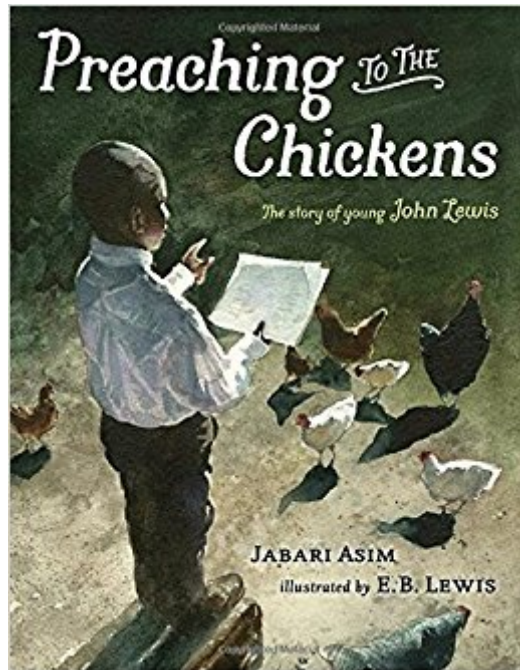




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# Preaching To The Chickens: The Story Of Young John Lewis



## Synopsis

A New York Times Best Illustrated Book Critically acclaimed author Jabari Asim and Caldecott Honor-winning illustrator E. B. Lewis give readers a fascinating glimpse into the boyhood of Civil Rights leader John Lewis. John wants to be a preacher when he grows up—a leader whose words stir hearts to change, minds to think, and bodies to take action. But why wait? When John is put in charge of the family farm’s flock of chickens, he discovers that they make a wonderful congregation! So he preaches to his flock, and they listen, content under his watchful care, riveted by the rhythm of his voice. Celebrating ingenuity and dreaming big, this inspirational story, featuring Jabari Asim’s stirring prose and E. B. Lewis’s stunning, light-filled impressionistic watercolor paintings, includes an author’s note about John Lewis, who grew up to be a member of the Freedom Riders, chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and demonstrator on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. John Lewis is now a Georgia congressman, who is still an activist today, recently holding a sit-in on the House floor of the U.S. Capitol to try to force a vote on gun violence. His *March: Book Three* recently won the National Book Award, as well as the American Library Association’s Coretta Scott King Author Award, Printz Award, and Sibert Award.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0670 (What’s this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Nancy Paulsen Books (October 11, 2016)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.3 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #134,346 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in Books > Children’s Books > Religions > Inspirational #72 in Books > Children’s Books > Biographies > Social Activists #132 in Books > Children’s Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1900s

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Gr 2-5 • Luminous artwork and stirring text shed light on the childhood of one of America's most respected civil rights leaders. Young John Lewis found his calling early in life, tenderly caring for the many chickens on the family farm and emulating his church's ministers by preaching to the attentive hens: "'Blessed are the peacemakers,' he'd say when [the chickens] fought over their morning meal. 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,' he would tell a hen who didn't want to share, 'for they shall be satisfied.'" The future Freedom Rider and U.S. congressman would even baptize newly hatched chicks. When a local businessman stopped by the farm to make a trade for one of Lewis's hens, the bighearted boy sagely figured out a way to make a transaction without handing over one of his beloved chickens. Lewis's strong faith and his deep connection to his family and community shine through in Asim's straightforward text and illustrator E.B. Lewis's full-page, light-dappled watercolors. An author's note briefly discusses Lewis's leadership in the March on Washington and other key events of the civil rights movement and explains that Asim based the story on Lewis's own recollections. VERDICT A quietly powerful and joyful look at the childhood of a living legend and a superb introduction to studying heroes of the civil rights era. • Kiera Parrott, School Library Journal

“The poignant, observant watercolors . . . are bathed in subtly changing light, making homespun scenes of country life seem celestial and exalted.” • The New York Times Book Review\* “A glimpse into the childhood whimsy of an important African-American congressman who has become famous for his words. . . . Illustrator Lewis' signature watercolors paint a lively picture of John Lewis' life growing up on a farm with a close and hardworking Christian family. The liveliness of the chickens as well as John's concern and care for them shine in the light-dappled images. Given the seriousness of what Lewis faced on the march from Selma to Montgomery and the gravity of the issues he has dealt with throughout his career, this joy-inducing back story reveals an entertaining facet to the congressman's life that young readers will appreciate. After absorbing this must-read bit of personal history about John Lewis, young readers will never see this serious-faced congressman in quite the same way.” • Kirkus Reviews, starred review\* “E.B. Lewis stages the scenes under the bright springtime light of Alabama mornings, giving a full sense of John Lewis's world, from the dusty henhouse to the sturdy wooden pews of his family's church, while always emphasizing the tender care he devoted to the chickens. It's a moving portrait of the power of small actions and Ælearn[ing] to speak up for those who can't speak for

themselves. *• Publishers Weekly, starred review* “Luminous artwork and stirring text shed light on the childhood of one of America’s most respected civil rights leaders. . . . Lewis’s strong faith and his deep connection to his family and community shine through in Asim’s straightforward text and illustrator E.B. Lewis’s full-page, light-dappled watercolors. An author’s note briefly discusses Lewis’s leadership in the March on Washington and other key events of the civil rights movement and explains that Asim based the story on Lewis’s own recollections. A quietly powerful and joyful look at the childhood of a living legend and a superb introduction to studying heroes of the civil rights era. *• School Library Journal, starred review* “Asim and Lewis’s words and images convey their respect and admiration for John Lewis, and readers will feel the same way. A tender narrative, paired with watercolors filled with light and movement, captures the heat of a Georgia day and the unmistakable bond John formed with his feathery followers. Young readers will appreciate the gentle messages about the importance of hard work, persistence, and patience that lay the foundations for John Lewis’s activism as an adult, which is detailed in a final author’s note. *• Booklist* “Bucolic-looking watercolor and gouache landscapes take modern readers back to a time when the entire Lewis family was busy on the farm from dawn to dusk. . . . A fine introduction to the life of an American icon. *• The Horn Book*

This is a wonderful delightful book with a story that will make you smile! The children I gave the book to love it! They could easily relate to the little boy who loved to go to church and enjoyed doing his part in helping at the family farm. The book has wonderful examples of family love, respect for nature, enjoyment and gratitude for what one has, and other lessons to make a child a good citizen. Yet, there is nothing to make a child think the book is "teaching" anything - good lessons are so natural in the story. Very entertaining for both adults and children. A wonderful book that I would highly recommend for anyone with children!

This book is gently and charmingly written and illustrated. The pace of the story is perfect for young children, and the reading level could be accessible to young elementary students. Modern children do not often have access to these glimpses of life, and particularly rural life, in the past. Add this to the fact that this is biographical of one of the giants of our time, John Lewis, and you have a perfect gift to a child or library or school.

This is a lovely, inspiring story about the childhood of one of our great Civil Rights leaders. I bought it because he was the first of the Democratic congressmen to refuse to attend Trump's inauguration ceremony. I plan to donate it to my local public library.

I love the perspective and shading in the illustrations of this story, which makes them worthy of the perspective and nuance of the life of John Lewis. The text is appropriate for grade school children. I got this for my daughter (25 years old...) and she loves it.

This book is delightful, good for children of all ages, from 1 or so to 98 or so... Very clever illustrations.

Wonderful and inspiring story by a great man..the illustrations were phenomenal

I thought this was a childrens book. Its a little advanced for a young child, but i loved the historical coverage of a great man! My grandchild will enjoy it later!

Fantastic art work in this book. I bought the book for the wonderful watercolors.BB

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