



Young Pelé: Soccer's First Star

By Lesa Cline-Ransome

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How did a poor boy named Edson—who kicked rocks down roads and dribbled balls made from rags—go on to become the greatest soccer player of all time? Here is the story of the boy who with great determination, lightning speed, and amazing skill overcame tremendous odds to become the world champion soccer star Pelé. Talented author/illustrator team Lesa Cline-Ransome and James E. Ransome bring his inspirational story vibrantly to life. The theme of this Dragonfly Book is Sports.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review With handsome oil paintings and a stirring story, this picture-book biography will first grab children with its action. Just as exciting, though, is the account of Brazilian-born Pelé's personal struggle—his amazing rise from poverty to international soccer stardom. The focus is on Pelé's childhood in Bauru, Brazil, in the 1940s and early 1950s. The pictures show him in his multiracial community, especially on the soccer field. He is punished for not paying attention in class; then he gives up school altogether to play soccer. His team, the Shoeless Ones, play barefoot; the ball is a sock stuffed with rags. The kids shine shoes and sell peanuts, until they earn enough for uniforms and second-hand shoes. Inspired by his dad, Pelé plays hard and is chosen as the team captain, and in a triumphant climax, he scores the winning goal in a big youth tournament. An afterword fills in the facts about how Edson (Pelé was a nickname) went on to become the greatest soccer player ever known. The small painting of the team's battered second-hand shoes is a moving testament to its struggle, particularly in contrast to the final triumphant pages when Pelé kicks the ball straight into the goal. Rochman, Hazel

Review

Starred Review, [Booklist](#), September 1, 2007:

"With handsome oil paintings and a stirring story, this picture-book biography will first grab children with its action."

—Hazel Rochman

About the Author

LESA CLINE-RANSOME is the author of numerous highly acclaimed picture book biographies, including *Before There Was Mozart: The Story of Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier de Saint-George*; *Young Pelé: Soccer's First Star*, called "stirring" in a starred review from *Booklist*; *Satchel Paige*, an ALA-ALSC Notable Children's Book about an African American baseball hero; *Major Taylor: Champion Cyclist*, about an African American cyclist; and *Helen Keller: The World in Her Heart*. Visit her at lesaclinersansome.com.

JAMES E. RANSOME is the illustrator of many award-winning titles, including *Young Pelé: Soccer's First Star*, a finalist for the NAACP Image Awards; *Satchel Paige*; and *Major Taylor: Champion Cyclist*. He is also the illustrator of *Sky Boys: How They Built the Empire State Building* by Deborah Hopkinson, a *Boston Globe-Horn Book* Honor and an ALA-ALSC Notable Children's Book; *Creation*, which won a Coretta Scott King Award for Illustration; and *Let My People Go* by Patricia C. McKissack, winner of an NAACP Image Award. Visit him at jamesransome.com.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Louise Wax:

Book is to be different for each and every grade. Book for children right up until adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important usually. The book *Young Pelé: Soccer's First Star* has been

making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It is quite advantages for you. The e-book Young Pele: Soccer's First Star is not only giving you considerably more new information but also for being your friend when you feel bored. You can spend your personal spend time to read your publication. Try to make relationship using the book Young Pele: Soccer's First Star. You never truly feel lose out for everything if you read some books.

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Zachary Connors:

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