MUSICAL ADJECTIVES

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ADJECTIVE

SONG

ADJECTIVE

ADJECTIVE

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CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

About the Book
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In singlepage chapters with titles like “The First Cheeseburger Ever Eaten by Elvis” and “Shazam! A Blond Boy Turns Into a Black-Haired Teenager,” readers can follow key moments in Presley’s life, from his birth on the wrong side of the railroad tracks in the Deep South to playing his first guitar in grade school to being so nervous during a performance as a teenager that he starts shaking . . . and changes the world!

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Explain to your students that in 1956, Elvis’s version of “Hound Dog” became the first song in history to reach number one on all three Billboard charts (Pop; Country & Western; and Rhythm & Blues) at the same time. It has sold about ten million copies worldwide. Play the song for them and ask the students to write a brief story that reflects what’s happening in the scene. Each poem should cover a stage or event in their life, which can be as everyday as starting school or learning to ride a bike or more dramatic like moving homes or losing a loved one. Have them share the poems in small groups, comparing them, and asking and answering questions.

Set the Scene, Write the Story
In the classroom, gather together as many small objects as possible that could be used to set a scene such as those in the illustrations. You might have students bring in objects from home, too. Students should spend time looking at the objects and then choose ones that form a story in their mind. Each student should arrange a scene like the illustrations. When they’re happy with the arrangement, ask the student to write a brief story that reflects what’s happening in the scene.

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This guide was written and prepared by Kathleen Odean, a former school librarian, who gives workshops on new children’s and young adult books. She chaired the 2002 Newbery Award Committee and served on the 1996 Caldecott Award Committee.

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ELVIS IS KING!
CLASSROOM ACTIVITY GUIDE

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