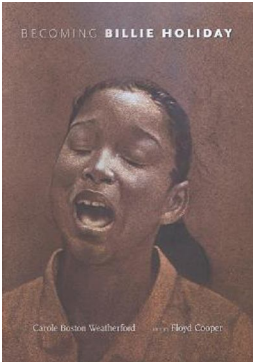


## LADY DAY'S LITERARY SALON

Host an unforgettable event!



### BECOMING BILLIE HOLIDAY

By Carole Boston Weatherford

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Web Site: [www.becomingbillieholiday.com](http://www.becomingbillieholiday.com)

### For book clubs and teens' and women's groups

Read the book and then indulge your inner Billie Holiday with a celebration worthy of Lady Day. As Holiday's jazz plays in the background, guests with flowers in their hair read passages from the book, pose for "Sophisticated Lady" photos, and pass the mic for Billie-oke. Add music videos and live jazz to the mix for unforgettable fun. Variations: Billie's Gardenia Tea, Billie's Blue Moon Lounge, Lady Day's Literary Lounge.

### Activities (Pick, choose, or use them all.)

1. READ: *Becoming Billie Holiday* either before or after the event.
2. PROPS: Real or silk flowers, preferably gardenias, for hair. Flowers may be provided or guests may wear their own. Order silk gardenias from: [www.afloral.com/Silk-Wedding-Flowers/Gardenia/Gardenia-Bush-x-9-17](http://www.afloral.com/Silk-Wedding-Flowers/Gardenia/Gardenia-Bush-x-9-17)
3. ATTIRE: Retro—think 1930s-1940s. (optional)
4. DECORATIONS: Gardenias (#2 above), Billie Holiday photos (#12 below), and record albums (vinyls) from construction paper.
5. INVITATIONS: Use the template provided at [www.becomingbillieholiday.com](http://www.becomingbillieholiday.com).
6. BACKGROUND MUSIC: Billie Holiday's recordings. Good picks: *The Lady Sings* (Proper Box UK, ASIN: B00005Q35B)  
*Billie Holiday's Gold* (Hip-O Records, ASIN: B000AMJE7I)  
*Ken Burns' Jazz Collection: Billie Holiday* (Polygram, ASIN: B000050I3R)
7. BILLIE-OKE: Sing along to Billie Holiday's recordings. Print lyrics from: [www.lyricsfreak.com/b/billie+holiday](http://www.lyricsfreak.com/b/billie+holiday)  
[www.lyricsdownload.com/holiday-billie-lyrics.html](http://www.lyricsdownload.com/holiday-billie-lyrics.html)
8. SOPHISTICATED LADY SHOTS: Guests pose for photos with flowers in their hair. Print on the spot or send later.
9. POETRY OUT LOUD: Guests take turns reading favorite poems from the book.
10. DISCUSS: Talk about the book, using questions from the discussion guide.
11. VIEW: Screen a documentary about Lady Day. Suggested DVDs: *Billie Holiday: The Ultimate Collection* (Verve, ASIN: B000AZ78RI)
12. FAVORS: Give away vintage photos of Billie Holiday. Download free from the Library of Congress site.  
Gottlieb Collection: [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/gottlieb:@field\(SUBJ\)+@1\(Holiday,+Billie,+1915-1959+\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/gottlieb:@field(SUBJ)+@1(Holiday,+Billie,+1915-1959+)))  
Van Vechten Collection: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pp/vanquery.html> (use keywords "Billie Holiday" to search)
13. REFRESHMENTS: Billie's mother Sadie baked angel biscuits. Serve what you like.
14. SHOWCASE: Invite a local jazz artist.
15. MYSPACE: Post comments at [www.myspace.com/becomingbillieholiday](http://www.myspace.com/becomingbillieholiday)
16. JUST FOR KIDS: Read aloud Weatherford's children's books: *Before John Was Jazz Giant: A Song of John Coltrane* (Henry Holt); *Jazz Baby* (Lee & Low), or *The Sound That Jazz Makes* (Walker).
17. CALENDAR TIE-INS (Or schedule whenever you like.)  
Billie Holiday's birth – April 7, 1915  
Women's History Month – March  
Black Music Month – June  
Billie Holiday's death – July 17, 1959  
National Poetry Month – April  
Blues Week – varies by locale  
Black History Month – February  
Jazz Appreciation Month – April