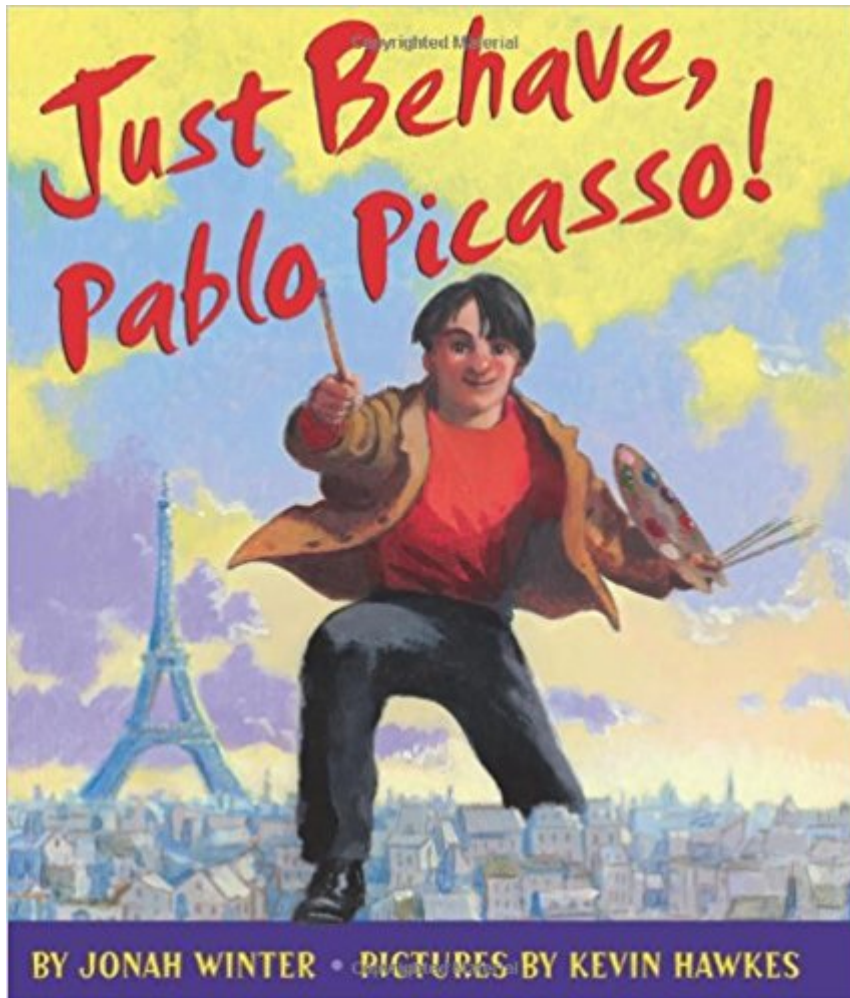




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# Just Behave, Pablo Picasso!



## Synopsis

"One day the world is a peaceful, lovely landscape painting... The next day - BLAM! - Pablo bursts through the canvas, paintbrush in hand, ready to paint something fresh and new." Pablo Picasso may have been one of the most famous artists of the 20th century, but that doesn't mean he painted what people wanted him to paint! In fact, some people hated his paintings, and called them "ugly!" and "terrible!" -- something many kids can relate to. But Picasso didn't listen to all those people, and kept on working the way he wanted to work, until he created something so new, so different... that people didn't know what to say! For every young artist who's drawn something other kids think is "ugly," this story of rebellion and creativity is sure to inspire.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 800L (What's this?)

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Best Sellers Rank: #141,436 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > European](#) #39 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art > Painting](#) #87 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Art](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

“Winter resists the ‘good for you’ air of some picture-book biographies in this dynamic reimagining of Picasso’s rocket trip to the top of the 20th-century art world, while Hawkes is energized rather than intimidated by the challenge of painting the great painter.” By dramatizing Picasso’s development rather than merely recounting it, Winter keeps readers fascinated, and by making Picasso a superhero; he bursts right through the canvas of a serene landscape on the second page; he dispels any notion of art as tired or irrelevant. — Publishers Weekly, starred review “Using an innovative and offbeat

approach, Winter provides glimpses of the energy, enthusiasm, and dedication that ruled the artist's world. In covering his early years (his experimentation with style, perspective, and color were not always appreciated), the author delivers a pungent message to today's young artists: don't be discouraged if your creative efforts are criticized; Hawkes matches Winter's storytelling rhythm, supplying vitality and intensity to the spreads with colorful scenes of Paris, people of the time, and fascinating renditions of Picasso's own work. This book is a boon for art teachers and especially classroom teachers and librarians working to bring an artistic presence and sensibility into children's lives. — School Library Journal, starred review

Jonah Winter has written many exciting picture book biographies for children, with subjects that include Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, Barack Obama, and Dizzy Gillespie. He lives in Pittsburgh, PA. Kevin Hawkes is the illustrator of over 40 books for children, including WESLANDIA and LIBRARY LION, a New York Times bestseller. He lives in southern Maine with his wife and children.

Loved this book when I checked it out from the library. When it was my turn to read a book to my sons 1st grade class I decided to purchase it from . The book does a great job exploring Picasso's long career as a artist and his motivations while still maintaining humor that kids really enjoy.

This book was a great intro into my Picasso project for 1st and 2nd grades. It is a little long for the youngest ones, but making the story interactive and adding lots of expression helps. I will use this again next year!

I loved everything about this book! From the first page: "One day the world is a peaceful, lovely landscape painting... The next day - BLAM! - Pablo bursts through the canvas, paintbrush in hand, ready to paint something fresh and new", to Picasso's continued determination to pursue something he felt passionate about, even though everyone turned against him. Personally I agree with all the critics that said his new style was an artistic step backward. Everything art related came so quickly and easily to him that he mastered what others struggled with and became bored. Out of that boredom he found originality and a new way of looking at the world around him. While I wouldn't hang much of his work on my wall I appreciate his fortitude and inventiveness.

Jonah Winter and Kevin Hawkes I am willing to bet that both of you, like Pablo Picasso, didn't listen

to the naysayers and just kept writing and drawing, painting, etc. You both brought this book to life and created a definite intrigue into Pablo Picasso's life. He is a true definition of tenacity and perseverance which is needed to be truly great. Looking forward to another collaboration from the two of you. Fun book! #MustRead published by Arthur A. Levine

The scene was bucolic with cows in the foreground and cottages in the background beneath a towering mountain range. A dirt path wound its way through a field filled with red wildflowers and a few trees. It was a gorgeous, silent canvas until whoosh ... Pablo burst through carrying his canvas and brushes. When he was young, he would amaze everyone with his skill because by the time they practically lifted their charcoal to sketch, he was putting his initials on an oil painting he completed. They scratched their heads in amazement, wiped their brows, and their eyes widened at his talent. All the other students were "twice his age," yet had half his talent. Pablo was off on another art adventure while people leaned forward to "admire the exquisite beauty of his art." There was money in those canvasses he quickly whipped up. He would throw a red cape around his neck in Spain and when he lived in Paris he donned a beret ... "ooh la la!" He quickly became "rich and famous," but when he saw a vision in some African masks and created his masterpiece people began to shout things like "That's ugly!" or "How could you?" Would Pablo go back to simply painting for money or would he follow his dreams and paint the world as only he could envision it? This is a fascinating look at Pablo Picasso, an unconventional young artist who had no intention of "behaving." There are few people who find inspiration in their creative endeavors and refused to follow or behave in ways that other people deem to be acceptable. Naturally, Picasso, who is considered to be possibly "the most famous artist of the twentieth century" was one of those few. This tale beautifully covers the period in his twenties when he was working with Cubism. The illustrations are vibrant, bold and incorporate many of Picasso's paintings. In the back of the book is a brief biographical sketch. This is a marvelous look at Picasso young readers will enjoy, one that you should definitely consider adding to your shelves!

We read this book as part of a homeschool study of Pablo Picasso. It's a very fun read and captured the attention of our 3, 5, and 8 year olds. It does have Pablo morphing into a giant while everyone in Paris tells him to behave so it's not historically accurate in every respect. In spite of that, I gave it 5 stars because the illustrations are beautiful, my children loved the book, and the story captures the essence of Picasso's attitude during his twenties. As an excellent companion to this, I'd recommend Mike Venezia's "Getting to Know the World's Artists: Picasso" which is a great

biography written for children.

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