

*Strange Fruit: Billie Holiday and the Power of a Protest Song* by Gary Golio and Charlotte Riley-Webb

In this picture book biography of Billie Holiday's life, Gary Golio looks at Holiday's life and her most iconic song, entitled "Strange Fruit." While this is a picture book, it's definitely meant for slightly older kids. "Strange Fruit" is a protest song about lynching, so the lyrics can be seen as a bit graphic.

Charlotte Riley-Webb's art is museum-quality, looking like glorious, colorful oil paintings. This is a really powerful book, with a good, if simplified, background of Billie Holiday's life and the history of the song "Strange Fruit." You'll want to look up a recording of Holiday singing it if you've never heard the song before. While other artists have recorded it, none of them come close to Holiday's haunting and beautiful rendition.

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