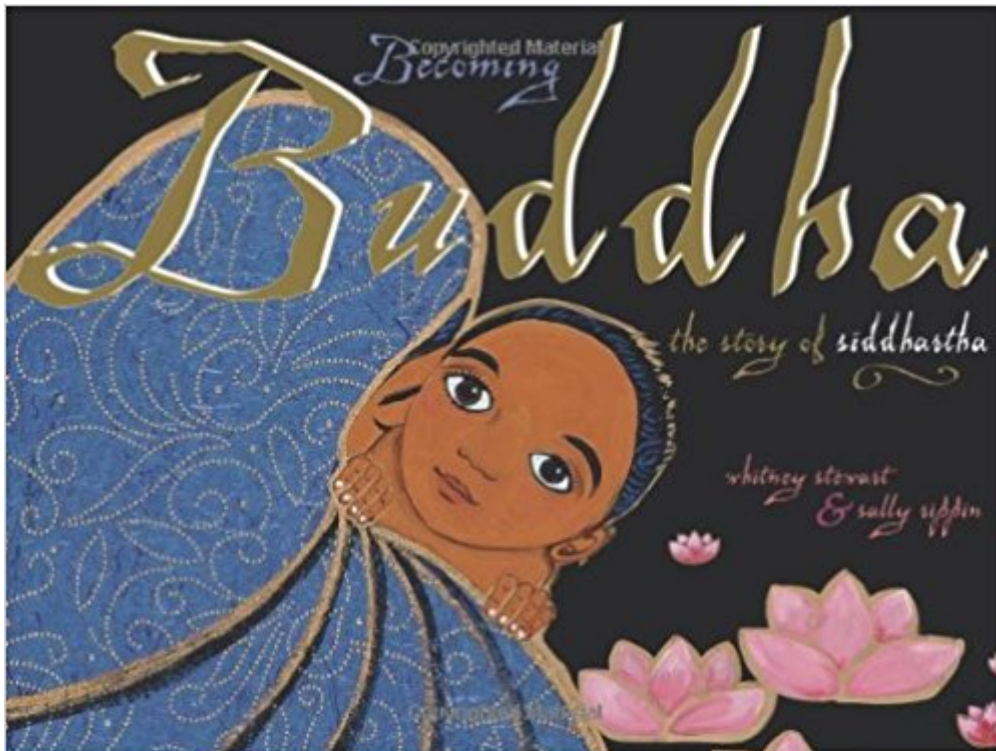




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# Becoming Buddha: The Story Of Siddhartha



## Synopsis

Now in paperback, *Becoming Buddha* is an intriguing and captivating introduction to the story of Buddhism. Opening vertically, beautiful words and illustrations depict the life of Siddhartha Gautama, a young, wealthy prince who eventually gave up his worldly ways until he attained supreme enlightenment to become Buddha. Foreword by Tenzin Gyatso, HH Dalai Lama.

## Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Heian; 2nd edition (July 1, 2009)

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,429,659 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in [Books > Children's Books > Religions > Buddhism](#) #80 in [Books > Children's Books > Religions > Eastern](#) #403 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Religious](#)

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 4 and up

## Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 3  
Stewart tells the traditional story of the life of Prince Siddhartha, beginning with the prophecies about his future greatness and the impact that the suffering of others will have on him. To keep the knowledge of suffering from the child, the king surrounded his son with a life of plenty. But even in the royal palace, the prince saw jealousy and the desire for power and decided to look beyond its walls. He discovered the great truths of ordinary life—sickness, old age, death—and began his quest to find a way to relieve humanity of pain. Rippin's illustrations feature decorative beadwork as well as richly hued paint and black backgrounds; in some ways, they resemble the paintings on lacquered Asian cabinets. Story and art are printed so that the book's binding is at the top instead of to the left, creating long vertical pages, a variation sure to appeal to young readers. Along with Anne Rockwell's *The Prince Who Ran Away* (Knopf, 2001), *Becoming Buddha* joins Hitz Demi's *Buddha* (Holt, 1996) on the slender shelf of books aiming not at critical biography, but rather at a more seamless retelling with a direct

narrative arc. Libraries that own either Rockwell's or Demi's books may opt not to purchase this one, but for those that need a beginning biography of one of the world's greatest religious leaders, it's a fine introduction to his life and teachings. --Coop Renner, Hillside Elementary, El Paso, TX  
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--This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Gr. 3-5. A stirring message from the fourteenth Dalai Lama introduces this picture-book biography, written by a practicing Buddhist. Stewart follows Buddha from pre-birth prophecies through his pampered youth, his break with royal life, and his quest for enlightenment. Children new to meditation may have trouble grasping the ideas in a few passages about the process, described as "a natural state of mind, free from the distraction of . . . senses" and "the space between thoughts . . ." But these descriptions also lend the narrative accessibility by explaining more about the activity that occupies Buddha through so much of the story, and an appended meditation exercise--a good choice for young beginners--may increase children's interest in the subject. Rippin's painted collage art, in spare, oblong spreads that stretch above and below the book's spine, keeps the focus on the large, naive-style figures, accented with saffron yellow and lapis-blue patterns. Pair this Australian import with the titles listed in the January 2002 Read-alikes feature "Beginning Buddhism." Gillian Engberg  
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My 4 year old girl is probably a bit confused when I take meditation breaks. Not only is this a great story to instill values but it seems to elucidate on the practice of meditation at a basic level and I think it was a eureka moment for her while I was reading that part. This is why Daddy meditates kind of thing. Excellent book I hope she doesn't get bored with it so I can read over and over again and habituate both of our minds! =)

This is a very well done children's book on an important world religion. It uses the narrative story of the Buddha's life to demonstrate the fundamental principles of Buddhism i.e. material life is characterized by suffering, the middle way between two extremes is best and there is a release from the cycle of suffering. Where children are concerned, it is a good story that captivates attention and sparks the imagination. This re-telling of the Buddha's life fits the bill and introduces many sound principles that apply to any religion e.g. ultimate satisfaction is not to be found in the material world, the way to deeper meaning is inward, suffering is largely caused by selfish desire, etc. In a diverse

world, books like this can help to bridge important gaps. This one has a good story, principles, illustrations, etc. I highly recommend it.

A beautiful book. The art is just lovely. I really enjoyed it. That being said, I felt it was a little too advanced for my 3.5 year old. My 5 year old was very interested in drawings but it seemed a little too detailed for her even. I think the approach to take would be to read a few pages at a time and then talk about what you read and then read a few more the next night and talk about what you read..etc..etc...but not something to read all in one evening. A good buy regardless. You can always tuck it away until the time is right.

Great Story. Nicely written.

I really enjoyed this book and hope that the kids will as well. Really beautiful pictures and age appropriate book.

the best children's book on the life of Gautama Buddha. There's some discrepancy on the details, but then again, every "school of thought" has their rendition of Gautama's life before enlightenment.

I bought this for a 4 and 6 year old, but the length and language are more at a 4th grade level. But it looks like a kids book, so I'm not sure if a 4th grader would be interested.

THIS ART WAS VERY INTERESTING AND LOVELY . BUT STORY OF BUDDHA WAS LOST IN EMPHASIS ON ILLUSTRATION , in my opinion.

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