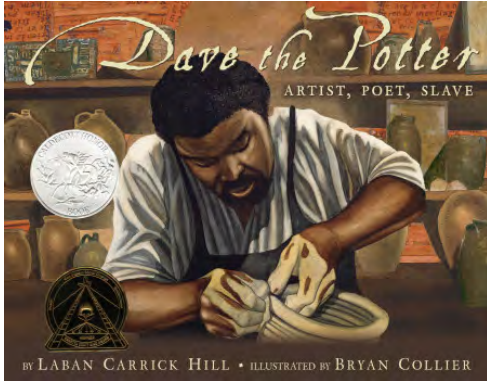


Story Time:

Family Activity Sheet

Enjoy a recorded story reading of **Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave** by award-winning artist Bryan Collier!



Synopsis: Dave was extraordinary ceramic (clay) artist and poet living in South Carolina in the 1800s. He combined his superb artistry with deeply observant poetry, carved into his pots, transcending the limitations he faced as a slave. In this inspiring and lyrical portrayal, Bryan Collier's brilliant, earth-toned illustrations tell Dave's story, a story rich in history, hope and long-lasting beauty.

[Click here to purchase the book](#)

Discussion

After Reading the Book:

- What did Dave the Potter say clay is made from?
- What would be stored in the clay pots Dave made?
- What was the last thing Dave did to the pots once they were finished?
- Do you think Dave knows what he is going to create before he starts?
- Do you think it's harder to paint a picture or make a sculpture?



Reginald F. Lewis Museum Connection



Many enslaved Africans identified with cultures that worked with metal since ancient times. Philip Reed, a master craftsman and enslaved laborer played an important role as the foreman in the casting of the bronze **Statue of Freedom** that stands atop the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C. The statue was completed in 1863. A replica of the **Statue of Freedom** can be seen in the Lewis Museum's permanent exhibition gallery, "Building Maryland, Building America."

Family Activities

Clay Pinch Pot

You will need: Playdough
or Clay: Polymer, Pottery or Fast-Drying
Popsicle sticks, toothpicks or a spoon
Water
Newspaper
Paint
Paint brush



Instructions:

1. Start with playdough or clay about the size of a tennis ball.
2. Roll the clay into a ball using the palms of your hands.
3. To form the pot, push your thumb into the center of the ball.
4. Use your thumbs to push the sides of the pot's walls outward. The base and walls should be about 1/2 inch thick.
5. Use your fingers and a little water to smooth out cracks and rough edges.
6. Use a popsicle stick, toothpicks and/or a spoon to create designs on the pinch pots.
7. Let the pot dry in a cool, dry place.

Recyclable Metal Robot

You will need: Aluminum foil
Square tissue
Bottle or soda caps
Hot or craft glue
Yogurt/snack cup
2-3 toilet paper/paper towel rolls
Pipe cleaners
Pencil

Instructions:

1. Cover tissue box and snack cup in foil.
2. Cut two short slits in the bottom of the snack cup
3. Bend the pipe cleaner in half, creating a "V."
4. Slide the pipe cleaner through the two slits.
5. Twist each pipe cleaner end around a pencil.
6. Glue the snack cup top to the tissue box.
7. Cut the cardboard rolls so you have 2 long and 2 short rolls.
8. Glue the short rolls to the bottom of the box.
9. Glue the long rolls to the bottom of the box.
10. Glue the caps to the snack cup and the tissue box.



Clay Pot Memories

David, a potter and poet, thought clay pots could hold memories. Imagine that you created the pot below. Decorate it with crayons or markers. Write a memory that you would like to keep in your pot.

