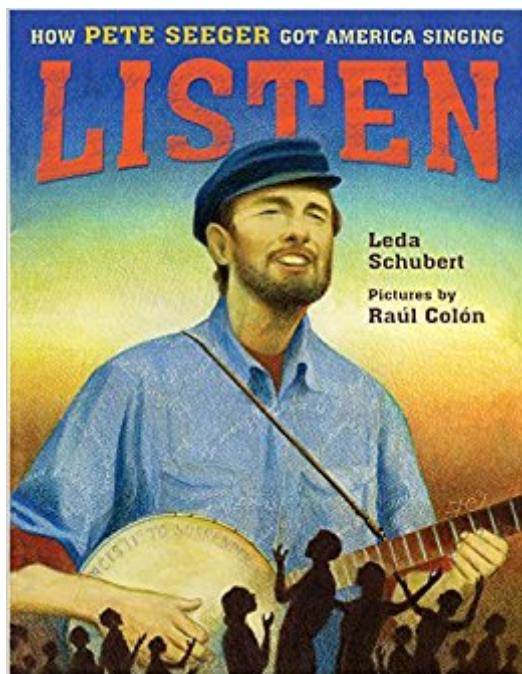


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# Listen: How Pete Seeger Got America Singing



## Synopsis

Listen. There was nobody like Pete Seeger. Wherever he went, he got people singing. With his head thrown back and his Adamâ™s apple bouncing, picking his long-necked banjo or strumming his twelve-string guitar, Pete sang old songs, new songs, new words to old songs, and songs he made up. In this gorgeously written and illustrated tribute to legendary musician and activist Pete Seeger, author Leda Schubert highlights major musical events in Mr. Seeger's life as well as important moments of his fight against social injustice. From singing sold-out concerts to courageously standing against the McCarthy-era finger-pointing, Pete Seeger's life is celebrated in this bold book for young readers with gorgeous illustrations by RaÃ©l ColÃ©n. A Neal Porter Book

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

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Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

## Customer Reviews

"Schubert and ColÃ©n ably demonstrate one of their book's final assertions: "there really was nobody like Pete Seeger."â•Kirkus Reviews, starred review" In this biographical tribute to Pete Seeger, Schubert and acclaimed illustrator ColÃ©n combine their talents to bring Seegerâ™s legacy of music and social justice activism to contemporary young readers. Seegerâ™s connection to the public is evident in repeated depictions of him among crowds of listeners, antiwar protesters, singing children, and the millions at the Lincoln Memorial rally."â•Booklist" An inspiring and heartfelt tribute to, as Schubert calls him, a true American hero.â•â•Horn Book

Leda Schubert teaches at Vermont College of Fine Arts in the Writing for Children and Young Adults MFA program. She is the author of the Roaring Brook Press titles *The Princess of Borscht*, *Ballet of the Elephants*, and *Monsieur Marceau*. Leda lives in Plainfield, Vermont, with her husband and two dogs. Raúl Colón has illustrated several highly acclaimed picture books, including *Draw!*; the New York Times-bestselling *Angela and the Baby Jesus* by Frank McCourt; Susanna Reich's *Born to Dance*; and Jill Biden's *Don't Forget, God Bless Our Troops*. Mr. Colón lived in Puerto Rico as a young boy and now resides in New City, New York, with his family.

Having grown up on Pete Seeger songs, his political journey, and his principles, I looked forward eagerly to the publication of this book. The text and lyrics are wonderful memories and the illustrations are beautiful. Ms. Schubert has done a terrific job of plucking the strings of my memory as I heard Pete's banjo strumming the tunes. I bought three copies for each of my grown children and their families to continue the tradition of Pete Seeger in our hearts.

Loved this book. Wonderfully illustrated and the text was informative and entertaining. Set me on a mission to learn even more.

It wasn't until I read *LISTEN* that I realized I knew more about Pete Seeger's music than I did him, but it is that fact which made this book even more powerful and timely. I love that Leda Schubert was able to capture the essence of a man that has been able to touch people around the world, and show us who he was outside of the music. We're able to understand what motivated him and why his life is an example for all of us as to the impact that one person can make. Another thing that really struck me was that it also shows the importance of using our gifts for something larger than ourselves. Pete seemed to get this early on in life, and it would appear that this is something that kept him humble and focused. Well presented and something that will whet your appetite to want to know more about the man, *LISTEN* instructs us to do just that when it comes to Pete Seeger: Listen to the word and listen to what he said through his life and do our best to emulate him as best we can.

Like so many people, all over the world, I have listened to Pete Seeger for my entire adult life, sang and taught his songs to my children and now am singing and teaching his songs to my grandson. He is as beloved as any songwriter and singer ever was, and his songs chronicle his and our generation's history in haunting words and unforgettable tunes. *LISTEN* captures Pete's gift, his

charm, his magic and his courage. It's a book for our times, that's for sure. Most important, though, is that LISTEN speaks directly to small children, to young adults, and to the elders as well. Like all of Schubert's childrens books, LISTEN is completely accessible to the young, while conveying complex ideas. Best of all, this book weaves in so many of Pete's songs with his story. It will leave you humming, tapping your feet, and determined to get Pete's own voice on whatever medium to bring his inexhaustible joy into your life and the lives of all the kids around you. Every school library, every day care. and every family needs copies of this book!

This wonderful book is a lovely way to introduce young people to Pete Seeger's life. The writing is beautiful and the author does a great job of conveying Pete Seeger's sense of mission and his love of music and of people. It covers the highlights of the life of this important musician, and the politics of the times, too. Plus, I bet if you read it you'll soon find yourself singing Seeger's songs! Buy this, and share it with the whole family.

engaging and powerfully written.

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