

# Dave the Potter

## A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

**Themes:** Poetry, Perseverance, African-American History

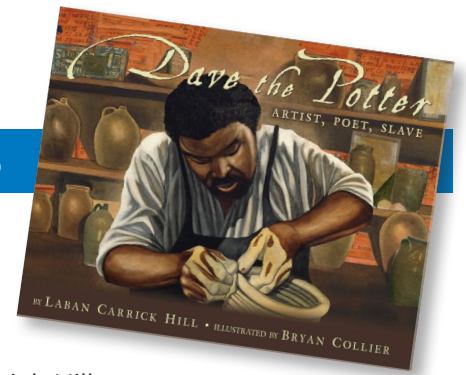
**Grade Level:** 3rd to 5th grade

**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



## TIME TO READ!

**Before reading:** Ask children what they know about slavery during the American Civil War. Explain that this book is a true story about a slave named Dave, a skilled craftsman and poet who lived during that period.

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### RHYME TIME (AGES 9-12)

What if you could only talk through poetry? Draw a comic strip or write a short story or play about the day you woke up and found out you could only talk in rhyme. What happened? Was anyone else affected? Remember to make all of the dialogue, or talking, poetry!

### PLAY DOUGH POTS (AGES 7-12)

Materials: play dough (you can find a number of recipes at [www.easy-kids-recipes.com](http://www.easy-kids-recipes.com))

Provide each child with a mound of play dough. Let them try different ways of constructing a pot or vessel. After they have chosen and made a design, have them use a toothpick to sign and date their work. Allow the pots to dry. If desired, children can paint the pots when dry.



### CLAY NATION (AGES 5-12)

Most cities offer programs that include pottery classes for young children. Are there any programs like this in your area? Contact the coordinator and see if an instructor would be willing to speak with your children about pottery and how it's made. You might also reach out to a local artist or group of artisans.



### TECHNOLOGY LINK

Let children meet the illustrator at [www.readingrockets.org/books/interviews/collier](http://www.readingrockets.org/books/interviews/collier).

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

*When the Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Hip Hop* (2013),  
*Casa Azul: An Encounter with Frida Kahlo* (2010).

### TECHNOLOGY LINK FOR KIDS

[www.rif.org/kids](http://www.rif.org/kids)



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