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# Who Is Elton John? (Who Was?)



## Synopsis

How does a little boy from the London suburbs named Reginald Kenneth Dwight grow up to become one of the biggest pop stars of all time? A lot of talent and a lot of personality! Elton John, as he would later call himself, started playing piano at the age of three. Although he was trained to play classical music, Elton's real love was rock and roll. He cut his first album in 1969 and has dominated the airwaves ever since with songs like "Your Song," "Crocodile Rock" and "Can You Feel the Love Tonight." Known for his outlandish stage costumes and giant glasses, Elton John continues to write songs for Broadway musicals, Hollywood soundtracks, and Top-40 hits.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0810 (What's this?)

Series: Who Was?

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Average Customer Review: 3.2 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #440,543 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Rock #91 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Performing Arts #115 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Musical

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Kirsten Anderson is a freelance writer and actress who lives in New York City with her charming Pomeranian, Sunflower.

Who Is Elton John? The crowd at the Troubadour club didn't pay much attention to the piano player quietly singing onstage. The twenty-three-year-old singer's record company had worked hard to get many important people in the music business to come to the Los Angeles club and hear its new discovery. But on this August night in 1970, most of the audience was much more famous

than the man onstage. They talked to one another and looked to see who else would walk in the door. They weren't very interested in this plain Englishman who wore glasses. Although he wore a rock-and-roll T-shirt and jeans, he looked more like a salesman than a rock star. Elton John had thought it was a mistake to come to America. He had been struggling for years in England to get people to pay attention to him. He had written songs for other performers. He had played and sung in bands behind other singers. He had been waiting a long time for his big break. And now it seemed as if no one would ever notice him. Suddenly, he had had enough. All the frustration from his years of being stuck in the background boiled over. He jumped up, kicked over his piano stool, and shouted, "If you won't listen, perhaps you'll bloody well listen to this." He started playing again, standing at the piano. But this time he pounded away at the keys. He sang loudly and confidently. It was the way he had pictured himself performing when he was a little boy in England, listening to American rock and roll on the radio. And the audience paid attention. They heard blues, gospel, rock, and country music. Each song told its own fantastic story. Everyone knew they were hearing something special. By the end of the night, there was a line of people waiting to get backstage to meet Elton. After years of hard work, Elton John had become an overnight success.

I purchased this book because the local library I go to has a section full of "Who Is/Was" biographies in the children's area, but none about Elton John. I think this book is all right, not as special as some others. I didn't learn of anything I didn't already know about. The book does tackle some tough subject matters for its targeted audience. Parents should expect their children to ask certain questions about certain topics. But it's in great shape, and I plan to donate this copy to the library, as I've already contacted the librarian. Hopefully, the people in my community will appreciate it.

Great biography series that all kids will enjoy. My students (4th grade) can't seem to put them down. I've had them in my room for the last few years and they just eat them up. The content is easy to understand and it provides great information on each person/topic along with a timeline in the back. Great for parents and teachers alike.

It was a Christmas gift to my granddaughter, who is crazy about Elton John! She love the book & found it very informative..

This should not be in the children's section. I think they are a little young to learn about aids. I ended

up giving it to the Goodwill because I would not give that to my eight-year-old grandson even though he asked for a biography on Elton John.

We love this series of biographies and historical events. My kids have been reading them since age 7 or so. This book about Elton John had some editing issues that made a few parts confusing (i.e. He is referred to as Reggie, his birth name, until page 30, when they accidentally call him Elton in one sentence, Reggie in the next and then describe his name change in the next paragraph. It felt like there were some sentences missing.) For the following reasons, I would not recommend this book for young children. Parents should be prepared to discuss and answer questions about the following big topics with their children: divorce, weight loss/diet pills, homosexuality, drug & alcohol abuse, AIDS/AIDS crisis among men, Soviet Russia and the Iron Curtain, death of Diana, charitable causes, "civil partnerships" and gay marriage. Despite at least 3 editing errors, it is well-written and a good summary of his life and accomplishments and would aid young people in a cultural understanding of a pop icon.

I love this book but in some parts I was a little confused at some parts, but otherwise I liked this book and I thought that Elton John's life was kind of interesting. I would recommend this book. Written by a 9 year old

I had to put something, hence the 1 star. I bought it as a gift.

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