

Dave the Potter

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Themes: Poetry, Perseverance, African-American History

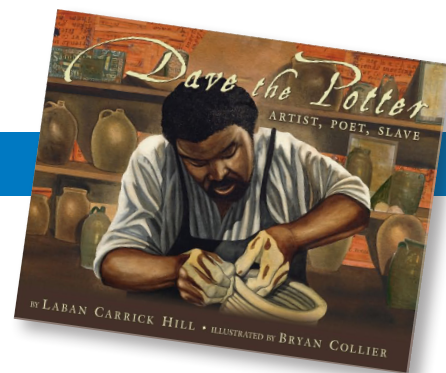
Grade Level: 3rd to 5th grade

Book Brief: Though he was a slave, Dave was a craftsman and a poet. He engraved his pottery with poems that give the reader

insight into his life and the time in which he lived.

Author: Laban Carrick Hill

Illustrator: Bryan Collier



TIME TO READ!

Before reading, build background: What does your child know about slavery and the American Civil War? This is the true story of a slave named Dave

who lived during that time period.

While reading, make inferences: Where did Dave learn to read and write? What can you guess about his life based on what the author tells you?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ Do you think Dave knows what he is going to create before he starts?
- ◆ How can a pot hold memories?
- ◆ Do you think it's harder to paint a picture or sculpt a pot?



RELATED ACTIVITIES

CLAY CREATION

Ingredients: 2 cups salt, 2/3 cup water, 1 cup cornstarch, 1/2 cup cold water

Mix 2/3 cup water and salt in saucepan over medium heat. Stir about 5 minutes until salt is dissolved. Remove from heat. Add cornstarch and remaining water. Stir until smooth. Return saucepan to medium heat and cook mixture until thick, stirring occasionally. Once mixture has thickened, remove from heat and let cool. Use your "clay" to create your own piece of pottery! You can use a toothpick to write on your piece of art.

A "COUPLET" OF POEMS

Dave often expressed himself with couplets. A couplet is two lines of poetry, one after the other, that rhyme. Here's one Dave wrote on April 8, 1858: "This noble jar

will hold 20/Fill it with silver, then you'll have plenty." Try writing a couple of couplets of your own!

GALLERY WALK

Take a trip to an art gallery or museum. As you walk around, think about the pieces of art you see. Can you find any pottery that reminds you of something Dave might have made? Choose a piece that inspires you. What would you want to write on it? Visit www.mudswheatandtears.com to see images of work by Dave and other southern potters.

TECHNOLOGY LINK

Meet the illustrator at www.readingrockets.org/books/interviews/collier.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

When the Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Hip Hop (2013),
Casa Azul: An Encounter with Frida Kahlo (2010).



PROUDLY SPONSORED BY ★macy's
©2012 Reading Is Fundamental, Inc.

Reading Is Fundamental