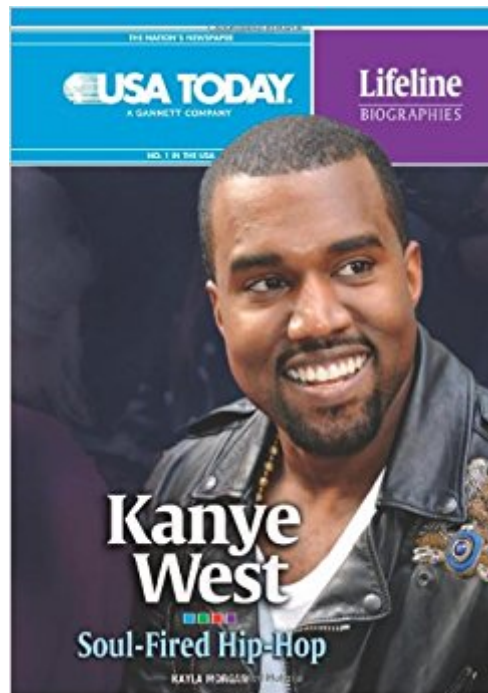




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Kanye West: Soul-Fired Hip-Hop (USA Today Lifeline Biographies)



Synopsis

Rapper, singer, and record producer Kanye West hails from Chicago, Illinois. He is the son of former Black Panther Ray West, who went on to be one of the first African American photo journalists for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Kanye West first rose to fame as a producer for Roc-A-Fella Records, where he eventually achieved recognition for his work on albums such as Jay Z's *The Black Album*, as well as hit singles for many other artists. His style encompasses many musical genres including '70s R&B, baroque pop, trip hop, arena rock, folk, alternative, electronica, synth-pop, and classical music.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The USA Today Lifeline Biographies series gets it right by featuring big names kids are really interested in and providing attractive, readable and informative biographies. The USA Today aspect comes from both newspaper articles that complement the text and some of the paper's "Snapshots" graphs, etc. The subject of Kanye West may be a rapper, but his roots are decidedly middle-class (which almost led to him being dismissed by Jay-Z and others). While the book discusses (if downplays) the violence and misogyny of rap music, when it comes to West and his late mother, it shows the respect and love. This is an info-packed bio that looks back, but also looks forward to West's future plans. Even reluctant readers will be attracted to the series' photo-filled, stylish packages; and for those who want to read more, the back matter is particularly good. Grades 7-10. --Ilene Cooper

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