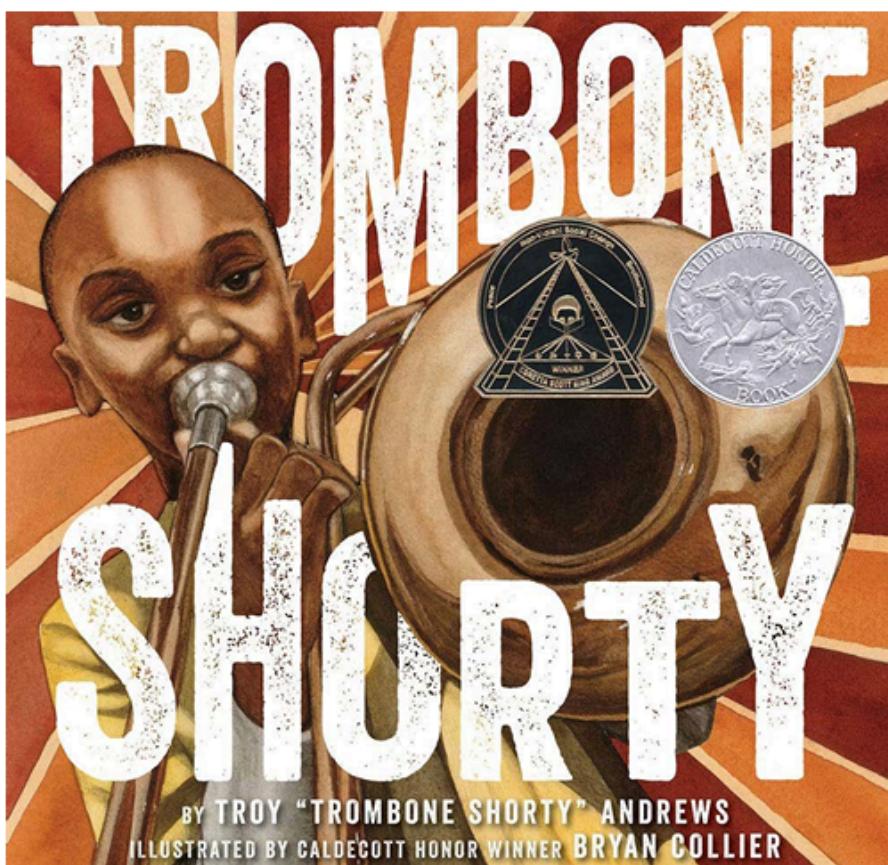


Trombone Shorty

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



Written by Benny Rhamdani

Illustrated by Odilia Stevannie

THEMES

Biography

Culture & Tradition

Community

SEL

SUB-THEMES

Jazz traditions

Musical instruments

Story Discussion Guide

Children will:

- Understand the impact of homelessness on children.
- Recognize global housing insecurity and its effect on education.
- Reflect on social exclusion and bullying due to poverty.
- Cultivate empathy and respect for all peers.
- Inspire strength and hope in children facing hardship.

Lesson Plan

Students explore the musical culture of New Orleans and the universal nature of music.

Learning Outcome

Warm-Up Questions:

- What kinds of music do you enjoy? How does it make you feel?
- Have you ever practiced something challenging?
- What do you know about jazz or New Orleans?

During Reading : – Pause to Ask:

- Why does Troy practice everywhere?
- What does playing a broken trombone show about him?
- How does Troy's brother support him? What do the illustrations show about Tremé?
- How might Troy have felt on stage?

After Reading:- Discussion Questions:

- What qualities helped Troy succeed?
- How does music bring communities together?
- Why is music universal and loved everywhere?
- What dream do YOU have, and what step could you take toward it?

Activities:

1. Feel the Beat—body percussion rhythm workshop.
2. Map the Music—explore New Orleans, compare with global music traditions
3. My Dream, My Path—draw/write a personal dream and steps toward it.
4. Community Soundscape—create an art mural of community sounds
5. Instrument Families—learn brass, woodwind, percussion, strings.

Expected Outcomes

- Music as emotional, cultural, and universal
- How communities nurture young talent.
- Cultural uniqueness in global music traditions.
- Shared humanity expressed through creativity and dreams.

Curriculum Alignment

Horizontal Ladder:

8-10 years

10-12 years

Rent Party Jazz

Ali and His Golden Sax

Applicable SDGs

- SDG 4 – Quality Education
- SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 16 – Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

Explanation of SDG Relevance

ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit platform that brings together stories from around the world to help children discover that beneath our differences—of culture, language, or belief—we share the same hopes, joys, and dreams. Today's children are tomorrow's citizens, and the responsibility of building a more peaceful, tolerant, and empathetic world lies with them. That's why it's vital to instill these values early—through stories that help them rise above the biases they inherit, and see diversity as a strength that unites us all.