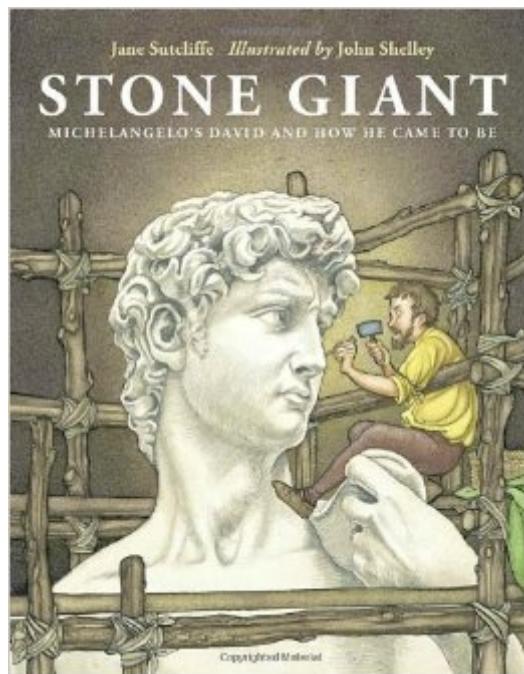


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# Stone Giant: Michelangelo's David And How He Came To Be



## **Synopsis**

No one wanted the "giant." The hulking block of marble lay in the work yard, rained on, hacked at, and abandonedâ "until a young Michelangelo saw his David in it. This is the story of how a neglected, discarded stone became a masterpiece for all time. It is also a story about artâ "about an artistâ ™s vision and process, and about the ways in which we humans see ourselves reflected in art.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 0610 (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #220,365 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Renaissance #63 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Movements & Periods > Renaissance #67 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art > Sculpture

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## **Customer Reviews**

Artistic masterpieces all have interesting back stories . This fascinating and well illustrated book tells the story behind the creation of Michelangelo's David. Frankly, I didn't know this story and found it as interesting as any young reader would. After becoming familiar with the struggle to create this large statue and then move it to where it could be enjoyed by the citizens of Florence, Italy, I am now even more entranced by this marvelous work of art. This is the way to introduce children to art. When they are young tell them the stories behind the works themselves and the artists. Then expose the youngster to the actual art itself. After reading this book I rather think the child will want to see what the statue looks like. Book provided by publisher.

Michelangelo's David is such a well-known masterpiece that I always thought it was his idea from the first chip of marble. Not so! Sutcliffe sets just the right tone to engage readers in the fascinating tale of this stone - that stumped numerous artists for nearly forty years before Michelangelo saw his David in the massive block. Shelley's detailed, colorful illustrations are a masterpiece themselves, each demanding a closer look. An inspiring book for the artist in everyone.

Michaelangelo's David comes to glorious life in this marvelous picture book page-turner. Kids will gather with the people of Florence to discover just what Michaelangelo did with that old, weather-worn marble block, the stone giant.

It's tough to get interested in art history, but "Stone Giant" drew me in and kept me turning the pages. I had never known the history of the stone that David was carved from and I loved the description of Michelangelo's work as he chipped away the stone that entombed the figure inside: "Every night he went home floured with the dust of not-David. He combed bits of not-David from his beard." This book takes a collection of dry facts and turns them into an intriguing and entertaining tale. The illustrations bring a classical style to the colorful and kid friendly narrative. I recommend it for any parent with a child who would rather skim a graphic novel than attempt a book on history. "Stone Giant" makes learning fun.

Jane Sutcliffe does a masterful job sharing this captivating and relatively unknown story about how Michelangelo sculpted David from a discarded block of marble. Sutcliffe has done her research and uncovered some fascinating facts! I was lucky enough to hear the author read STONE GIANT to kids. The text kept them on the edge of their seats as they followed Michelangelo's process and watched his vision unfold. Shelley's lively pen, ink, and watercolor illustrations compliment the text beautifully. This book will inspire kids to imagine and create!

How come I didn't learn this in art history? I LOVE it when I'm as engrossed by the story and illustrations as the six year old sitting next to me. This is that kind of book. A MUST for anyone traveling with kids/young adults or just plain traveling to Florence. And prepare to sleuth out the stories behind local sculptures and monuments-- keep this book's wonderful spark alive!

An interesting look at how Michelangelo carved the statue of David. It's nicely readable, makes for

an interesting story, and introduces us to Florence in the early 1500's and the technique of stone-carving. John Shelley's detailed watercolor paintings are over-the-moon good. You could spend hours looking at the detailed clothing and city scenes, and he's used color and value to make the statue almost pop off the busy pages.

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