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STONE GIANT

MICHELANGELO'S DAVID AND HOW HE CAME TO BE

Close Reading Discussion Guide and Activities

Created by Jane Sutcliffe

No one wanted the "giant." The hulking block of marble lay in the work yard, rained on, hacked at, and abandoned—until a young Michelangelo saw his David in it.

"[T]his is a handsome offering that helps youngsters understand both an artist's process and how this stunning statue became the enduring symbol of a city and its people."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

Before Reading

- The title of this book is *Stone Giant*. What do you think it is about?
- Look at the illustration on the cover. Now what do you think the book is about?

During Reading

- What is the story about?
- Who is the main character?
- What is the beginning of the story?
- What is the middle?
- What is the end of the story?

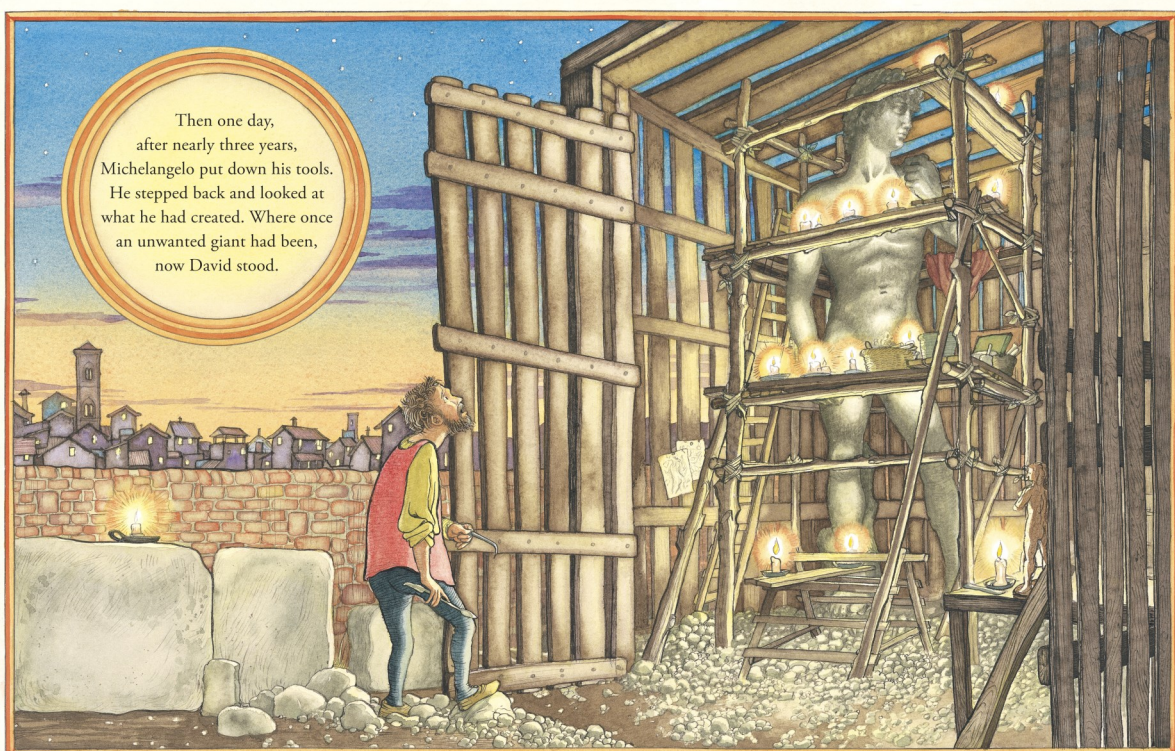
Close Reading Discussion

- The first sentence of the book says, "There was a giant in the city of Florence." What does the word "giant" mean in this context?
- The sentence is repeated at the end of the book. Does the word "giant" mean the same thing here? Why or why not?

- Use a dictionary to find other meanings of the word “giant.”
- The author uses the word “troublemaker” to describe the block of stone. Why? Do you agree? Use the text to back up your answer.
- What was the statue supposed to represent?
- Did the statue end up the way the people of Florence had expected? Why or why not?
- The author calls the statue a “masterpiece.” What reasons does she give for this?
- Look at the illustration at the end of the book. How tall does the statue look? Can the statue really be that tall? Use the text to support your answer. Why do you think the illustrator showed the statue that way?
- Do you think the author likes the statue of David? Which words in the text give you a clue?

Activities

- On the back flap the author says she saw a story in the face of David. Using paint or clay, create your own work of art that tells a story.
- Pretend you are a citizen of Florence waiting as Michelangelo works on his statue. Write a letter to friends. Tell them what you think the statue might look like when it is finished. Use the text to back up what you say.
- Find other works of art created by Michelangelo. Do they tell a story? Choose one and write down what you think that story might be.



Stone Giant Word Search

O A V E R W Q X G C E I X O P
V S R E T Q F L O R E N C E G
R O M T J I L U U R T C H G N
G L F C I T Y T L O D J U F I
M E Y R D S P D W M I A Z Y L
P G P N W L T O Q Q Z E H M S
B N C H U M D J E Q N O G V R
C A A C T A K V Q E E N O T S
A L S T V O R J R U Q H S Q M
P E C I N A L B V E G Y N O A
D H D K C A A Q H X T T A P R
F C E X V B I G E A W W H T B
S I I Y B J A G C Z J V N N L
R M M F P H J M J N I Z X Z E
A E Z F F W B O R H T Z Z Y J

ARTIST

DAVID

MARBLE

SLING

CARVE

FLORENCE

MICHEANGELO

STONE

CITY

GIANT

SCULPTURE