



***Bill the Boy Wonder* by Marc Tyler Nobleman**

**Illustrated by Ty Templeton**

Charlesbridge, 2012

ISBN: 9781580892896 Hardcover

\*Age Range: 8 to 12

Grade Range: 3 to 5

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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Discover the surprising origins of the legendary caped crusader in this entertaining picture book biography for young fans of Batman and superheroes

Batman's biggest secret is not Bruce Wayne . . .

Every Batman story is marked with the words, "Batman created by Bob Kane." But that isn't the whole truth. A struggling writer named Bill Finger was involved from the beginning. Bill helped invent Batman, from concept to costume to character. He dreamed up Batman's haunting origins and his colorful nemeses. Despite his brilliance, Bill worked in obscurity. It was only after his death that fans went to bat for Bill, calling for acknowledgement that he was co-creator of Batman.

Cartoonist and popular Batman artist Ty Templeton brings Marc Tyler Nobleman's exhaustive research to life. Perfect for reluctant readers and those bridging from easy readers to longer narratives, this classic underdog story will inspire all readers to take ownership of, and pride in, their work.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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"A fitting tribute to a largely overlooked comic-book hero."—*Booklist*

"This title will appeal to children because of their interest in superheroes and their creators, and will be a draw for teachers as a read-aloud for language arts or social studies as an engaging look at a pop art icon."—*School Library Journal*

"Though Finger has been a known commodity to comics cognoscenti for years, this salute in his own format will make the lasting impression he deserves."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Buy this book; it's a great read, and you'll come away knowing more about where Batman came from — and, more importantly, about an unjustly disregarded figure in comic book history."—*GeekDad, Wired*

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“Engrossing and appropriate as the information in the main text may be for young listeners and readers, a six-page appended author’s note once again saves a heckuva lot of the good stuff for the older readers who will tackle its denser, sparsely photo illustrated prose.”—*The Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books*

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- A Junior Library Guild Selection 2012
- Storytelling World Award (honor book--stories for pre-adolescent listeners) 2013
- Bank Street College of Education’s Best Children's Books of the Year 2013
- ABC Best Books for Children 2012

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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- [Bill the Boy Wonder Discussion & Activity Guide](#)
- [Talking with Marc Tyler Nobleman | Booklinks](#)
- [Marc Tyler Nobleman: The Story of Batman’s Secret Creator | TEDTalkSearch | YouTube](#)
- [Out of the Batcave and Into the Bronx | The New York Times](#)
- [Holy Street Sign! Bronx Road Named for Batman Creator Bill Finger | School Library Journal](#)
- [Bronx intersection renamed for unsung Batman co-creator Bill Finger | New York Daily News](#)
- [Hulu Documentary Examines Batman's Lost Dad | USA Today](#)
- ['Batman & Bill' Documentary About Uncredited Creator Of Batman | Deadline](#)

## RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

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- [Metro Principal Apologizes to Parents for Author of 'Batman' Book Saying Co-creator Was Gay](#)
- [Georgia School District Canceled an Author’s Batman Talks After He Said ‘Gay’ | The New York Times](#)
- [Georgia Principal Apologizes After Batman Researcher Says ‘Gay’ in Talk with Students | Fox 5 Atlanta](#)
- [A Batman Researcher Said 'Gay' in a Talk to Schoolkids. When Asked to Censor Himself, He Quit | AP News](#)

## AUTHOR STATEMENT

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Bill the Boy Wonder is about Batman, who defends ALL people from injustice. It’s also about speaking up for others, doing the right thing even when no one is looking, and persisting even when the odds are against you.

The book became more than a book—it became a mission to correct a high-profile cultural wrong. It took nine years, but that mission ultimately succeeded. Meaning a nonfiction picture book helped change history.

This unprecedented turn of events has inspired a Hulu documentary, a TEDTalk, and people of all ages and backgrounds worldwide—even those who can't stand superheroes.

When kids hear the story, there are gasps, tears, and cheers.

Batman does not have superpowers<sup>[KB1]</sup>, but books do.

For a longer response from the author, check out [this article](#).

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## **\*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

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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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