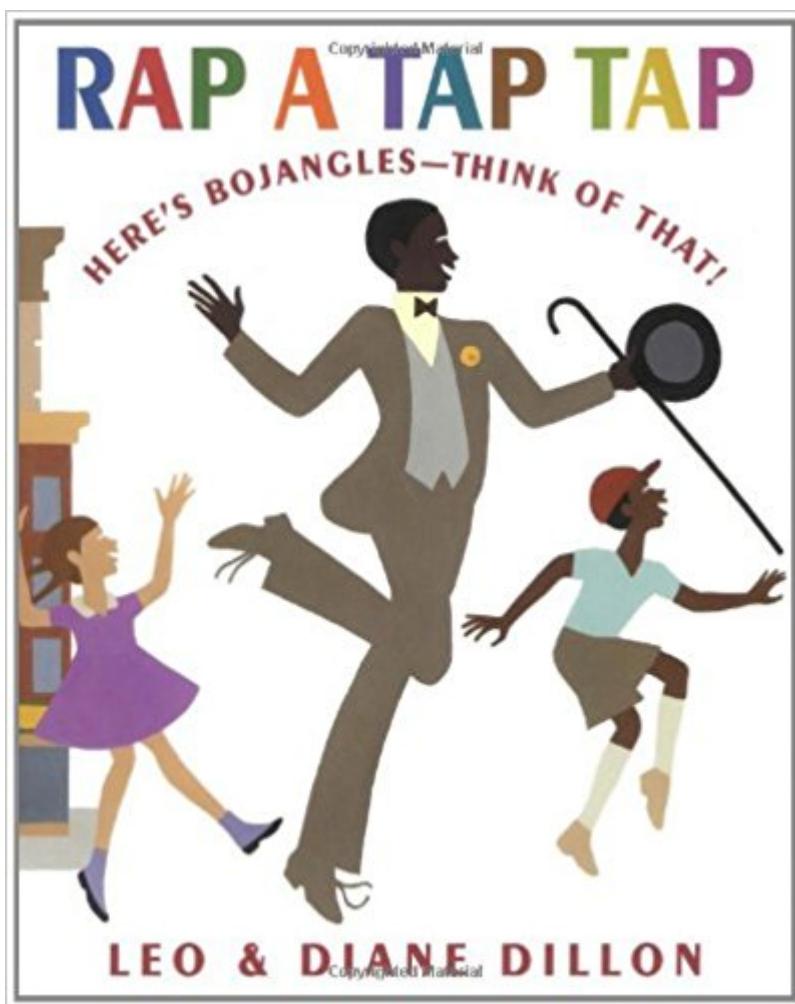


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# Rap A Tap Tap: Here's Bojangles--Think Of That! (Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Books)



## Synopsis

"There once was a man who danced in the street / He brought pleasure and joy to the people he'd greet / He didn't just dance, he made art with his feet / Rap a tap tap--think of that!" This simple book for young children has the added bonus of describing the life of a ground-breaking African-American tap dancer. Bill "Bojangles" Robinson was one of the most popular entertainers of the 1920s-30s. People said he "talked with his feet," and in the Dillons' graceful paintings of old New York, he dances from page to page to the tune of a toe-tapping rhyme. Rap a tap tap--think of that!

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 300L (What's this?)

Series: Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Books

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Blue Sky Press; First Edition edition (September 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0590478834

ISBN-13: 978-0590478830

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 8.8 x 11.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 20 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #357,033 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #175 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > United States #227 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance #665 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

In a departure from their recognizable illustration style, the versatile husband-and-wife team here uses a striking gouache painting technique that pays homage to Harlem Renaissance artist Aaron Douglas to craft an exuberant picture-book tribute to African-American tap dancer Bill "Bojangles" Robinson (1878-1949). Brief, rhyming text introduces the tall, lean and dapper man who "danced in the street" and "made art with his feet." In keeping with tapdancing tradition, each line of verse returns to a rhythmic refrain ("Rap a tap tap think of that!"). The deceptively simple text conveys the complexities of the era: "He danced past doors; some were open, some closed" accompanies a

montage of entryways, with some people welcoming Robinson, but a white man closing his door. On the other hand "folks in fancy clothes" depicts whites and blacks together outside a show. Most spreads exude the everyday joys of a bustling city neighborhood, and the bouncy beat will hold the attention of even youngest readers. A short biographical note appears at the end of the book. The cubed-looking apartment buildings, an elevated/subway train, store fronts and traffic lights suggest Manhattan (eagle-eye readers will notice an obscured sign for 125th Street), but the scenes are general enough to lend the art a universal, timeless feel. The Dillons cleverly depict Robinson's fast-flying feet with varying shades of the same color around his legs, creating a sense of movement with a shadow/silhouette effect. The graceful figure he cuts on the page is a hoofer's delight. Ages 3-up. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

reSchool-Grade 2-Legendary African-American tap dancer Bill "Bojangles" Robinson (1878-1949) is the subject of this picture book. Graphically, the volume is a joy and would work well in a group setting. The left side of each spread contains an outdoor scene in which people are captivated by the performer's dancing: exuberant children, dressed-to-the-nines adults, the ragged homeless. Where the boldly painted, flat images overlap, the colors change, as if the foreground objects were transparent. Continuing this approach, the dancer is rendered in brown, gray, or black on the right, sporting multiple appendages—that is, the parts of his body that are still "moving" appear in lighter shades behind or on top of the more deeply hued arms and legs. There is a sense of progressive motion until the climax, when Bojangles moves across the entire white field, a series of intersecting pale gray to black forms, finally bowing, top hat in hand. The simple, rhymed text is less inspired, sometimes a bit forced: "His feet fairly flew as he tipped his hat.- He briefly paused to pat an old cat." Each short sentence is followed by the refrain, "Rap a tap tap-think of that!" While there is call-and-response potential, it all gets a bit tedious. An afterword gives a bit more information about Robinson. This is a visually interesting introduction to a performer about whom little is written for children. Wendy Lukehart, Washington DC Public Library Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

I saw this book somewhere and couldn't remember the title, but the illustrations stayed with me. WHAT a cool way to express motion in 2-D. I had to find this book again and I'm so glad I did. Those cool, crisp, translucent images and simple introduction to the iconic Bo Jangles. I'm pleased to see it's since been awarded a Coretta Scott King honor. Well deserved. Do not know how kids take to it-- bought it for myself!

In addition to all the great reviews about the beautiful pictures in this book, I really like the fact that it is easy to read while learning about a key historical figure. My 2 yr old is REALLY into music - just about anything to do with it. I saw this book in the preschool room and knew I had to find it for him. The first night I read it to him, by the third refrain of the title phrase, he was saying it himself. Of course, I was reading as the book is designed to be read (I think :-) - with cadence and rhyme. He caught on quickly and knew when it was time to say "RAP A TAP TAP - THINK OF THAT!"

I bought this book because my daughter began taking tap dancing lessons. I wanted her to know about the history of the dance form. We loved reading the story because of the simplicity of the text and the rhythm in the text. I chose this book because it is about a real person who made an artistic impact as an African American man that is recognized by all ethnicities! The illustrations were fabulous!

Very beautifully written and illustrated book. My grandson really loves it. He's 2 years old.

RAP A TAP TAP, THINK ABOUT THAT-i love it, i love it, i love it!my 3yr. old and 8yr. old listen the cd and read the book at least 3 to 4 times on our mini drive to big brothers house. they love to read and follow along with - RAP A TAP TAP, THINK ABOUT THAT and they also listen and ask about the extra little sounds in background: cat, baby etc. FUN BOOK.

My students really enjoyed me reading this book. I liked the rhyme and how the book tried to make the words sound like tap dancing. The illustrations are an excellent flavor of African American culture years ago in a city environment.

it was perfect!! it was bought for a student of mine who wanted the book so badly. She is sooooo happy with it!!Thank you,Glenda Buckley

Vapid. Purchased for my 4 year old nephew who is interested in dance. Returned it. Illustration style good, "story line" non-existent.

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