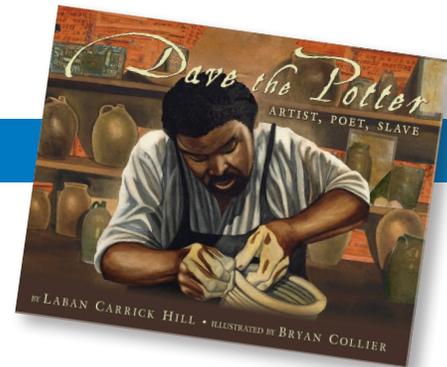


# Dave the Potter



## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

**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

**Content Connections:** Social Studies, Art



## TIME TO READ!

### BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** Have students make predictions about the story based on the title and cover illustration. Who is

Dave? What does a potter do? Based on the cover, when is this story set?

**The Pictures:** Flip through some of the pictures. What other predictions can we make about the story? About Dave?

**Prior Knowledge:** Find out what your students already know about slavery around the time of the American Civil War. You may need to briefly explain or review to build historical context. Explain that this is the true story of an enslaved man named Dave who lived during that time. Locate Dave's home of Edgefield, South Carolina, on a map or globe.

**Vocabulary:** potter, vessel

**Purpose for Reading:** "As we read, make inferences, or guesses, about Dave and his life based on evidence from the text."

## WHILE WE READ

### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Do you think Dave knows what he is going to create before he starts?
- ◆ How does Dave make the ceramic pot? What are the steps?
- ◆ How can a pot hold memories?
- ◆ Who do you think Dave is thinking about embracing?



## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** "What did you *infer* about Dave? Explain your reasoning using details from the book."

**Extending Our Thinking:** Why is it so unusual that Dave can read and write? Do you think those skills are important to him? How did they change his life? What about his art? How do you like to express yourself creatively? Do you have any skills, like Dave, that you're especially proud of? Why?

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



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