

# Philip Reid Saves the Statue of Freedom

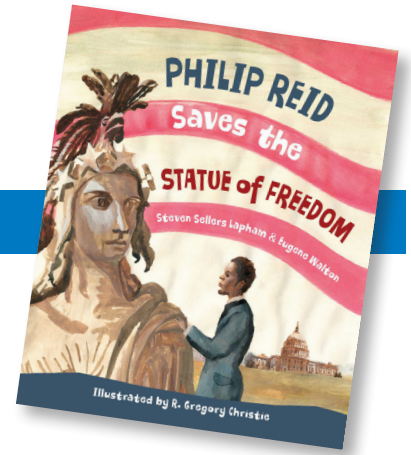
## A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

**Themes:** Problem-Solving, Black History

**Book Brief:** A talented artisan, Philip Reid solves the problem of how to take apart the Statue of Freedom so that it can be cast in bronze and put on top of our nation's Capitol dome.

**Authors:** Steven Sellers Lapham and Eugene Walton

**Illustrator:** R. Gregory Christie



## TIME TO READ!



### Before reading, build background knowledge:

The Statue of Freedom is a bronze statue that sits on top of the Capitol dome in Washington, DC. It was placed there on December 2, 1863.

**While reading, make inferences:** Where did Betsy get her hope? Describe the character of the Italian

craftsman. What do you think went through Philip's mind when Mr. Mills volunteered him?

### After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ What influence did Philip's mother have on him?
- ◆ How was Philip like a scientist?
- ◆ Do you think Philip was there to see Freedom put on top of the Capitol? Explain.
- ◆ What irony do you see in the statue and the hands that made it?

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### BUILD A BRONZE

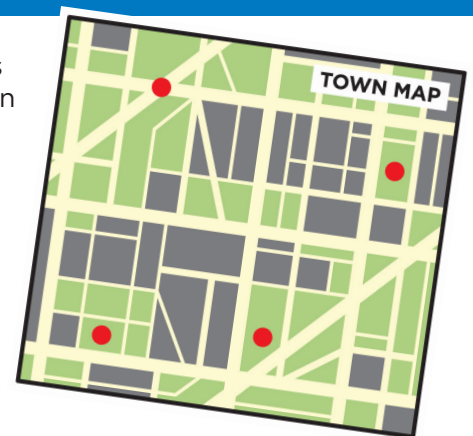
Materials: 8 pipe cleaners, 1" x 6" strips of aluminum foil, 1 roll of 1" gauze, water, bronze spray paint

Sketch what you'd like to sculpt. Use pipe cleaners to create the basic shape of your sculpture. Next, wrap strips of tin foil around the pipe cleaners until they are about 1" thick. Dip the gauze into water and carefully wrap it around the foil. Cover every part of the statue with at least two layers of gauze. Let the statue dry overnight. The next day, spray the statue with bronze spray paint. (Be sure to paint outside or in a space with plenty of fresh air!)

### STATUE SCAVENGER HUNT

Have you ever seen a statue in your town? Go online and search for "statues in (*your town name*)."

list of the statues and see if you can find them on your next trips out and about. What does each statue symbolize? Which one is your favorite? Why?



### TECHNOLOGY LINK

Visit [www.c-spanvideo.org/program/statue](http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/statue) for an up-close look at the restoration process for the Statue of Freedom.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT BLACK ARTISTS

*Dave the Potter*, Laban Carrick Hill (2010), *Henry Ossawa Tanner: His Boyhood Dreams Come True*, Faith Ringgold (2011), *It Jes' Happened: When Bill Traylor Started to Draw*, R. Gregory Christie (2012).



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