



## Who Was Frida Kahlo?

*Sarah Fabiny, Jerry Hoare (Illustrations)*

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**Who Was Frida Kahlo?** Sarah Fabiny , Jerry Hoare (Illustrations)

You can always recognize a painting by Kahlo because she is in nearly all--with her black braided hair and colorful Mexican outfits. A brave woman who was an invalid most of her life, she transformed herself into a living work of art. As famous for her self-portraits and haunting imagery as she was for her marriage to another famous artist, Diego Rivera, this strong and courageous painter was inspired by the ancient culture and history of her beloved homeland, Mexico. Her paintings continue to inform and inspire popular culture around the world.

## Who Was Frida Kahlo? Details

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Author : Sarah Fabiny , Jerry Hoare (Illustrations)

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## **From Reader Review Who Was Frida Kahlo? for online ebook**

### **Faith says**

My daughter (7, almost 8) picked this book out after we had talked one day about various artists, including Frida Kahlo. I read it to her, although I think she could have read most of it on her own. She really enjoyed learning more about Frida and all the pictures in the book.

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### **Crystal says**

This is a tame biography of Frida Kahlo, but does the job. I wanted to read one of the books in this series because they are quite popular. I found it a bit dry, but thought they did a fairly good job of showing who Frida was.

I appreciated the addition of historical background materials in between the narrative. Young readers will benefit from the help building context.

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### **Montzalee Wittmann says**

Who Was Frida Kahlo? by Sarah Fabiny is a wonderful book and I learned so much I didn't know. I didn't realize what a painful,( physically), her life had been and why. I didn't study her at all in school or in college so this was all new to me. I just knew her art because I am an art nut but I knew about some of the great artist that I liked and her art didn't strike me so I never looked her history up. Wow, what a history. Wonderful info and great illustrations. I got this book from the library.

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### **Meredith \_Martin says**

#### **BIOGRAPHY:**

This book is about the life of Frida Kahlo, a Mexican artist, who despite many obstacles still managed to persevere and become one of the most famous female artists of all time. Frida Kahlo was struck with polio and then twelve years later she was in a bus accident that almost took her life. While having to lay in bed for almost a year, Kahlo started to paint. Within the two years after her accident, Kahlo painted over twenty-four pictures. Her work consisted of many self-portraits and were inspired by how she felt and the beautiful Mexican culture that surrounded her. In 1946, Kahlo was awarded the National Prize of Arts and Sciences. Kahlo had her first solo exhibit in her native country of Mexico. Kahlo was becoming weaker and was actually taken by ambulance to her own exhibit and laid in her bed the entire time. Some say that Kahlo looked like a beautiful piece of art among her paintings. Sadly, a year later in July of 1954 Kahlo died at the age of 47 at her childhood home.

This book would be appropriate for third grade guided reading or a fourth and fifth grade independent reading. This book could be used to do a unit on our neighboring countries. Having traveled to Mexico, I would be able to share my experiences and pictures as well as have students choose topics related to

Mexican culture or influential people from Mexico. We could model the idea of having an exhibit and each student could create an original work of art based on their topic. We could invite other grades, classes, and parents to view our gallery. The students could take ownership of their work by describing to viewers what their piece of art is about and how it relates to their topic. This could even present an opportunity to talk about the mood of stories or of art. We could discuss how authors and artists often have a mood that embodies their pieces of work. We could discuss ways that authors and artists convey those messages to their audiences without explicitly saying what the mood or feeling the piece of art conveys.

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### **Hayden says**

"Who Was Frida Kahlo?" by Sarah Fabiny is a book about the life of the famous artist Frida Kahlo. It showed all of the struggles she had to deal with and still managed to be a successful artist.

I liked this book because I had never heard about her before but learned a lot about her after reading this. I enjoyed learning about all the things she overcame.

I would recommend this book to 5th to 8th graders. If you like art you will like this book. If you like other Who Was? books then you will like this one too.

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### **Nathaniel says**

It was ok. She got in a bus accident at age 18 and it took nine months to recover. She broke a lot of bones. Then she also at age 6 she came down with polio. She managed to get through that, but her leg was left weak for the rest of life.

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### **Gavin Buersken says**

I have never heard of her until I read this book. Now that I have read it I think it was an amazing book. She was a great painter. She painted her feelings and made great artwork. I liked how she painted and what she painted. For example once she made one with Mexico and with her pretty flowers and then with the U.S. And the industry. That's why I liked this book.

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### **Lisa Dominick says**

Who was Frida Kahlo? by Sarah Fabiny is a biography about famous artist, Frida Kahlo. The book is intended for readers age 8 – 12. The book details the early years when she contracted polio, the terrible accident that caused her pain for the rest of her life, her family and culture that cultivated her outspoken manner, her hidden talents as an artist, her noteworthy art work and the love of her life, Diego Rivera, also a well-known artist of their time. I gave the book a 4-star rating because of the illustrations, language and factual information. The book is beautifully illustrated in black and white prints. Illustrator, Jerry Hoare, effectively highlighted much of Frida Kahlo's art work, self-portraits, Mexican culture, and the people that she either met or who were known for the art that was being created during that time. Since much of Frida

Kahlo's artwork is difficult to understand the author used language to explain the artwork and defined terms that might be unfamiliar to young readers. Finally, the book described factual information about Frida Kahlo's life as well as events that were occurring during her time. Details about Frida Kahlo's life such as how initially she wanted to be a doctor, how mischievous she was in school and how "in 1943, she was asked to teach at the School of Painting and Sculpture" (Fabiny 92). The book included sidebar information that was either relevant to Frida Kahlo or the time period that she lived. For instance, the book shared accurate information on topics such as the "History of Mexico", "The Mexican Revolution", "Diego Rivera" – the artist, "The Great Depression" in America, "A New Way of Painting" – surrealist art and artists, and the reason for Frida Kahlo's self-portraits (Fabiny 20, 34, 44, 61, 78, 88). I would have liked if the book expounded on the difficult relationship Frida Kahlo had with her husband Diego Rivera. I realize that many times books that are intended for younger audience remove topics related to sex. However, I feel that this is an injustice to our young readers. If sex and other touchy subjects are handled with sensitivity and care, young readers can handle such topics as well as if responsible adults are involved with the reading of the information.

#### Works Cited

Fabiny, Sarah. Who was Frida Kahlo? New York: Grosset & Dunlap a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 2013. print.

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#### Elisa M. says

December

"Who was Frida Kahlo?"

Sarah Fabiny

The book "Who was Frida Kahlo?" is about Frida Kahlo and her lifetime. Frida was very smart, and wanted to become a doctor. Frida studied all the time, but didn't always make wise decisions. When Frida Kahlo was still young something terrible happened to her that changer her whole life. Frida Kahlo grew up dreaming to be a doctor but became a famouse artist.

I believe that one themes of this book is to never lose hope. In the book something prevented Frida from doing the things she enjoyed, although she did not lose hope, instead she painted. Another theme through out the book is to never give up. In the book, Frida Kahlo was married and did not have time to paint anymore, however Frida managed to paint, draw, and create during her spare time! Frida Kahlo is a very inspiring women, she wasn't afraid to be herself, and now she is a well known Artist that no one will forget.

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#### Giovanna Forsyth says

These books are so great. My 9 year old read this to me. I love that they take on explaining complicated figures, and framing what their role in history is. Now he can identify her image, and her art. Just so great.

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**Julia Margaret says**

I like how Frida Kahlo was a painter and was proud of her country, Mexico. She wore flowers in her hair and she wore traditional Mexican clothing. I also think it is cool that even though she was hurt, she still painted. I really really love the Who Was? books.

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**Erin says**

These books are flying off the shelves at work, so I had to try one. I chose Frida because I like her paintings and her feelings. A fun and easy biography for elementary school kids. Reading other comments on this one makes me feel like noting: these are for early chapter book readers. They're little. They can get into more depth and nuance when they're a little older. (Speaking of which, are there any middle grade biography series that have this level of appeal?)

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**Jayme says**

I honestly checked out this book from the library thinking it was a biography of the artist for grownups, but it is, in fact, a short book for children. This sweet, highly sanitized bio of Kahlo is high comedy for anyone who knows anything about the artist's life (she was no saint, and her relationship with her partner was not as tidy and special as depicted in this book). That said, it is a gentle, kind way to introduce children to the Frida Kahlo, but make sure they read a REAL biography later ;-)

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**Madison Wamboldt says**

Who was Frida Kahlo by Sarah Fabiny is about a Hispanic girl and she wishes to be a doctor when she grows up and when she was six years old she got the disease called polio and since then that is when she figured out that she is a very good artist and that was what she wanted to do with her life like her father. But one day when she was riding a bus home and crashed in a metal arm from one of the seats went through Fritos body and she was hospitalized for a very long time.

I like this book because it says how she wants to be a doctor and then an artist and I love both of those things. Also, I just think that her life story is just amazing on how she survived after all of that.

I recommend this book to anyone because I just think that this story is just amazing and more people need to learn about it.

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**Mortisha Cassavetes says**

I just love Frida Kahlo and all of her art work so I had to read this short book about her life. This was a fun

book to read. This book is in a series of books released as brief timelines of their lives. It doesn't go into real depth but it is still a wonderful book about her life. I highly recommend this for everyone who loves Frida Kahlo.

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