



Transcript for *Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon* by Kelly Starling Lyons (Lee & Low Books)

Introduction (approximately 0:00 – 4:18)

Hi everyone! It's Colleen from the KU Natural History Museum, and I'm so excited for today's Story Book Science!

I do want to wait and allow some time for folks to join us. So, while we wait, I want to talk a little bit about things that are related to the book we're reading today.

So, today we are reading a book about an architect. And an architect is someone who designs buildings! So, if you were designing buildings, if you were an architect, what are some things that you think you might need to think about?

Maybe, you would need to think about the things, or the materials, that a building is made out of. That might influence the design of a building.

So, what are some materials a building could be built with?

Maybe, you thought of brick. So, brick is one example of a material a building could be made out of.

What's another material that a building could be made out of?

Maybe, you said wood. Buildings can also be made out of wood!

So, thinking about materials that buildings are made out of is definitely something an architect needs to think about.

What else?

Maybe, the shape of a building and what the building will look like. That's something an architect would need to think about. I definitely think shape is something an architect needs to think about. And I definitely think that because when I look at buildings, that's one of the first things I notice, is the shape of the building.

So, what I want you to think about while we wait for other folks to join us are shapes. I want you to think about buildings you've seen before. Maybe, buildings that you are currently in. And I want you to think about the shape of those buildings. Alright? Excellent!

So, it looks like some more folks have joined us. So, let's go ahead and get started!

First, we have to go over our guidelines for Story Book Science. So, we are not in the museum, but we are going to follow museum rules. And what that means is if you have a question or a comment, you should feel free to ask that question or make that comment! But we want to make sure we use kind and considerate words. If you respond to someone's question or comment, you also need to make sure to use kind and

considerate words. Using kind and considerate words is one way to make this space welcome and open for everyone! So, can you use those kind and considerate words for me? Excellent! Thank you so much!

Alright. Well, welcome to Story Book Science! Today, I am reading the book *Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon*. This book is written by Kelly Starling Lyons, and it's illustrated by Laura Freeman. And it's being read with permission from Lee and Low Books. Now, this book, like the other book we read this month, is going to explore the life of someone, in this case Philip Freelon, using STEAM. So, we're going to use science, technology, engineering, arts, and math to explore the story of the architect, Philip Freelon.

Now, I have a couple other things that I want to say. The first is if you have a question, feel free to ask that question! Just know I may not be able to see it until the very end, and only if there's time. And if you need a partial transcript of this reading, that will be made available later on the museum's website.

And with that, I am ready to start this reading! So, let's go ahead and get started!

Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon.

Reading from *Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon* (approximately 4:19 – 18:02)

Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon includes copyrighted materials, and we do not have permission to include the written text of the book in this transcript.

Conclusion (approximately 18:03 – 26:09)

The end!

Alright. Now, in that book, we learned about Phil Freelon, an architect. So, someone who designs buildings. But he didn't just design buildings. He had to learn a lot, and he went through a lot of steps in order to become the architect he was.

So, the first thing that we learned about, in regards to Phil's life and career, was his vision. So, Phil, he had some trouble reading, but he was an artist! And he was able to imagine all of these things in his mind. So, he was able to see the world around him.

Phil also had a foundation. So, in school, Phil was amazing at math and science! And he was able to use those skills and combine them with his passion for art. And he was able to gain the skills and grow the skills he needed to study architecture in college.

Phil had frame. So, the frame was that in college, he took all of those skills he had, and he used them to learn how to become an architect, learn how to build buildings.

Phil had form. So, after college he created and founded his own architecture firm! And he was designing buildings with purpose and that helped to build community.

And lastly, we learned that Phil had a dream. So, he was able to work with a group of people and helped design the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. So, he was able to help with the design of this building that celebrates the history and culture of Black Americans in the past, present, and future! Alright?

So, who was Phil Freelon? We just read a book about him! Do you remember?

He was an architect. So, he designed buildings! And as we learned in the book, he had skills in math, science, and art. And he used those skills in his life as an architect.

And one of the things I think is really important, and I want to discuss, is that when he was in college, when he was using those skills and continuing to grow them, he had to do a lot of studying in his own time. So, outside of the classroom, in his free time, he studied architects that looked like him. So, he studied Black architects and African designers and Islamic designers because he knew it was important to study all of these designers and have a really diverse understanding of building design. But he had to do that in his free time because they didn't do it in his classes. Alright?

Now, we kind of talked a little bit about some of the buildings that Phil designed. Because remember, he wanted to design buildings with purpose. So, some buildings included libraries. This is the Tenley-Friendship Neighborhood Library in Washington, D.C. Other buildings included transportation centers. This is the Durham Transportation Center in Durham, North Carolina. And, of course, he designed museums, including the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

Now, I'm going to show you the pictures of those buildings again. And what I want you to do is I want you to look for the shapes you can see in the building. So, I'm going to start with the library.

Now, I'm going to show you the Transportation Center.

And lastly, I'll show you the museum, the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Alright. What shapes did you notice? When you looked at the pictures of those buildings again, what shapes did you notice in the design?

Maybe, you saw a rectangle. So, did you see a shape like this? Alright.

Maybe, you saw a round, or a circle. Did you see a shape that looked like this? Alright.

So, the shapes that you notice in a building's design, we call those plan shapes. And this is a very important word. So, we are going to put it on the wall as a vocabulary word.

Plan shapes are shapes that we use to describe the form of a building. And when I say form of a building, what I mean is the shape of a building. So, form, it means shape. And we're going to put that word on the wall, too.

So, plan shapes are shapes used to describe the form of a building. There are a lot of plan shapes. We know that there are rectangles. We know that there are rounds, or circles. There are also L-shapes. There are U-shapes. And then there are squares, and then irregular shapes. So, there are a lot of different shapes that are used for plan shapes to describe the form of a building.

And earlier, I asked you to think about the shapes of buildings that you've noticed before, buildings that you've seen before. What are their shapes? What are their plan shapes?

Now, I wanted to share one of the buildings I thought of. And I thought of the KU Natural History Museum!

So, here's a picture of the KU Natural History Museum. And when I look at that building from the outside, so, this is the exterior, I think I see a rectangle. Do you see that?

See it? Right there.

So, I would say that a plan shape of the museum is a rectangle.

But there's stuff inside the museum, right? Yeah!

So, when I think about the inside of the museum, and I think about exhibits like the Panorama, what I think of is the plan shape of a U-shape! Now, it's upside down, but it's still a U-shape.

Do you see how the U-shape is the plan shape of the Panorama?

I thought that was interesting. When I really looked at the shape of the Panorama, I was able to determine that plan shape.

Now, I hope that you continue to look at buildings. I hope you continue to go about and look for the plan shapes.

And I hope you join Mira next week as she does a STEM Challenge for this book. And I hope you join me in March, when I continue to read books. We'll be reading books about national parks. And we'll start off with the book *Marjory Saves the Everglades*, which is about Marjory Stoneman Douglas and her work towards making the Everglades a national park.

So, I hope you join us for Story Book Science and STEM Challenges, and I can't wait to see you soon! Bye!