



Keith Haring: The Boy Who Just Kept Drawing

Kay Haring

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Iconic pop artist Keith Haring comes to life for young readers in this picture book biography lovingly written by his sister

This one-of-a-kind book explores the life and art of Keith Haring from his childhood through his meteoric rise to fame. It sheds light on this important artist's great humanity, his concern for children, and his disregard for the establishment art world. Reproductions of Keith's signature artwork appear in scenes boldly rendered by Robert Neubecker. This is a story to inspire, and a book for Keith Haring fans of all ages to treasure.

Keith Haring: The Boy Who Just Kept Drawing Details

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Author : Kay Haring

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From Reader Review Keith Haring: The Boy Who Just Kept Drawing for online ebook

Phoebe says

The first page in this bright, interesting, compelling biography is the winner. When I opened the book to read it and saw that image I thought "perfect" and I knew this book was going to be a winner. In general I'm a fan of biographies written for children because I appreciate the way they distill stories and offer up details that are easy to identify with and remember. Keith Herring's biography, written by one of his sisters, is a great example of the power of this form. I also appreciated their care in both respecting Herring's privacy and presenting his life in a way that could get this book into the hands of children from socially conservative families who might otherwise object due to Herring' being queer. Sure, that's true about him and ALSO it's true that he was a prolific, skilled, fun, and successful professional artist with a penchant for equal access to art and beauty.

Rebecca says

A picture book biography of Keith Haring, written by his sister, Kay. Illustrations by Robert Neubecker in a Tomie-de-Paola-esque style -- "created with Mac computer and #2 pencil from personal photos and fond memories of the downtown art scene of the 1980s." I love that the illustrations include images of Keith's art throughout his life, showing his artistic development (the recent graphic novel memoir "Hey, Kiddo" also did this to great effect).

There is much to discuss here about how Keith approached art, carved a place for himself, and championed accessibility of art. Includes an Author's Note and "About Keith Haring," which mentions his work with AIDS organizations, and his death from AIDS. Don't miss <http://www.haringkids.com/> for lesson plans, activities, and online art. Pair with "Radiant Child" for a discussion of street art and outsider art.

Laura says

Keith Haring: The Boy Who Just Kept Drawing exhibits the vibrant energy and colors of Haring's work along with his generosity and desire to share his art with the world beautifully. Readers follow along from Keith's creative doodles as a child to his most popular images and financial successes around the world later on. He wanted art to be accessible to all! So Haring found ways to share his work in murals, community projects, subway art, and more. From pen to chalk to paint, he used it all to draw, draw, and draw! Haring just kept on drawing no matter what or where.

“Draw anything. Whatever you want. No one can say it’s bad or good. It’s yours.”

Robert Neubecker was the perfect pick to depict Haring's world on the page. His colors, crowds, and energetic chaos make the cities pop and the people stir with life. And Kay Haring brought a very personal touch to this story that filled the words with heart and love.

Highly recommended picture book bio filled with easy to read pages and pictures and information about a

remarkable man and artist.

Read this book! It's an inspiration. You'll be doodling and coloring soon after for sure.

“EVERYONE needs art!!”

Jillian Heise says

Fabulous picture book biography written by the artist's own sister. I appreciated the messages throughout of the dedication in his life toward service work for others and access to art for all. The repetition of "...he just kept drawing" provided a nice flow to the story. Wonderful back matter with an author's note with family pictures from childhood, more information about Keith Haring's life, and details about the art that appears in the book. Would make a great #classroombookaday read aloud.

Marjorie Ingall says

Workmanlike prose, wonderful illustrations. I love Robert Neubecker's work (and miss reading WOW, CITY! to my now-ancient children). The snippets of Haring's work (Neubecker carefully copies some of Haring's childhood paintings and drawings, for instance) and those of his contemporaries (I spy a Basquiat) included in the appropriately bright, lively illustrations are a nice touch.

As ever, with a picture book or middle-grade biography, I wonder about what's missing.

Jamila says

This is a delightful portrait of one of my favorite artists. My son and I enjoyed it, and we'll read it again.

Lindsey says

I loved that they incorporated images of his actual art and the art of his contemporaries. Sentence structure was repetitive but illustrations were fantastic.

Elisabeth says

A FABULOUS addition to the picture book biography genre. Loved learning more about this awesome person.

Roger says

I liked the book because I learned some things about Keith Haring. I've read many picture-book biographies and felt inspired by their subjects, but this one didn't do that for me at all. As I started to write this review, I thought maybe it was because he seemed much less interesting a man than I'd expected him to be, or because almost all of his art was more voluminous and spontaneous rather than deep. But then I really think it's because the author (Keith's sister) made a conscious choice to show a thin slice of him. Yes, his AIDS activism and death is mentioned. But never the word gay or anything suggesting he even had gay friends.

Short review: How can you write a book in 2017 about Keith Haring — the artist known internationally for his iconic National Coming Out Day art, and KEEP HIM IN THE CLOSET?!

Stacy Natal says

A bit long but but a good biography about the life and art of Keith Haring. Loved that his artwork was woven throughout, and his message about art being for everyone. It will speak to the doodlers in the class.

Jen Bojkov says

2018 Bluebonnet.

Biographical look at the life and art of Keith Haring. Nice look at an artist who believes art is good for everyone and how he makes art accessible to as many people as possible.

Alex (not a dude) Baugh says

Even though this book is a little young for my readers, I picked it because I have a real soft spot for Keith Haring. I was in college, living on East 7th Street in the East Village when Keith hit the streets of NYC with his art. And it was everywhere. Each morning I would leave for school and there would be new Keith Haring art wherever you looked. Now, Keith's younger sister Kay has written a moving biography about her brother's too-short life.

Even as a boy, Keith drew everywhere - on paper, on tests, in his clubhouse, and in his room as a teenage while listening to loud music. In high school, after winning first prize for his art, he was offered money by someone who wanted to buy the winning drawing. Keith refused the money and told the person they could just have it. That's who he was - someone who felt everyone should be able to enjoy his art - a belief that never wavered when he went to art school in Pittsburgh, and later, when he moved to New York City in 1980. After drawing his signature figures all over the city - on sidewalks in chalk, on garbage cans in paint, on discarded furniture, on the sides of buildings and in subway stations - Keith began to be noticed and his art became a world wide phenomena.

It's clear his sister really loved her brother very much and knew him well. The repetition of "he just kept drawing" almost begins to feel like an understatement when you look at the illustrations depicting the preponderance of his art on so many different surfaces. I loved Robert Neubecker's complimentary illustrations of Keith's life, done without imitating his style, but keeping to the same kind of humor and

lightness found in Keith's art (and yes, Mr. Neubecker, I also have fond memories of the 1980s downtown art scene).

The 1980s was indeed an exciting time in NYC, but it was also a time of tragedy with the AIDS epidemic that took so many creative people. So, be sure to read the Author's Note and additional information in the About Keith Haring section to learn about his early death from AIDS-related complications and the Keith Haring Foundation he established in 1989. This part of Keith Haring's life was difficult to explain to my young readers, who had a hard time grasping the magnitude of the AIDS epidemic.

Nikki says

Really enjoyed this, but wish there had been a bit more in the actual story about the end of his life and his HIV/AIDS activism.

Janet says

Many thanks to Keith's sister for writing this book! Such a loving tribute to a true artist and humanitarian who wanted everyone to enjoy his work, not just people who had money to buy it. (Love that her little bio says she "spends time in southern CA, Hawaii, and Utah, but her heart resides in Pennsylvania." Mine too.)

Joshua says

I remember watching Sesame Street and Nickelodeon as a kid, and so I remember Keith Haring's dogs. They were these odds, serial characters made entirely out of thick black lines who would bark and then alter the reality of the world sometimes in small, sometimes in incredibly large ways. These dogs showed me, early on, that art could be a way of playing with the world around me, that it could be a way to observe and change my universe in any way I saw fit, and most importantly they taught me that great art should just be about playing.

Kay Haring has written a beautiful book that makes a lasting testament to her brother Keith who's influence is still being felt today. And best of all, her book captures her brother's life and aesthetic in a way that children will enjoy. The reader who reads *The Boy Who Just Kept Drawing* to their children will instill in them the idea that art is supposed to be about fun. Rather than about ego or aesthetic philosophy, art is about creating and not caring about what the culture or society tries to make the artist into. Creation is the way foster and encourage imagination which is ultimately what drives innovation and change.

This is a fun beautiful book about a gay man who created something unique, not because he cared about artistic legacy or aesthetic significance, but because he simply wanted to draw.

I loved this book.
