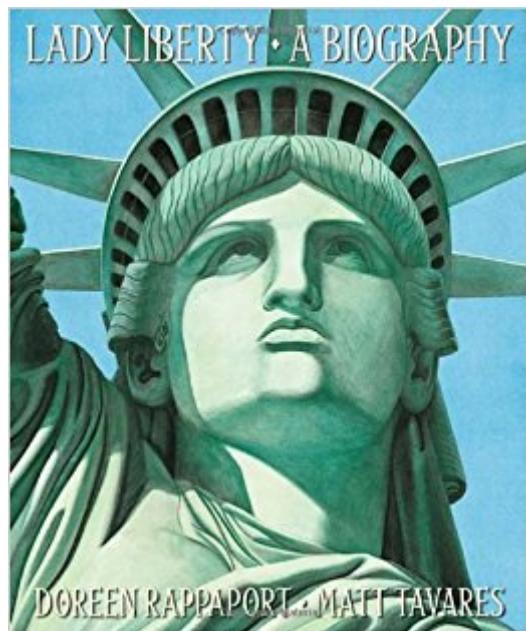


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# Lady Liberty: A Biography



## Synopsis

A powerfully moving, authentic portrait of the Statue of Liberty, told through the eyes of those who created her and illustrated in glorious detail. "Soon America will be one hundred years old. I share my dream of a birthday gift." It begins in 1865 as a romantic idea, but ten years later Édouard Laboulaye's dream catches fire and takes shape. Sculptor Auguste Bartholdi gives the dream the form of a lady, holding a torch to "enlighten the world." Engineers, plasterers, carpenters, coppersmiths — many of them immigrants — work together to turn the lady into a monument over 100 feet tall. Joseph Pulitzer calls on readers to help fund a pedestal, and hundreds send in nickels, dimes, and even roosters for the cause. Doreen Rappaport's historically accurate, poetic vignettes and Matt Tavares's magnificent images remind us of the true origins of a national symbol — and show that it took a lot of people to make the Lady.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 760L (What's this?)

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Candlewick; Reprint edition (May 10, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763653012

ISBN-13: 978-0763653019

Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.2 x 10.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #733,716 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #74 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Emigrants & Immigrants #435 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1800s #942 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 3—8—This handsome, thoroughly researched picture book tells the story of the statue from conception to dedication from the points of view of the many different players in Liberty's dramatic life. Beginning with the author imagining how her Latvian grandfather felt when he first spied "her," the presentation ends with several quotes from other

European immigrants, describing their thoughts as "The Lady" welcomed them to America. The book's unique structure enables Rappaport to pack a wealth of background and detail into the text in an interesting, engaging way. Each spread features a one-and-a-half-page illustration, rendered in watercolor, ink, and pencil, accompanied by a framed narrative poem. Children meet Édouard de Laboulaye, the French law professor who conceived of the statue, and sculptor Auguste Bartholdi, with whom he collaborated. Assistant Marie Simon outlines the intensive mathematical process of turning the original four-foot clay model into the copper "Colossus" she would become. Other voices include Charles P. Stone, a construction supervisor on Bedloe's Island, and Joseph Pulitzer, whose moving editorials inspired 100,000 Americans to donate money when Congress and the Mayor of New York would not. Tavares's evocative paintings bring each perspective to life, from images of an immigrant's outstretched arms to the countless workers measuring, building, and digging. A beautiful, innovative volume. —Barbara Auerbach, New York City Public Schools Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

**\*Starred Review\*** The noble face of the Statue of Liberty graces this "biography," which presents the story of its conception and construction in France, the efforts to raise funds on both sides of the Atlantic, preparations for her arrival in New York, and the celebration culminating in her unveiling in 1886. Rappaport tells the story in a series of free-verse poems representing the reflections of individuals, from Bartholdi, who designed the statue, to Lazarus, who wrote the words on her base, to Pulitzer, who raised significant funds in America, to Florence de Forest, a little girl who donated her roosters to be sold for the cause, to Rappaport herself, who imagines her immigrant grandfather's first sight of Liberty. The first-person narratives effectively convey the personal significance the statue has had for many people. Large in scale and monumental in effect, the watercolor, ink, and pencil illustrations, including a dramatic vertical foldout page showing Lady Liberty at her unveiling, offer often beautiful views of her many-faceted story. A source bibliography and a recommended reading list are appended. With its intimate narratives and handsome artwork, this large-format book offers a unique portrayal of an iconic statue. Grades 2-5. --Carolyn Phelan --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Lady Liberty- A Biography is just what it says, the story of the Lady from the time that she was first conceived, up to her completion and beyond, in the experiences of those that first saw her upon their arrival in the United States. We start with Edouard de Laboulaye, a French professor of law in

1865, through the work of the sculptor Auguste Bartholdi, the engineer Gustave Eiffel, the poet Emma Lazarus and a number more. Some are very famous and some are surely unknown to us, but moving nevertheless. Those that dug the holes and those that gave their pennies...and their chickens...to see her completed. The story is told from the view point of 10 individuals who were involved with the Lady's construction, most stories spanning a two page spread, the text written in a narrow column, almost like poetry, and the rest taken up by the very beautiful illustrations of Matt Tavares. A wonderful introduction to the Statue of Liberty for kids...but you adults will enjoy it as well, I promise.

Through lush illustrations and poems that are both informational and touching, the story of Lady Liberty unfolds. The design of the gift, it's infamous welcome, its journey and impact on new arrivals to America are portrayed in double page spreads via this picture book. What a wonderful addition to a classroom setting for any age, and a lovely welcome to the US gift.

I think this book is wonderful for kids. I bought this as a gift but haven't given it as of yet. I know he will love it because he's thirst for knowledge is huge.

Excellent resource for young readers! We ordered it for a book report for my 12 year old, and we will keep it for our other kids to enjoy.

Great copy!

very informative but for about 10 and up

Purchased Lady Liberty Biography as a birthday gift for a Statue of Liberty collector. She is thoroughly enjoying the book.

I must have overlooked the fact that it was for young readers, as I was expecting it to be much more comprehensive and in depth. My error. For kids, a great book

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