

Pottery Poetry

A Word Workout

by Lynne Farrell Stover



Dave was a **P**erson who lived in the **P**ast.
He sculpted **P**ots that were certain to last.

Owned by a master was the **P**otter named Dave.
He saw no **P**ayment for **P**ots, because he was a slave.

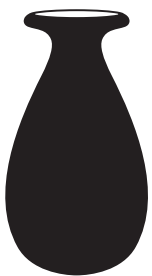
On his **P**ots he **P**ut **P**oems that were thoughtful and bright.
Dave was unique—he could sculpt, read, and write!

Dave worked his clay with skill, humor, and **P**ride.
This **P**oem he **P**rinted on one big jar's side:

*when you fill this jar with **P**ork or beef
Scot will be there to get a **P**eace.*

Pretty jars and great big **P**ots, **P**lay with words on clay,
Make us cheer the **P**otter Dave's great artistry—HOORAY!

THE END



Famous People A-Z

- A. Abraham [Lincoln], the Lawyer
- B. Benjamin [Franklin], the Inventor
- C. Cesar [Chavez], the Labor Organizer
- D. Duke [Ellington], the Musician
- E. Eleanor [Roosevelt], the former First Lady
- F. Franklin [Roosevelt], the former President
- G. George [Washington Carver], the Botanist
- H. Helen [Keller], the Writer
- I. Isaac [Newton], the Scientist
- J. Jackie [Robinson], the Athlete
- K. Kenneth [Grahame], the Children's Author
- L. Langston [Hughes], the Poet
- M. Martin [Luther King, Jr.], the Civil Rights Activist
- N. Neil [Armstrong], the Astronaut
- O. Orville [Wright], the Aviator
- P. Patrick [Henry], the Patriot
- Q. Queen Elizabeth I [Tudor], the Monarch
- R. Ringo [Starr], the Musician
- S. Susan [B. Anthony], the Feminist
- T. Thomas [Jefferson], the Diplomat
- U. Ulysses [S. Grant], the General
- V. Victoria [Woodhull], the Suffragist and former Presidential Candidate
- W. Woodrow [Wilson], the Statesman
- X. YOUR CHOICE (*with permission*)
- Y. Yogi [Berra], the Yankee
- Z. Zachary [Taylor], the former President



Christopher [Columbus] the Navigator: Brother, Sailor, Explorer



- Fact #1** He was born in Genoa, Italy in 1451.
- Fact #2** His brothers names were Bartolomeo, Giacomo and Giovanni.
- Fact #3** He became a sailor when he was fifteen years old.
- Fact #4** Queen Isabel of Spain helped Columbus sail to the new world by giving him money and ninety sailors.
- Fact #5** In 1492 Columbus and his men landed on the island he named San Salvador. He thought he was in East Asia.

Source Citation:

Name of Encyclopedia: World Book Encyclopedia

Copyright Date: 2000

Volume Number: Vol. 4 Ci-Cz

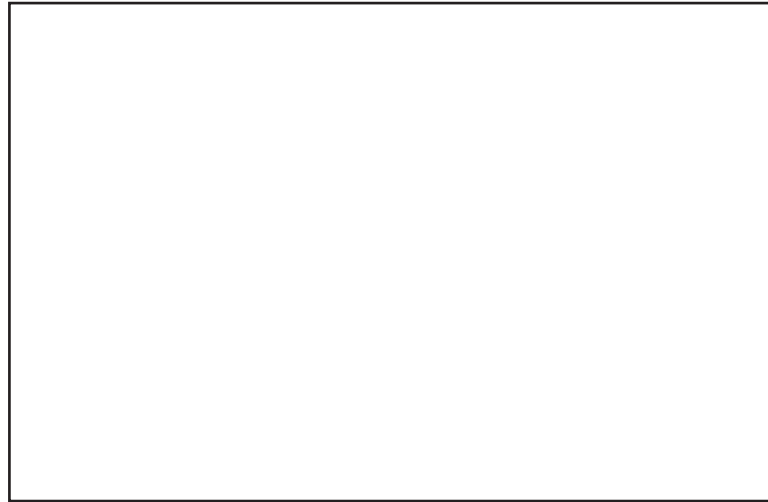
Page Number(s) 857-864

Five Facts Featuring...

Name of Historical Figure: _____

Three Descriptors _____, _____, _____

Illustration:



Fact #1

Fact #2

Fact #3

Fact #4

Fact #5

Source Citation:

Name of Encyclopedia: _____

Copyright Date: _____

Volume Number: _____

Page Number(s) _____

Interdisciplinary Activities

Art: Students may wish try their hand at making their own pottery. Prepare ahead for this activity by placing about ½ cup of homemade modeling compound [see recipe below] in sealable plastic bags. Challenge the students to create their own “clay pots” by following these directions:

1. Take the modeling compound from the plastic bag.
2. Place the plastic bag on the table to use as a protective work surface.
3. Roll the modeling compound into a ball.
4. Push your thumb into the center.
5. Turn the ball as you pinch up the sides.
6. Pat the bottom flat.
7. Let the pot air dry for two days.
8. Dried pots can be painted or written on with marker.

Homemade Modeling Compound

Ingredients:

- 4 cups of flour
- 1 cup of salt
- 2 Tablespoons of cooking oil
- 1 ½ cups of water

Directions:

1. Mix dry ingredients in a bowl
2. Add oil and water
3. Knead well

Reading: Students who enjoyed Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave may find these nonfiction picture books that feature strong individuals overcoming adversity interesting.

- ***Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U. S. Marshal*** written by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson, illustrated by Gregory Christie. Lerner Publishing Group, 2009.
- ***Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez*** written by Kathleen Krull, illustrated by Yuyi Morales. Harcourt, 2003.
- ***Henry's Freedom Box*** written by Ellen Levine, illustrated by Kadir Nelson. Scholastic, 2007.
- ***Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*** written by Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by Bryan Collier. Hyperion, 2007.
- ***Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom*** written by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Kadir Nelson. Hyperion, 2006.
- ***Rosa*** written by Nikki Giovanni, illustrated by Bryan Collier. Henry, Holt & Company, 2005.
- ***Visiting Langston*** written by Willie Perdomo, illustrated by Bryan Collier. Henry, Holt & Company, 2005.
- ***When Marian Sang: The True Recital of Marian Anderson*** written by Pam Munoz Ryan, illustrated by Brian Selznick. Scholastic, 2002.

Web Resources: Excellent supporting resources for *Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave* can be found online.

- Little, Brown and Company has developed a four page Educator's Guide at http://www.hachettebookgroup.com/kids_books_9780316107310.htm
- The Digital Traditions website provides a 45-page teaching unit for the Folklife Resource Center at the McKissick Museum in South Carolina.
http://www.digitaltraditions.net/T_Resources/Dave_Pottery/Recompiled.pdf

Writing: Dave the Potter liked to inscribe humorous and meaningful verses into his pots and jars. Students may like to try writing similar poems. Encourage them to use the following poetic forms and write their poems in a self-designed piece of pottery.

- **Haiku:** A Japanese nature poem composed of three unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five syllables.

Earth, water form clay
When he molds it in his hands
Clay turns to great art

- **Couplet:** A is a two-line poem that rhymes.

Dave liked to make pots of clay.
His work is still admired today.

