

Little People, **BIG DREAMS**

Elton John



Written by Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara

Illustrated by Sophie Beer

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Frances Lincoln
Children's Books



This is the story of a little boy from the London suburbs, who once sat at the piano and started playing a waltz by ear. His name was Reggie, and from that day on, whenever his parents argued, music became his refuge.





He received a scholarship to study classical music at the Royal Academy of Music. By singing in the choir and playing with other musicians, he discovered what music is all about: bringing people together.





Reggie started composing his own melodies and singing rock and roll hits with a band. One day, he saw an advert from a record company, looking for new talent . . . He decided to go to the audition.





Reggie didn't do very well that day. Still, he left the try-out with an envelope full of lyrics from a guy called Bernie that all needed a melody. Back home, when Reggie started reading . . . something magical happened!







Reggie wasn't the best at writing lyrics, and Bernie didn't know how to write melodies. But by working together, all they needed was 15 minutes to make the most beautiful songs.

After two long years of composing songs for other artists, it was time for Reggie to record his first solo album. But Reginald Kenneth wasn't the coolest name for an artist, so he changed it to Elton John.









One morning, Elton and Bernie wrote a song at breakfast. It was called "Your Song" and it launched Elton like a rocket man, from his mother's modest house to superstardom! It was his first big hit.





Jumping on stage dressed as Captain Fantastic, Elton became a celebrity loved by millions. He had thousands of spectacular glasses and the most amazing wardrobe a drag queen would long for.



But once the show was over and the adoring crowds
had left, Elton felt terribly alone. He had all he
could dream of, and still, nothing seemed
to make him happy.





Everything changed when he met Ryan, a little hero fighting in hospital. Ryan showed him that life's too wonderful to waste it complaining. The day they said goodbye, Elton promised to honor his friend's memory by being his best self.





And he did! He started eating healthily, getting a good night's sleep, and looking after himself. And then came David, the husband he had always wanted. They built their own family and are the proud fathers of two children.





Elton was knighted by the Queen of England, not just for being the most successful male solo artist of all time, but also for creating a fantastic foundation to fight AIDS, the disease that had taken Ryan and many other friends away.





And after a long life dedicated to music, Sir Elton John still remembers little Reggie. The shy boy who looked for comfort sitting at his piano, and ended up bringing joy and happiness to the world with his songs.



ELTON JOHN

(Born 1947)



1968



1973

Reginald Kenneth Dwight was born in Middlesex, England, in 1947. Inspired by musical greats like Little Richard and Ray Charles, Reggie taught himself to play piano. His father disagreed with Reggie's dream of pop superstardom, but Reggie didn't let that stop him. At the age of 17, he realized he wanted to transform himself, so he borrowed two of his bandmates' names, and Elton John was born. In 1967, Elton met Bernie Taupin, and together the duo wrote hits that no one could predict: pop-ballads like "Your Song," rock and roll dance-alongs like "Crocodile Rock," and sing-at-the-top-of-your-voice anthems like "I'm Still Standing." On stage, Elton could be anything he dreamed, and the crowds loved him for it. He could make you sing, dance, laugh, and cry. When he pulled his signature move on stage—



1971



2014

a handstand on his piano—it felt like the whole room was floating up with him. Elton also became known for some crazy outfits, full of feathers, pompoms, sequins, and sunglasses you had to see to believe. His wildest dreams had come true—why not dress for the occasion? Elton has had 27 top 10 hits, won countless awards, and even performed at Queen Elizabeth II’s Diamond Jubilee! He was knighted in 1998 for his music and charity work with the Elton John AIDS Foundation, which Elton set up in memory of his friend, Ryan White. In 2018, he announced he would quit touring to spend more time with his husband and two kids. He remains one of the world’s best-loved singers and an LGBTQ+ icon, the boy from Middlesex who dreamed big, and became everyone’s favorite Rocket Man.

Want to find out more about **Elton John?**

Have a read of these great books:

Who Is Elton John? by Kirsten Anderson and Joseph J. M. Qiu

The Lion King: Piano/Vocal (Sheet Music) by Elton John and Tim Rice



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Original concept of the series by Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara, published by Alba Editorial, s.l.u

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First Published in the US in 2020 by Frances Lincoln Children's Books, an imprint of The Quarto Group.

Quarto Boston North Shore, 100 Cummings Center, Suite 265D, Beverly, MA 01915, USA

Tel: +1 978-282-9590, Fax: +1 978-283-2742 www.QuartoKnows.com

First Published in Spain in 2020 under the title Pequeño & Grande Elton John

by Alba Editorial, s.l.u., Baixada de Sant Miquel, 1, 08002 Barcelona www.albaeditorial.es

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A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-0-7112-5840-2

eISBN 978-0-7112-5839-6

Set in Futura BT.

Published by Katie Cotton • Designed by Sasha Moxon

Edited by Katy Flint • Editorial Assistance from Alex Hithersay

Production by Nikki Ingram

Manufactured in Guangdong, China CC082020

1 3 5 7 9 8 4 6 2

Photographic acknowledgements (pages 28-29, from left to right) 1. Photo of Elton JOHN; First publicity pictures - in Hampstead (Photo by Val Wilmer/Redferns) 2. English pop singer Elton John in a flamboyant stage outfit of feather trimmed jacket and rhinestone encrusted glasses, circa 1973. (Photo by Terry O'Neill/Iconic Images/Getty Images) 3. English singer songwriter Elton John performing at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, 1975. He is wearing a sequinned baseball outfit. (Photo by Terry O'Neill/Iconic Images/Getty Images) 4. Elton John performs live at Twickenham Stoop on June 3, 2017 in London, England. (Photo by Ian Gavan/Getty Images for Harlequins)

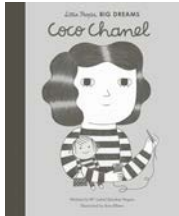
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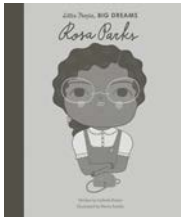
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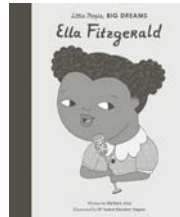
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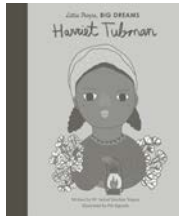
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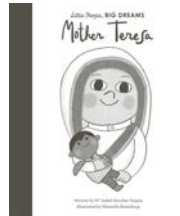
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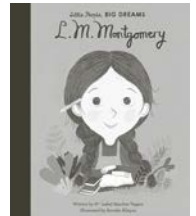
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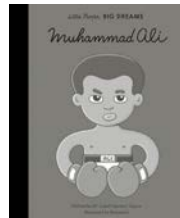
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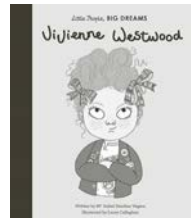
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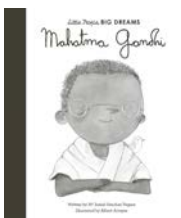
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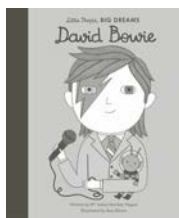
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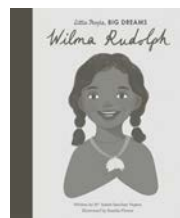
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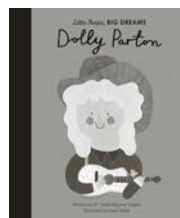
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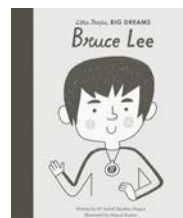
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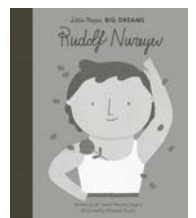
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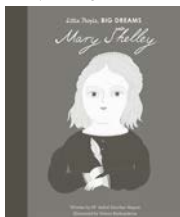
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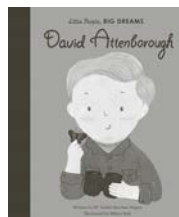
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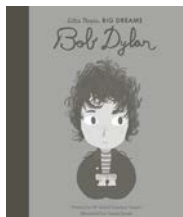
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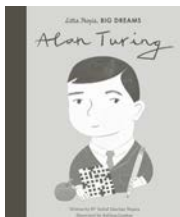
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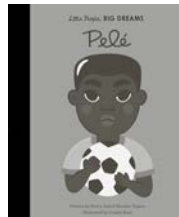
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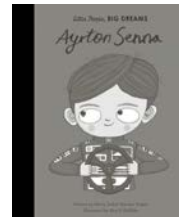
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Little People, **BIG DREAMS**

Elton John

Discover the lives of outstanding people,
from designers and artists to scientists. All of
them achieved incredible things, yet each began
life as a child with a dream.

As a child, Elton started playing his grandmother's piano.

He could pick out tunes by ear and was soon attending
lessons at the Royal Academy. After answering an advert in
a newspaper, Elton teamed up with a lyric-writing buddy:

Bernie Taupin. The rest is history. Elton's songwriting
talent, musical skill, and dazzling outfits have made him
one of the greats. This inspiring story of the Rocket Man's
life features a facts and photos section at the back.

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