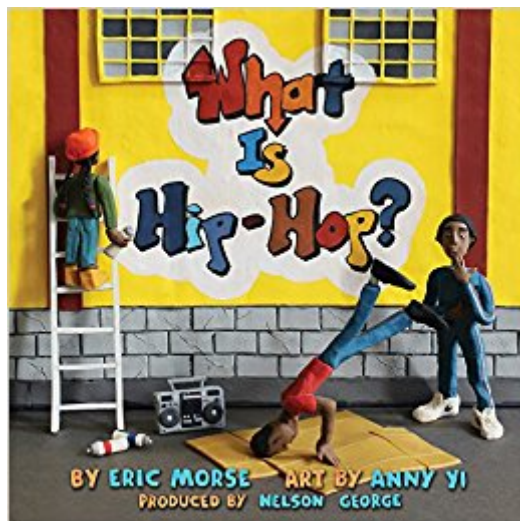


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# What Is Hip-Hop?



## Synopsis

"Morse and Yi (the team behind *What Is Punk?*) highlight hip-hop's cultural hegemony via an impressively encyclopedic parade of rhyming biographies. Yi's meticulously styled clay figures are as magical as in the previous book, combining profound expressiveness with the playfulness of action figures. Her compositions are equally evocative, ranging from video snippets (the Beastie Boys strike a pose from 'Intergalactic') to formal portraits (Kanye West, Missy Elliott, Kendrick Lamar) and metaphorical ones (Jay Z stands amid New York City skyscrapers)."  
--Publishers Weekly  
"In rhythmic, rhyming verse, Morse offers a genealogy of hip-hop royalty that begins with the Boogie Down Bronx's DJ Kool Herc and Grandmaster Flash and walks readers into today with Nicki Minaj, Drake, and Kendrick Lamar. In between the origins and now, readers find a rare gender-inclusive narrative of hip-hop history that uplifts B-girls like Queen Latifah and Missy Elliott along with legendary male groups such as NWA and Wu-Tang...The magnificent 3-D clay illustrations...include an intricately produced remake of Tribe Called Quest's legendary 'Midnight Marauders' cover. Tying these images back to their original sources makes for quite the history lesson. Make sure to keep a device nearby. A must-read reference for any hip-hop family."  
--Kirkus Reviews  
Praise for *What is Punk?* "A punk primer for the youngest set. Yi's incredibly detailed clay figures are a kinetic and inspired art choice. As [Morse] points out, the best way to learn about punk is just to listen. If invested adults love the topic, a shared reading experience can't be beat."  
--Kirkus Reviews  
"What Is Punk? is a fun, sophisticated, and beautifully illustrated introduction to the music genre for kids--or adults."  
--New York Daily News  
"In the beginning, there was a beat..." So begins *What is Hip-Hop?*--a playful guided tour of one of the most revolutionary pop culture movements of the twentieth century. Beginning with block parties in the Bronx, *What is Hip-Hop?* brings the reader up to the present day, with rhyming verses and engaging 3-D clay illustrations. It's a fun, accessible, and informative read for B-boys and B-girls of all ages.  
In the follow-up to their acclaimed and beloved hit *What Is Punk?* author Eric Morse and artist Anny Yi reunite to celebrate the music that changed their lives and the voices that achieved iconic status along the way. See Run-D.M.C., LL Cool J, Beastie Boys, Salt-N-Pepa, Biggie and Tupac, Eminem, and even Nicki Minaj and Kendrick Lamar, as you've never seen them!

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 840 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Black Sheep (September 5, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1617755842

ISBN-13: 978-1617755842

Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 0.4 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #211,709 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Rap & Hip-Hop](#) #15 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > History](#) #109 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Rap](#)

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

Eric Morse is a writer and father of four living outside of New York City. He was the founder and editor of Trampoline House online magazine, and a music industry marketing executive. When he's not listening to old hip-hop records, he's listening to new hip-hop MP3s. Eric is also the author of *What Is Punk?* Anny Yi is an artist from Los Angeles, California. She makes clay-art dioramas and stop-motion films inspired by fashion and music. Anny Yi is the illustrator of *What Is Punk?* and *What Is Hip-Hop?* Nelson George ("producer" of this book) is an author, filmmaker, and life-long resident of Brooklyn, New York. His novels include *The Accidental Hunter*, *The Plot Against Hip Hop*, *The Lost Treasures of R&B*, and the forthcoming *To Funk and Die in LA* (all part of the *D Hunter* series). Among his many nonfiction works are *The Death of Rhythm & Blues*, *Hip Hop America*, and *The Hippest Trip in America: Soul Train and the Evolution of Culture & Style*. As a filmmaker he's directed the documentaries *A Ballerina's Tale*, starring Misty Copeland, *Brooklyn Boheme for Revolt*, *The Announcement* for ESPN, and *Finding the Funk* for VH1, and serves as supervising producer for Baz Luhrmann's Netflix series *The Get Down*.

One of Black Sheep/Akashic Books newest releases is *WHAT IS HIP-HOP?* by Eric Morse. Art is by Anny Yi and the book is *ÄfÄçÄ â ÑÄ* produced *ÄfÄçÄ â ÑÄ* by Nelson George. I acquired this *ÄfÄçÄ â ÑÄ* Advance Reading Copy *ÄfÄçÄ â ÑÄ* from Akashic Books in exchange for an unbiased, honest review. The book jacket tells me it is a *ÄfÄçÄ â ÑÄ* "playful, guided tour of one of the most revolutionary pop culture movements of the twentieth century:

hip-hop. The book is a follow-up to the title, WHAT IS PUNK? This is a hard-cover, children's picture book with gorgeous clay figure illustrations. Anny Yi is "an artist who makes clay-art dioramas and non-stop motion films inspired by fashion and music. She is extremely talented. The clay figures are very life-like; very realistic. How does she dress them? and make them break-dance? The book is in verse: "In the beginning, there was a beat. Two records spinning, and the crowd got on its feet. The story line is very fast-paced, with Dr. Seuss-like rhyming and lots of information. It is a simplistic biography of such hip-hop artists as LL Cool J, Salt-N-Pepa and Jay Z. The book was gorgeously put together. The illustrations really fit with the verse. The verse was fast, snappy and easy to read. It had quite a beat of its own. I really liked the book because I learned something from it. Me, who knows absolutely nothing about hip-hop, can now rattle off names like RUN-DMC and Missy Elliott. "But hip-hop remains, deep down at its heart, a unique expression, an urban form of art."

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