



Building the Future

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: STEM, Innovation

Book Brief: The true story of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, a boy with an unusual name who discovered his passion for building and engineering through his father's influence!

Author:
Storytime

Illustrator:
Buse Ustaoglu

BEFORE READING

The Cover: Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover and title.

The Pictures: Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about the illustrations.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, "What inspires you to learn or create? Who has helped you discover your talents?" (Optional: Think, Pair, Share)

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, pay attention to the important events in Isambard's life. Think about how each event connects to help him become a great engineer."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What does Isambard like to do?
- How does Isambard's father teach him and inspire him?
- How does the shipworm give Isambard an idea for solving a problem?
- What does Isambard learn in school that helps him?
- Why does his father hire him at such a young age?



Think Aloud: "Isambard's father teaches him math, drawing, and problem-solving through their time together. When Isambard sees the shipworm tunnel, it gives him an idea for solving the bridge problem. These experiences help prepare him for the tunnel project and his future as an engineer."

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: "What were the important events in Isambard's life? How did each event connect to help him become a great builder and engineer?"

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students, "Isambard saw a problem and wanted to find a solution. What problems do you see that need solving?" Connect Isambard's approach to identifying and solving problems. Have students identify one problem they notice (at school, home, or community) and brainstorm creative solutions, like Isambard did with the tunnel.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Explore 100 other free eBooks on Skybrary! Visit www.Skybrary.org to learn more.
- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.