



Kali's Song

Jeanette Winter

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Kali's Song

Jeanette Winter

Kali's Song Jeanette Winter

Renowned picture book author and illustrator Jeanette Winter brings us the enchanting story of a boy named Kali who lived thousands and thousands of years ago. Kali must learn to hunt, like the rest of the men in his tribe. But when Kali plucks the string on his bow, he forgets about shooting arrows, and makes music long into the night. Even the stars come close to listen.

This lovely story celebrates the uniqueness in all of us, the beauty of the natural world, and the power of music and art over violence. According to the *New York Times*, it "will resonate with all young children who seek to find their path in the world—and may perhaps be a bit wary of other people's expectations."

Kali's Song Details

Date : Published March 13th 2012 by Schwartz & Wade (first published January 1st 2012)

ISBN : 9780375870224

Author : Jeanette Winter

Format : Hardcover 40 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Music, Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction, Animals, Family, History, Prehistory, Adventure, Art

 [Download Kali's Song ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Kali's Song ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Kali's Song Jeanette Winter

From Reader Review Kali's Song for online ebook

Chad Elliott says

Kali's song is a very cool book with a very empowering message. This book involves a little boy who lives in an ancient era of cavemen and woolly mammoths. As he is growing up, Kali is expected to hunt the woolly mammoths, and he is given a bow to practice. What Kali discovers he can do with his bow is truly remarkable, and the results of that discovery give way to a very advanced way of thinking. While this book is characteristic of another culture, it is nonetheless very relatable to everyone.

This is a book that can cause a very thought provoking conversation if facilitated. First, what one could do is attempt to describe what a shaman is and what that means in certain cultures and how to relate it to their own culture, as Kali is referred to a shaman in the book. Then one could propose a question of what would you do in Kali's circumstance? Would you participate in the hunting, or would you find another way to use your talents for good and why? This gives children some time and space to really piece together the significance behind the message.

Winter, Jeanette. *Kali's Song*. New York: Schwartz & Wade, 2012. Print.

Kyla C. says

Thousands of years ago, when cave drawings were freshly painted, there lived a boy named Kali. While most boys his age practiced their hunting Kali was discovering his talents. Plucking on his bow Kali made sounds so mesmerizing even the stars came closer to listen. On the day of the big hunt all the men and boys discovered for themselves the majestic sound of Kali's bow and how special Kali was. His people called him a shaman capable of charming mammoths and healing the sick. And into his old ago Kali plucked his bow for all to listen.

Illustrations provide the reader with important information regarding time, depicting how people lived thousands of years ago. These details are crucial for the reader to make connections with the text. Illustrations and text complement one another.

I've categorized Kali's Song under historical fiction. The setting is placed thousands of years ago. During a time when mammoths walked the earth and when cave drawings were new. Details within illustrations and text make it easy for the reader to envision the difference between the world they live in and the world of the past. In TMY pg. 339, "characters in historical fiction are ordinary people rather than figures of historical importance and who behave in ways that are consistent with the period," Kali fits the criteria well, an ordinary boy who'd rather charm mammoths than hunt them.

This story reminds me of a story my dad once told me. On a hunting trip with his father, my dad had a deer in his sights. When it came down to pull the trigger my dad was unable to put the deer down. Captured by its beauty and the power of nature my dad quietly watched as the deer naturally grazed on grass. After reading Kali's Song I believe implicitly, Kali felt the same way about hunting as my dad. He'd rather charm animals than hunt them.

This book would be a good read-out-loud. Students could discuss how music enhances their daily lives. What types of music do students listen to? Who is their favorite musician? If they play any instruments or wish too. Students could also discuss/evaluate the illustrations. Did men really wear skirts? Where there

really mammoths? What's a shaman?

After researching the range of text complexity I was unable to find any information. Typically, however, Jeanette Winter aims her work towards kindergarten through third grade.

Eileen Carter says

This is a lovely story that tells about Kali and his journey through life from a small boy to a grown man. It takes place in the age of the Mammoths and cavemen. Children and adults both will enjoy this book.

Katharine says

Beautiful picture book. My daughter loved the phrase "and the stars leaned close, to listen". The art is interesting. She currently has the book propped open and is painting her own version of her favorite page!

Tasha says

Kali's mother painted amazing paintings of animals on their cave walls. Soon Kali would be a man and so he started practicing with a bow and arrows. But on his first session of practice, he discovered that he could do something else with the bow: he could make music! Soon he was making music instead of practicing his shooting at all. When the day of the big hunt came, his bow was taut and his arrows sharp. The men and boys approached the huge mammoths, that were far larger and more impressive than Kali had ever expected. Kali forgot all about the hunt and just felt that he had to play the music he was hearing in his head. As he played, the mammoths gathered closer around him and the other hunters laid down their bows. Everyone realized that Kali must be a shaman to charm animals in this way. Even as Kali grew much older, he continued to play music on his bow.

Read the rest of my review on my blog, [Waking Brain Cells](#).

Alyssa Becker says

Kali's Song; written by Jeanette Winter; Copyright 2012, 32 pg.

Historical Fiction #1: Picture Book

This book tells a wonderful story of a young boy, Kali growing up in his African community. The culture of this community holds his mother as a cave-painter and the men as hunters. As Kali becomes older, he is given a bow and arrow and is expected to practice shooting it. However, Kali finds a different way to use his bow and still interact with the wild animals.

I really enjoyed reading this book because it shows how such a simple thing as music can change the view of a whole culture. Everyone expected Kali to be the same as the other men--a hunter. They soon realized that he was meant to do something greater and respected him. I will definitely be putting this book into my

classroom, but agree with the author that it should be kept at an age level from 4-8 year olds.

Richie Partington says

Richie's Picks: KALI'S SONG by Jeanette Winter, Schwartz & Wade, March 2012, 40p., ISBN: 978-0-375-87022-4

.
"All we need is music, sweet music
There'll be music everywhere"

-- Marvin Gaye, Mickey Stevenson, Ivy Jo Hunter, "Dancing in the Streets"

.

One can so easily envision the events in KALI'S SONG really happening. Heck, I can imagine being in Kali's position and having it happen to me: A young boy in cave dwelling times, out practicing with his bow and arrow as dictated by Dad (the manly thing to be doing), accidentally discovers that by plucking the string on his bow, putting the bow to his lips, and opening his mouth to varying degrees, he can create new and memorable sounds.

.

Kali, who clearly does not have that drive to kill, instead becomes immersed in his new avocation.

.

So, then, what happens when it comes time for Kali's first hunt as one of the men?

.

"Kali ran to a hilltop for a closer look.
When he saw the magnificent herd below him,
he forgot about the hunt,
and he forgot about the other hunters.
He just heard the music of his bowstring in his head.
Kali laid his arrows on the grass,
put the bow to his mouth,
closed his eyes,
and played, and played, and played.
When Kali opened his eyes,
the mammoths were close enough to touch.
They had heard the sounds from his bow
and had come to listen.

.

And so it is that Kali, charmer of woolly mammoths and woodland creatures, grows up to occupy a revered position in his tribe.

.

There are so many things to love about KALI'S SONG. It is true that mouth harps do go back thousands of years, so there is a history lesson here. There is the notion of music being a higher calling than -- and antidote for -- violence. (This theme is what also makes David McPhail's MOLE MUSIC such a beloved and lasting favorite of mine.)

.

And then there is the art.

.

I cannot imagine the primitive style Jeanette Winter employs in her picture book illustrating as being more perfectly suited for a story. This is exceptional visual storytelling that is perfect for the intended audience. The mammoths are both so immense and so huggable. There are so many memorable images such as when Kali is sitting under a blanket of stars playing, surrounded by woodland creatures; or when he is looking out

from his family's cave-painted cave toward the manly cave dudes all gathering for the big hunt.

.
"Music is what we like to play
all day all day all day all day all day
to soothe your soul, yeah
lets have a picnic go to the park
rolling in the grass 'til long after dark
to soothe you soul, yeah"
-- War, "All Day Music"

.
KALI'S SONG makes me just want to go play music all day.

.
Richie Partington, MLIS
Richie's Picks <http://richiespicks.com>
BudNotBuddy@aol.com
Moderator http://groups.yahoo.com/group/middle_...
<http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/people/facult...>

Asho says

My two-year-old grabbed this off the shelf at the library at random and asked me to read it. She didn't stay interested through the whole thing (she's not the target audience; too young), but she did point to quite a few different things in the illustrations and she wanted me to name things and talk about them. I was more interested in the story itself, because I think with its fairly simple plot but multiple characters, it would be great to use for dramatization. Keeping this one in mind for work!

Diana Thomsen says

I liked this one. It states that this was thousands and thousands of years ago, meaning it doesn't preach evolutionary theory, allowing the Earth to be pretty much any age you want. I like that. I also appreciate the way the main character becomes who he wishes to become, making music instead of hunting.

Rebecca Gomez says

It wasn't horrid, but I'm not a fan of stories that come across as suggesting that "artists" are somehow more enlightened or wise than others.

Miss Ryoko says

I won this book at a literature training I did. I like these sort of historical picture books. They're always very interesting, and there is something very special about them that I can't quite explain. I enjoyed it.

Kris says

2 starred reviews: PW & Kirkus (5.15.12)

"...Winter's rudimentary acrylic, pen and ink illustrations look a little like elementary-school dioramas (evergreens perch awkwardly on hillsides, frozen figures point with stubby fingers and mouths open, miniaturized hunting scenes seem almost silly), but her pictures (atop frayed, mottled handmade papers) brilliantly evoke primitive times. Each spread's warmth, accessibility and kindness make visiting a far-away century immensely pleasurable. Muted blues, browns and ruddy reds soften Kali's world of hunting, caves and manly expectations, ..."-- Kirkus

"...Jeanette Winter is a master of the calm and quiet – qualities that might not grab all the attention, but have a way of creating deep meaning. Kali's Song is another example of this sort of storytelling. It's gentle, but it's powerful...Winter's acrylic and pen and ink illustrations have a childlike quality that are accessible to young readers. All of the illustrations are atop handmade paper, providing an added layer of depth..."--100 Scope Notes

"...Framed with torn edges, the illustrations are filled with the texture of papers that mimics that of cave walls. The characters are roughly painted, just as his mother's cave paintings are with additional fine details drawn on in ink. The result is a book that is a winning combination of rough and fine..."--Waking Brain Cells

The Styling Librarian says

Moving, beautiful, lyrical, quiet, peaceful, fabulous celebration of individuality and following your own dream.

Tima says

Kali lived thousands of years ago. He is about to become a man and go on his first hunt. To help him prepare, his dad has given him his first bow and arrows. Kaili heads out to the woods to practice. But he learns that he can make a beautiful sound with his bow and his mouth. So every day he heads to the woods to practice. But he's practicing his music and not his hunting skills. The day of the big hunt arrives. When he spots the mammoths in the distance he runs to a hill to get a closer look. But he forgets all about the hunt and begins to play his music. The animals are entranced and come closer to hear the music. His tribe members assume he is a special shamam with magical powers. Everyone is proud of him and he grows up to cure many people and do great things. But he never forgets his music even in his old age. This book has a heartwarming message about following your heart and being your own person. I also liked that it promoted not killing the animals. The illustrations are well done and fit the cave man story line.

I received this book free of charge from Children's Literature in exchange for my honest review.

Jim Erikson says

A new genre? Prehistorical fiction? It's really hard to get into the mindset of a prehistorical society. Some of

Miller's story seemed interesting and likely, and other bits had the current time written all over them. For example, the 'how was practice today' page made it seem like the boy had just gotten back from soccer. Accounts of cave painting, including Herzog's 'Cave of Dreams' make it seem likely that access to cave painting was arcane and esoteric, not just something mom did on the side to decorate the cave. The sudden cut away from the mammoth hunt was a little disappointing, too. I thought the best next page after "Kali must be a shaman" would be everyone around the fire with a hunk of meat. The idea Kali's music had new and unexpected effects on the world, and that this would be construed as magic, felt right on point.

Composition and design for the mixed media illustrations were pleasing to look at. Handmade paper with cut-out scenes and figures all contributed to a pleasant visual experience. I would say the relationship between words and pictures is what Winfried Nöth called redundancy: "Redundancy is the extreme counterpart of dominance. In the context of a picture, a verbal message is redundant when it only repeats what you see anyhow." [Notice how I used the word redundancy twice in a row?]
