



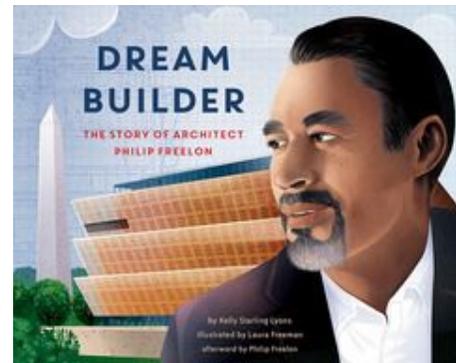
### ***Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon* by Kelly Starling Lyons**



Kelly Starling Lyons is a children’s book author whose mission is to transform moments, memories and history into stories of discovery. Her books include CCBC Choices-honored picture book, *ONE MILLION MEN AND ME*, *ELLEN’S BROOM*, a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor book, Junior Library Guild and Bank Street Best selection, *TEA CAKES FOR TOSH*, a Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People, *HOPE’S GIFT*, an IRA/CBC Children’s Choices selection and *ONE MORE DINO ON THE FLOOR*, a Scholastic Reading Club pick. Her Jada Jones chapter book series debuted in 2017 with *ROCK STAR* and *CLASS ACT*. 2019 brings two more book in her series – *JADA JONES: SLEEPOVER SCIENTIST* and *JADA JONES: DANCING QUEEN* and two picture books, *DOWN HOME WITH DADDY* and *SING A SONG*. She’s honored to

be a contributor to anthologies including *WE RISE, WE RESIST, WE RAISE OUR VOICES* and *BEEN THERE, DONE THAT*. A native of Pittsburgh, Kelly lives in North Carolina. She does author visits, conferences and festivals around the country.

Philip Freelon’s grandfather was an acclaimed painter of the Harlem Renaissance. His father was a successful businessman who attended the 1963 March on Washington, while his mother was an educator and art enthusiast. When Phil decided to attend architecture school, he created his own focus on Black and Islamic designers. He later chose not to build casinos or prisons, instead concentrating on schools, libraries, and museums--buildings that connect people with heritage and fill hearts with joy. And in 2009, Phil’s team won a commission that let him use his personal history in service to the country’s: the extraordinary Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. *Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon* celebrates a contemporary black STEAM role model, a man whose brilliant work enabled the creation of an iconic building reflecting America’s past and future. With a stirring text by Kelly Starling Lyons, vibrant pictures by Laura Freeman, and an afterword from Philip Freelon himself, it is sure to inspire the next generation of dreamers and builders



**RRS connection to TEKS: Please refer to TEKS for English Language Arts and Reading:**

- *Comprehension skills*
- *Response skills*
- *Author's purpose and craft*
- *Composition I (Writing)*
- *Composition II (Genres)*
- *Inquiry and research*

**Relevant Vocabulary:**

- Splatter
- Canvases
- Harlem Renaissance
- Studio
- Pastel
- Harbors
- Palettes
- Crooning
- Scampering
- Shakespeare
- Portraits
- Media
- Sculptures
- Porters
- Civil War
- Memorial
- Phoenix
- Pride
- Commission
- Structure
- Contemplative Court
- Justice
- Equality
- Resilience/ Agency
- Collaboration
- Generations
- Heritage
- Unite
- Community Cultural Wealth

**Pre-reading engagement:**

- What does an author do? What does an illustrator do?
- Think about the title of this book and its cover illustration. How does it make you feel? What does it make you think about?
- Have a class discussion on how you think math, science, and art can influence someone's life?
- Both the Harlem Renaissance and the Civil Rights Movement influence the main figure, Philip Freelon, in the story. What is significant about the Harlem Renaissance? What is significant about the Civil Rights Movement? Who were some important figures in each movement? What are the legacies of the Harlem Renaissance and the Civil Rights Movement today?
- Look for information about the author. What did you learn about the kind of things she loves to do and what inspires her?
- Create illustrations based on the kind of dreams you have for yourself?
- As a hook for readers, consider showing students Philip Freelon discussing the Smithsonian National Museum for African American History and Culture, posted on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SW7Gw4cb7nA>

**While/post reading engagement:**

- What are the different art forms Phil sees in his life? How do they affect him?
- Why is it important that art was a part of Phil's life beginning at an early age? What's so special about the African American artists during the 1950s and 1960s?
- Who is Pop Pop? Why is he important to Phil? Who, in your life, plays a similar role to you as Pop Pop does for Phil?
- How does Phil feel about being an African American? How do you think this impacts his sense of identity and his work? Complete an identity wheel to reflect on who you are!
- What is your favorite way to self express? Spend time today using this mode of expression to communicate how you feel.
- What stories does Phil's father share with him? Why do they matter?
- What architects are left out of Phil's studies? What does this tell you about the field of architecture?
- When the author writes, "Phil is seeing the world with an artists' inner eye," what do you think it means? In what ways do you see the world with an inner eye?
- Why is Martin Luther King Jr. an influential figure for Phil? Who is your role model?
- Why does Phil decide to become an architect? Create a mind map to figure out what you are passionate about!
- What is Phil's goal as an architect? Create an outline of your own goals in life and do a gallery walk to learn about your classmates' dreams!
- What building does Phil refuse to design? Why? Now, compare this to the kinds of buildings he wants to design. What does this reveal about Phil's character?
- What inspires Phil and his collaborators when creating the museum? Sketch out your own museum with designs that represent what matters to you.
- Why is Phil passionate about the National Museum of African American History and Culture? If you could create your own museum to honor something special, what would it be?

- What role does community and collaboration play in helping Phil achieve his dreams? What resources within your own community, family, and life will help you do the same?
- Create a timeline outlining the key events in this true story.
- Create an anchor chart outlining the elements of this story: Setting, characters, plot, conflict, theme, and point of view.
- Get ready for your author visit by making a drawing of this book to share with Kelly Starling Lyons. You can also think about a question that you can ask her.

**Useful links:**

- Author’s website: <https://www.kellystarlinglyons.com/content/bio.html>
- Two Writing Teachers feature article: <https://twowritingteachers.org/2020/05/14/authorspotlight-lyons/>
- Activity worksheets: <https://lewismuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Dream-Builder-Activity-Worksheet.pdf>
- Kirkus Review: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/kelly-starling-lyons/dream-builder/>
- Publisher’s book guide: [https://www.leeandlow.com/uploads/loaded\\_document/849/DREAMBUILDER\\_TeachersGuide.pdf](https://www.leeandlow.com/uploads/loaded_document/849/DREAMBUILDER_TeachersGuide.pdf)
- Illustrator’s website: <https://www.lfreemanart.com/>