash, I love anything that introduces children to music history (especially popular music history), and the artwork in this book is nothing short of stunning.

But I think the text falls down, and I can't ignore that. There are two reasons:

1. There is a LOT of text, and because it's formatted as free-verse poetry, it takes up a LOT of space on the page. This would be a long book to read aloud.
2. The main text never mentions the fact that Cash was married more than once. The way the ending is written, one could come away with the idea that he was faithful to Vivian Liberto his whole life. It talks about how devoted he was to his family--which isn't *untrue*, exactly, but is disingenuous when one doesn't mention June Carter except as a musician Johnny's impressed by.

(This information is in the afterword, but frankly, that's not good enough. I skipped afterwords all the time when I was a kid, and I doubt I'm the only one.)

So on the one hand, this isn't exactly an ideal storytime story. It's very long. On the other hand, it's not an ideal book for teaching elementary-school children about biographies, because it doesn't present a full picture of Cash's life. I think the book should have touched on his life with June (and, honestly, his substance problems), because those are vital parts of who Johnny Cash is.

What's here is an amazing book, and I'm probably gonna buy it for my cousin for Christmas despite my qualms. I just wish it didn't feel like it was missing major chunks of a great American story.

Michele Knott says

Really appreciate this biography. While it concentrated on the positives of Johnny Cash's life and his early life leading up to his fame, it also did bring up some of the darker sides. I appreciate they were at least mentioned but not focused on in this biography written for kids.

The writing, done in free verse, was eloquent and the illustrations eye-catching.

Melissa says

A beautifully written and illustrated child-appropriate biography of Johnny Cash! This book's beauty and simplicity brought tears to my eyes. If you're a fan and you have kids, this is a must read.

Gary Anderson says

G. Neri's thug-life books for young readers would seem to make him the perfect chronicler of Johnny Cash, the original country music outlaw. Neri's new picture book *Hello, I'm Johnny Cash*, unfortunately, is a sanitized version of Cash's complicated life. The childhood poverty is here, along with the death of Cash's brother and his father's meanness, but they are almost lost in the narrative's rosy follow-your-dreams message. The poems are fine and the pictures are fine, but the instructive lessons for readers that could come from Cash's struggles with addiction and religion, as well as his work on behalf of the downtrodden, seem like missed opportunities. *Hello, I'm Johnny Cash* will be a serviceable picture book for students interested in Cash or country music, or for those assigned to read about a "famous person," but it falls short of engaging readers in the complexity of Johnny Cash.

Edward Sullivan says

An exceptionally well-written and handsomely illustrated introduction to the music legend chronicling his life from childhood to the beginning of his recording career. Neri draws much of his text from Cash's own words. Lots of good end matter offers additional information on Cash's later years and career highlights. I'm surprised to not see Anne Neimark's biography *Up Close: Johnny Cash* listed in the bibliography.
