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Lady Liberty: Candlewick Biographies: 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?)

Series: Candlewick Biographies

Paperback: 48 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars — See all reviews — (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #806,915 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Emigrants & Immigrants #456 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1800s #1141 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

I am sure many Americans know about the Statue of Liberty, but how many of us understand the history behind this gift from the French people in 1884. I know I learned so much reading this book. Doreen Rappaport writes an excellent story to share with children or to be read by older

children. She introduces you to many of the people who were important to the building of Lady Liberty. Did you know Edouard De Laboulaye, a professor of law, formed the idea and Auguste Bartholdi was the sculptor? Did you know it took 10 years to create Lady Liberty? You will be introduced to others and Americans who helped raise money to assist the French in making this landmark a reality. I think we owe it to our children to help them learn the history of our great country and the connection that France and the United States have had since the Revolutionary War.*I received this for review - all opinions are my own*

For the age group the content of this book is OK and I like the focus on what was happening on both sides of the Atlantic. The part on the drive to get the money for the base was also good. Unfortunately the illustrations were not very inspiring. I'd call them adequate but not memorable so a solid text is muted a bit by the rest of the package. Also there are quite a few other books that deal with this topic so there are alternatives with better art. Book provided by publisher.

Lady Liberty is a beautifully illustrated story about a few of the thousands of people who contributed in some way, great or small, to make this beautiful monument and symbol of freedom come to fruition. Each page has a brief telling from the point of view of the person with the original concept, the designer, frame workers, foundation layers, fundraisers, promoters, and newly arriving immigrants. This would be a nice addition to any school or public library.

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