



# Picasso

*Mike Venezia*

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## **Picasso** Mike Venezia

Clever illustrations and story lines, together with full-color reproductions of actual paintings, give children a light yet realistic overview of each artist's life and style in these fun and educational books.

## **Picasso Details**

Date : Published September 1st 1988 by Children's Press(CT) (first published March 1st 1988)

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Author : Mike Venezia

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# From Reader Review Picasso for online ebook

## Jon Hewelt says

Previously read: currently playing catch-up.

Ah, now this is the one I remember from my childhood. As an artist, Pablo Picasso stood out to me more than any other, and it was this biography of him that inspired my own artistic pursuits. I tried to replicate Picasso's painting of a blue guitarist, but ended up with some deformed creature with a blue baboon butt.

Again, as with Edgar Degas, Venezia's selection of introductory artworks feels incredibly comprehensive. Included with the famous pieces (Guernica, in particular, comes to mind) are examples of Picasso's more "traditional" work, which once illustrated for me that Picasso's experiments were calculated and skillful, and not--as my own work was for years and years and years--random and chaotic.

The cartoons, too, really stood out in my mind. As I reread this book a few weeks ago, I remembered the cartoons that accompanied the historical anecdotes seconds before I saw them again. That really has no bearing on the book's merit, but it made the process of rereading it all the more enjoyable.

If you, as my adult friends, are interested in reading a juvenile biography on famous artists, I recommend this series. And if you read this series, I HIGHLY recommend you start with Picasso.

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## Nabila Tabassum Chowdhury says

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## Pam says

A very good introduction to Picasso, both the artist and the person. The book has great illustrations including many of his most important works. I loved the humor.

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## Amber says

I thought Picasso by Mike Venezia did a fantastic job outlining Picasso's life. It nicely balances key moments in his life and his style and techniques. There are plenty of pictures to show his diverse styles. It also walks through the different stages of his life in artwork. It highlights pictures of his early work up unto his late work, from realistic paintings to modern style. It compares and contrasts various styles and emotions. I thought it was very well done, but written in a manner that children can understand.

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## **Dodie says**

A great kid's book. A lot of illustration and pictures of Picasso's work. There were bits of information about Picasso here and there.

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## **Cami Weaver says**

This is a great book about the artist, Picasso. It is filled with fun pictures and facts that will keep young readers engaged. The book goes through Picasso's life starting with the fact that his father was an art teacher who pushed Picasso to paint certain styles of art. As Picasso got older, he discovered that he was interested in a new kind of art. He started to stylize his paintings to make them his own - instead of doing paintings that everyone else did. He used odd shapes to make people and put eyes, ears, mouth, legs, and arms where they weren't suppose to be. Many people didn't care for this type of art... but Picasso didn't care. He started doing cubism and went through different stages in life that were noticeable through his art.

I love this book because of it's simple words used to talk about a great artist and his work.

I would use this book to teach art students about Pablo Picasso, of course!

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## **Hannah Kersting says**

This book is so bright and colorful and will really attract the eyes of young children. Focusing on the life of Picasso, the biographical story shows images of not only Picasso but of his many famous works. It explains the different periods that Picasso went through in his life and the paintings that came out of each period. I really enjoyed how the language is perfect for young children and turns mature and complicated concepts into easy to read language. For example, they explain that for certain photos Picasso was sad and depressed. Mike Venezia uses language that children can understand making it a great book for children who are just becoming interested in modern art. The illustrations are drawn and many are photos of Picasso throughout his life and of his many artworks. Overall, this book is perfect for young children who are beginning to learn about art, modern art, and the influence that Picasso has had on the history or art.

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## **Marissa J. says**

This book about the life of Picasso is a clever version of a biography.

The first few pages are illustrated with cartoon pictures. The text is easily read and understood by young readers. It is placed in easy and comprehensible sentences. Throughout the rest of the book, the pictures are duplicates of Picasso's actual art works. I think this helps the reader to respond to Picasso's life story as well as his artwork.

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## Sevinj says

I have a 2 and a half year-old daughter. I took the book for her. She enjoyed the book. But to tell the truth I enjoyed more. I learned so many things about Picasso. I heard about his Blue period. But I had no idea about other periods. The pictures are great. My daughter even saw houses in the picture painted in the cubism style. The language is very easy for kids to understand.

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## Morgan Duplechin says

Mike Venezia has once again done an amazing job of creating a interesting and fun biography. The life of Picasso was extremely interesting and Venezia does a great job of keeping what would be boring facts and turning them into an interesting story.

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## Shelli says

*Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists, Picasso* is a nice edition in this fantastic collection by Mike Venezia. These books are perfect for exposing elementary and junior high aged students to a large variety of artists and styles of art.

I was surprised to learn how drastically Picasso's style of art changed over his lifetime. Personally Cubism is not a style I enjoy, but I have much respect for his originality and ability to start an entirely new way of doing art.

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## Jst'tay says

it was very intresting.

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## Yesenia says

Picasso written and illustrated by Mike Venezia is a wonderful biographical picture book. This book is great for third graders and up. The way that the material is presented would surely have students learning effortlessly.

The book is the biography of Pablo Ruiz Picasso, the author walks the reader through the different stages that Picasso underwent in his lifetime. The first picture of the book is actually a black and white photograph. This picture is quite contrary to the book cover which is cartoon art. Yet, I liked how the author chose this picture because it allows the readers to put a face to the name that a cartoon could not necessarily do. I also enjoyed how the author did not used a lot of text throughout the book, and the text nicely complemented the illustrations. This book would be great for beginners that do not know a lot about art. The information that the author wrote is not a lot that it would be a cognitive load for students, it will however spark their imagination, and probably plant a little seed to know more about Pablo Picasso. The illustrator actually has the authentic paintings, but to add a fun element to the mix, here and there he disperses a couple of cartoon

drawings allowing the student to reflect back on the material in a fun way. An example of this is demonstrated after the author presented Picasso's Blue Period. After he demonstrated a couple works of Picasso's Blue Period he has a little cartoon. The cartoon is set in a gallery that has people bickering over the masterpiece. Some see it as a work of art, while others like his father, criticize the painting. On the next page is a cartoon version of Picasso out of a store with buckets of pink paint. The author tells the reader that Picasso met a girl named Fernande and fell in love, and that was the beginning of the Rose Period. Throughout the book the reader can learn to love art and have fun with art. In addition, one of the paintings is Pablo Picasso's friend, which the author gave a full page to the painting. On the other page is a black and white photograph of the friend with a bubble that says "I'd hate to see how I would have come out if I wasn't his best friend." This is sure going to be a hit with children.

The book is more like a collage rather than illustrations from the Venezia. He does however add his own twist and personality throughout the book. The font of the book is large and simple. The book includes a variation of single and double spread pages.

I really enjoyed how the author presented his information to the audience. This book can open the door to art to many students, so that they too can be Picassos. I rate the book five stars.

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### **Susan Sonnen says**

This is a fabulous children's book with colorful artwork and engaging text!

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### **Katie Stein says**

Pre-trip reading with the kids. Short and sweet.

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