That’s Betty!
The Story of Betty White by Gregory Bonsignore; illustrated by Jennifer M. Potter
Henry Holt and Co. (BYR), an imprint of Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group, 2022
ISBN: 9781250796608 (Hardcover)
*Age Range: 4-8

BOOK SYNOPSIS

An innovative and joyful picture book biography that celebrates the life and achievements of TV legend, pioneer, and activist Betty White.

Betty White is a legend and icon (but you already knew that).

In her eighty-year career, she starred on some of the most beloved shows of all time (like The Mary Tyler Moore Show and The Golden Girls, along with dozens more) and received multiple Emmy, American Comedy, and Screen Actors Guild Awards, as well as a Grammy and People’s Choice Award, not to mention a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame!

More than creating some of the most memorable roles in history, Betty helped to make the world a better and more equal place. Early in her career, at a time when women had little power in Hollywood, she starred in, directed, and produced her own shows, creating opportunities for other women and for people from marginalized groups. She campaigned to end bullying and has stood up for the LGBTQIA+ community. And she devoted much of her life advocating for the fair treatment of animals.

This innovative picture book biography follows a young boy who is doing a class presentation about Betty White…with a little help from Betty herself! Whimsical yet fact-filled, That’s Betty! tells the story of a life well-lived while celebrating Betty’s many fans.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "Cleverly written from a child’s perspective, this biography will have readers loving Betty White more and more with each turn of the page. . .[T]his is a must-have for all library shelves." — School Library Journal, starred review

★ "In this awed tribute, a young fan assigned to do a class presentation on a “trailblazing woman” braves the skepticism of their teacher and their dads to gain . . . a high-spots overview of White’s multi-decade career. Readers, too, will come away wowed." — Booklist, starred review

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"A playful tour of Betty White’s life. . . [T]his LGBTQ+-friendly selection offers a mirror to children intent on being themselves and focusing on their unique interests, gender-typical or not. Lively illustrations feature a diverse cast. A well-intentioned biographical selection about Betty White that is consciously inclusive and diverse." — Kirkus Reviews

"Readers unfamiliar with [Betty] White will find something to admire in her pioneering gumption and willingness to stand up for what’s right. Bonsignore handles all the details of White’s long life with elan… in this irrepressible picture book debut." — Publishers Weekly

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- Share an interview with Gregory Bonsignore
- Author Spotlight at Parker Williams Branch Library

*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.

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