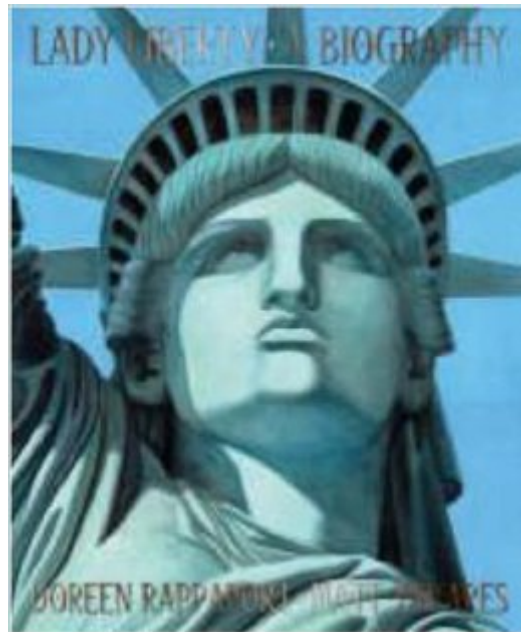


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# Lady Liberty: A Biography



## 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?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

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Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763625302

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Product Dimensions: 10.2 x 0.5 x 12.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,103,725 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #94 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Emigrants & Immigrants #596 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1800s #1479 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## Customer Reviews

LADY LIBERTY: A BIOGRAPHY is a wonderful crafted book written by Doreen Rappaport and illustrated by Matt Tavares that tells the story of the how the Statue of Liberty came to be created. The story is told in short poems spoken from the point of view of the people who made Lady Liberty and brought her to the United States. These people include Edouard De Laboulaye, Auguste

Bartholdi, Marie Simon, Gustave Eiffel, Emma Lazarus, Charles P. Stone, Joseph Pulitzer, Florence De Forest, Jose Marti, and an introduction written by Doreen Rappaport. In some cases the biographical poems use the actual words of the people who spoke them. The end of the book has a few selected quotes from immigrants who legally came to the United States and passed by Lady Liberty, as well as a page full of the Statue of Liberty's measurements, and another page presented a timeline of important events in her creation and life. The book does an excellent job of illustrating how it was the people of France and the United States, and not the respective governments of those countries, who made the Statue of Liberty possible. The book is really well researched and is beautifully illustrated. I even learned something from reading this book; I didn't know that Liberty Island was originally called Bedloe's Island. *LADY LIBERTY: A BIOGRAPHY* is an excellent historical children's book.

This is a wonderful book about the Statue of Liberty. It is very moving and I am very impressed with it. I teach ESOL students so immigration is a factor in all my students lives whether they are living here for the rest of their lives or just visiting here for a couple of years while their parents attend university here. I am also a big fan of Doreen Rappaport who wrote wonderful picture books about Martin Luther King Jr. and John Lennon. *Lady Liberty* tells her story by covering life stories of major figures involved in the creation of the statue. This is quite effective. I learned more about the making of the statue than I had before and I felt very in tune with the people who made the statue happen. The French governments and the US governments weren't all that interested in the project, they had other concerns on their minds and it was more of a bother than anything anyone wanted. It was the pushing of some people from both continents to make it happen and the rest liked it. The courage of the creators was enormous because at any time, people could have convinced them to call it quits. Human creativity and determination is always a good tale.

Doreen Rappaport and Matt Tavares have created an incredibly beautiful and moving book in *Lady Liberty: A Biography*. Each page features the perspective of those involved in building and promoting the monumental Statue of Liberty, from Auguste Bartholdi the sculptor to Emma Lazarus, the poet that created the words that grace the bottom of the statue. The illustrations are absolutely beautiful and accompany the text perfectly. Also included are the dimensions of the statue and the important events surrounding Lady Liberty, from construction to completion. This book is an must have for all library and school collections, never have I come across a better description of how the Statue of Liberty was created and the emotions it evoked in the many different people connected

with her. I loved reading each page and savored the lovely illustrations. Though the size of a picture book and about the same length in pages, I think I involved myself for close to an hour while reviewing it. I really believe kids will love to read this book, especially if they've seen the Lady up close, and adults will enjoy it in the same way I have, savoring the facts and the illustrations alike. A lot of other bloggers have posted about this title, all positively as far as I can tell, and I'm certainly in agreement with them. Definitely a must-have!

Told from the viewpoints of the people who conceptualized, financed, and built the Statue of Liberty, this remarkable book describes how the Lady Liberty was transformed from a bold idea in France to an enormous symbol of freedom in New York Harbor. In France in 1865, Professor Édouard de Laboulaye shared with his colleagues his vision of building a monument to commemorate the American Revolution and to celebrate the friendship between France and the United States. Ten years later this vision began to take shape through the hands of Auguste Bartholdi, a French sculptor who believed in the possibility of de Laboulaye's dream. It took another eleven years for various crews to design the copper sheeting, engineer the internal steel structure, ship the pieces to America, build the pedestal, erect the steel skeleton, attach the copper shell to the steel framework, and formally dedicate the Statue of Liberty. The author and illustrator do an excellent job in communicating both the visible and the less visible work involved in building the Statue of Liberty. Much credit goes to the efforts by poet Emma Lazarus to write the inspiring sonnet that was engraved on a plaque on the statue's base: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses..." Joseph Pulitzer, publisher of the New York World, also played a crucial role in raising money to finance the construction of the pedestal in the face of opposition from government and business leaders. Intertwined with the interesting historical narratives are valuable economics lessons about human resources, jobs, immigration, and altruism. The stunning artwork and informative text work well together to make reading this book a truly rewarding experience.

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