



Transcript for *Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon* (Lee & Low Books) Preview Video

Preview (0:00 – 5:29)

Hi everyone! It's Colleen from the KU Natural History Museum, and I'm so excited to remind you about tomorrow's Story Book Science, here on Facebook Live.

We'll read the book *Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon*. This book is written by Kelly Starling Lyons, and it is illustrated by Laura Freeman. And we'll be reading it with permission from Lee and Low Books. So, thank you to them for the permission to read this book!

Now, this month, we've been exploring stories using STEAM. And if you remember, STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. So, for tomorrow's story, we're going to read about Philip Freelon, who was an architect. And we're going to focus on art, math, and science, which are very important skills for an architect to have.

So, who is Philip Freelon?

Well, as we know from the title of the book, Philip Freelon was an architect. And that means he designed buildings. And he had to use his skills in art, math, and science to do so. He also went to school to become an architect. So, he studied how to design buildings. He studied people who designed buildings! But when he was in school, he had to spend a lot of free time studying architects that looked like him. So, he went to the library, and he researched, in his free time, Black architects and African designs and Islamic designs. So, he had to spend a lot of free time making sure that his study of architects and the designs that they created was diverse.

Now, after college, Philip was able to create his own architecture firm. And he decided that he was going to create buildings that had a purpose, that served community. And so, he designed things like libraries, which included the Tenley-Friendship Li- Neighborhood Library in Washington, D.C. He also designed transportation centers, like the Durham Transportation Center in Durham, North Carolina. And he even designed museums! He was one member of the design team for the National Museum of African American History and Culture, which is a Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

So, he created all of these amazing buildings that had purpose and that helped grow and develop community. And I want to show you the pictures, again, of those buildings that we just saw. And I want you to look and see if you can find shapes in those buildings. Okay? Alright!

This is the library.

This is the transportation center.

And this is the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Alright. What shapes did you notice when you were looking at those images? What shapes did you notice were a part of the building's design?

Did you notice, maybe, a rectangle? Maybe, you noticed a round, or a circle?

The shapes that you notice in the designs of buildings, we call those plan shapes. And this is an important word. So, we are going to put it on the wall, as a vocabulary word. Now, plan shapes, they're shapes that describe the form of a building. And when we say form, which is another very important vocabulary word, so we're going to put it on the wall, what we mean is the shape of the building.

So, plan shapes describe the form, or the shape, of a building. And you can have plan shapes like rectangles. You can have plan shapes like rounds, or circles. You can even have plan shapes like an L-shape.

So, all of these shapes I just described, those are plan shapes. And what I want you to do is, I want you to think about buildings near you. What plan shapes would you use to describe the form of those buildings?

Now, tomorrow, we'll talk more about plan shapes, and we'll look at the plan shapes of a lot of buildings, some that Philip Freelon designed, others that I'm more familiar with where I live, here in Kansas. But I want to remind you that we'll do that tomorrow after the reading of the book *Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon*. So, I hope that you join me tomorrow for Story Book Science, here on Facebook Live at 10am. I'll see you then! Bye!