

Tribute to the Statue of Liberty

*A gift from the French to the American People to
celebrate their alliance during the War of
Independence*

INTRODUCTION

LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER

CONNECTING CHILDREN OF ALL AGES, ETHNICITIES AND ABILITIES WITH POETS, PROPHETS AND ARTISTS TO EXPLORE THEIR VISIONS AND SING THEIR SONGS.

TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THURGOOD MARSHALL, LOUIS BRANDEIS, ANNE FRANK AND NELSON MANDELA AMONG MANY OTHERS PROMOTES GREATER UNDERSTANDING AND EMPATHY NECESSARY TO FOSTER A MORE JUST AND HUMANE SOCIETY.

MOST IMPORTANT, IT IS ALSO FUN. LOTS OF SMILES AND LAUGHTER AS WELL AS APPLAUSE FROM THE AUDIENCE.

PROCESS:

- 1. READ THROUGH SCRIPT IN SMALL GROUPS**
- 2. SING SONGS RELATED TO THE STORY**
- 3. DISCUSS IMPORTANT EVENTS IN HONOREE'S LIFE**
- 4. RELATE SOME OF THE EVENTS TO PARTICIPANTS' LIVES**
- 5. CHOREOGRAPH EMOTIONS INTO DANCE**
- 6. DESIGN A POSTER USING YOUR FAVORITE QUOTES**
- 7. PERFORM IN FRONT OF PARENTS, FRIENDS AND ASK THEM TO PARTICIPATE WHEN INDICATED.**

SCENE 1: THERE ARE MANY REASONS

(READERS: 1-5, CHORUS) READERS GO TO THE FRONT OF THE STAGE

READER 1: MORE THAN A HUNDRED YEARS AGO THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE GAVE THE STATUE OF LIBERTY TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN RECOGNITION OF THE FRIENDSHIP ESTABLISHED DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

READER 2: WHY WOULD THE FRENCH DO THIS? DID IT DO THEM ANY GOOD?
(LOOKS AROUND)

CHORUS: TO GIVE TO OTHERS ALWAYS DOES GOOD!

READER 1: BUT THE FRENCH MUST HAVE HAD REASONS. THAT TOOK A LOT OF WORK. THEY COULD HAVE SIMPLY SENT A SORT OF JOYOUS REMINDER OF THAT GREAT ALLIANCE ACROSS THE OCEAN.

READER 2: THERE ARE MANY REASONS. HERE ARE A COUPLE.

1. THE FRENCH DID NOT EXACTLY LIKE THE BRITISH WHO WERE AT THAT TIME SO VERY BUSY FIXING THEIR EMPIRE.

2. ALSO, MANY FRENCH WANTED TO INSTILL MORE DEMOCRACY IN THEIR COUNTRY.

READER 3: AND THEN THERE WERE PERSONAL REASONS: THE SCULPTOR WHO DESIGNED THE STATUE, FREDERIC-AUGUSTE BARTHOLDI, LOVED THE ASSIGNMENT BECAUSE HE ALSO LOVED HIS MOTHER. AND THAT GAVE HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO MODEL THE FACE OF THE STATUTE TO THAT OF HIS MOTHER.

CHORUS: WOW, FOR THE WHOLE WORLD TO BEHOLD THE IMPORTANCE OF MOTHERS.

READER 4: AND THEN HE ASKED A FRIEND, ALEXANDRE –GUSTAVE EIFFEL, TO BUILD THE INTERNAL SUPPORT OF THE STATUE.

READER 5: YOU HAVE HEARD OF THE EIFFEL TOWER, THE SYMBOL OF FRANCE. YOU CAN WALK ALL THE WAY UP ON THE INSIDE

READER 1: AND, IT DID NOT TAKE LONG BEFORE YOU ALSO COULD WALK UP INSIDE THE STATUE. ALL THE WAY UP TO THE CROWN, AND AFTER THAT YOU

CAN LOOK OUT OF THE BUILT-IN WINDOWS AND PRETEND TO BE LADY LIBERTY.

CHORUS: AND YELL TO THE WORLD, FREEDOM LIVES!

READER 4: BUT LISTEN UP, EVERYBODY, THE STATUE WAS DESIGNED TO BE AN INTERNATIONAL SYMBOL OF LIBERTY, JUSTICE, AND DEMOCRACY.

CHORUS: THAT'S WHAT THE WORLD STILL BADLY NEEDS EVEN IN THIS, THE 21ST CENTURY.

READER 5: AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT LADY LIBERTY HOLDS IN HER LEFT HAND? (LOOKS AROUND) WELL, I TELL YOU. (PAUSE) SHE HOLDS A STONE TABLET WHICH HAS A DATE WRITTEN ON IT IN ROMAN NUMERALS. GUESS WHAT DATE?

CHORUS: THAT'S EASY (EMPHATIC), THE DATE OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

EVERYBODY: JULY 4th, 1776

READER 1: EVERY JULY 4, WE HOOT AND HOLLER. FIREWORKS LIGHT UP THE SKY ABOVE NEW YORK HARBOR. ALL THE MANY COLORS ARE REFLECTED AND DANCE WITH ONE ANOTHER IN THE WATER.

READER 2: TALKING ABOUT THE MANY COLORS. LADY LIBERTY HAS A BROKEN CHAIN AT HER FEET. HER LEFT FOOT IS THRUST FORWARD TO INDICATE TO FOLKS WHO ARRIVE HERE THAT THEY COME FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM.

READER 3: BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, SOME FOLKS FROM AFRICA WERE BROUGHT HERE TO BE SLAVES AND SOLD INTO BONDAGE.

READER 4: ONE OF OUR GREATEST PRESIDENTS, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, OPPOSED THE SLAVE TRADE AND SIGNED WHAT AND WHEN? TELL US.

CHORUS: THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION FREEING THE SLAVES IN 1864.

READER 5: AND TO MAKE SURE THE PROCLAMATION COULD NOT BE OVERTURNED, IT WAS RATIFIED BY CONGRESS AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

CHORUS: ENDING SLAVERY FOREVER. AND NOW **ALL** OF US ASSEMBLED HERE HAVE TO ACTIVATE THE GOOD IN US, AND WORK HARD ON OUR FEELINGS. TO LEARN TO REALLY AND SINCERELY RESPECT ONE ANOTHER. (APPLAUSE)

SCENE 2: MORE ABOUT LADY LIBERTY

(LADY LIBERTY, IMMIGRANT 1 [EVA], IMMIGRANT 2 [ROSMARIE], VOICES 1-5, CHORUS)

LADY LIBERTY: AFTER ALL, THE TRIBUTE IS TO ME. IS IT NOT?
THEREFORE, I WILL GIVE YOU SOME IMPORTANT DETAILS.
LISTEN UP: MY NOSE IS FOUR AND A HALF FEET LONG.
MY MOUTH IS THREE FEET WIDE.
MY HEAD IS TEN FEET FROM EAR TO EAR.
AND AS YOU KNOW ALREADY I AM A GAL YOU CAN STEP INSIDE (LOUD).
MY WAIST IS THIRTY-FIVE FEET THICK.
I'M THE BIGGEST LADY EVER KNOWN.

CHORUS: TO KEEP FREEDOM ALIVE.

VOICE 1: MORE THAN 16 MILLION IMMIGRANTS ARRIVED IN NEW YORK HARBOR. MOST HAD TEARS IN THEIR EYES WHEN THEY SAW, YOU, LADY LIBERTY.

LADY LIBERTY: AND MOST IMPORTANT, NOTICE THE SEVEN SPIKES IN MY CROWN. THEY REPRESENT THE SEVEN SEAS AND SEVEN CONTINENTS

CHORUS: OF THE WORLD WHERE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY STILL NEED LOTS OF ATTENTION

IMMIGRANT 1: MY NAME IS EVA. I CAME FROM NAZI GERMANY AND WAS SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU HOLDING YOUR TORCH WELCOMING ALL OF US. I SHED SO MANY TEARS AND KEPT SNIFFLING AND COULD NOT FIND MY HANDKERCHIEF.

IMMIGRANT 2: MY NAME IS ROSMARIE. WHEN HITLER INVADED AUSTRIA IN 1938 MY ENTIRE FAMILY, THE VON TRAPP'S, FATHER GEORG AND MOTHER MARIA PLUS NINE OF US CHILDREN, IMMEDIATELY MADE THE PAINFUL DECISION TO LEAVE EVERYTHING AND ATTEMPT TO REACH AMERICA WHERE WE WOULD BE FREE TO SING TO OUR HEART'S CONTENT AND NOT HAVE TO OBEY HITLER'S ORDERS.

CHORUS: LETS ALL SING TOGETHER *MY FAVORITE THINGS*.

RAIN DROPS ON ROSES,
AND WHISKERS ON KITTENS,
BRIGHT COPPER KETTLES
AND WARM WOOLLEN MITTENS.
BROWN PAPER PACKAGES

TIED UP WITH STRING,
THESE ARE A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS.

EVA: I DID LOSE MY ENTIRE FAMILY IN THE HOLOCAUST. WHAT HELPED ME SURVIVE WAS JOYOUS MUSIC, ROSMARIE, THE SORT OF MUSIC YOU INTRODUCE TO THIS LAND OF LIBERTY. I WAS ABLE TO FOLLOW MY LOVE FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES, COLORS, ABILITIES ... WE COULD SING TO OUR HEARTS' CONTENT.

ROSMARIE: TELL ME MORE.

EVA: WE DANCED TO THE MUSIC, ROSEMARIE. WE BECAME IN MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S *A BELOVED COMMUNITY*. WE DREW PICTURES. WE LEARNED TO STAGE TALK, SOMETIMES LOUD, SOMETIMES SOFT. AND MOST OF ALL: BEGAN TO HELP AND RESPECT ONE ANOTHER.

CHORUS: AND STRIVE FOR LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

VOICE 2: BARTHOLDI WAS SURE, LADY LIBERTY, YOUR PRESENCE ENLIGHTENS THE WORLD.

CHORUS: AND FREEDOM LIVES.

LADY LIBERTY: WHEN I ARRIVED FROM FRANCE ON JULY 4, 1884. IT TOOK SIX WHOLE MONTHS TO MOUNT ME TO MY BASE.

VOICE 4: WHO PAID FOR ALL THAT?

LADY LIBERTY: SO VERY MANY PEOPLE. WEALTHY FOLKS AND EVEN SCHOOL CHILDREN. THE FRENCH PAID FOR THE STATUE AND THE AMERICANS FOR THE BASE.

VOICE 1: AND WHEN YOU WERE UNVEILED. IN 1886, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE CHEERED.

VOICE 2: SHIPS SOUNDED THEIR HORNS AND WHISTLES.

VOICE 3: GUNS SALUTED.

LADY LIBERTY: NOW IT'S TIME TO INTRODUCE EMMA LAZARUS. ANOTHER VERY IMPORTANT LADY.

SCENE 3: MEET POET EMMA LAZARUS

(LADY LIBERTY, EMMA, CHORUS, EVERYBODY)

LADY LIBERTY: GREETINGS TO YOU EMMA. NOW READ US YOUR MOVING LINES ON THE BASE OF MY STATUE.

EMMA: GIVE ME YOUR TIRED, YOUR POOR,
YOUR HUDDLED MASSES YEARNING TO BREATHE FREE,
THE WRETCHED REFUSE OF YOUR TEEMING SHORE,
SEND THESE, THE HOMELESS, TEMPEST-TOST TO ME,
I LIFT MY LMP BESIDE THE GOLDEN DOOR.

VOICE 1: WAS THERE A SPECIFIC REASON, EMMA, FOR WRITING THESE MOVING AND STIRRING LINES?

EMMA: WELL I ALSO DID A LOT OF READING, AND WAS VERY AFFECTED BY THE PERSECUTION OF RUSSIAN AND EASTERN EUROPEAN JEWS. HOW MUCH THEY HAD TO SUFFER! AND THESE FEELINGS EVOLVED INTO THE *“THE HUDDLED MASSES YEARNING TO BE FREE.”*

CHORUS: IS THERE ANYONE IN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD WHO DOES NOT YEARN TO BE FREE?

LADY LIBERTY: REPEAT AFTER ME: ONE NATION, UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL!

EVERYBODY: ONE NATION, UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE...

SCENE 4: TWO IMMIGRANTS AT “OUR TEEMING SHORES”

(VOICES 1-5, CHORUS, EVA, ROSEMARIE)

VOICE 1: WE ALL HAVE QUESTIONS. I’LL START WITH YOU, ROSMARIE. TELL US YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY ABOUT AUSTRIA, THE LAND OF YOUR BIRTH?

ROSMARIE: I REMEMBER MY MOTHER MARIA. HOW KIND SHE WAS AND HOW SHE LOVED TO SING, DANCE, AND HUG US.

VOICE 2: WHAT ABOUT YOU, EVA. YOU WERE BORN IN GERMANY ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS ROSMARIE? WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER?

EVA: I WILL NEVER EVER FORGET MY FATHER ,BERTHOLD, AND I, HOLDING HANDS, WALKING THROUGH BELLEVUE PARK, CLOSE TO WHERE WE LIVED. WE WERE LAUGHING AND SINGING AS THOUGH THERE WOULD NEVER BE ANYTHING AT ALL TO WORRY ABOUT.

ROSMARIE: THAT IS AMAZING. MY FATHER , GEORG VON TRAPP, WAS ALSO SO KIND AND GENTLE, HE SMILED A GREAT DEAL. I, TOO, WAS HAPPY EVERY TIME, WE TALKED AND WALKED. I MISS HIM SO VERY MUCH.

CHORUS: EVERYONE NEEDS SUCH LOVE

VOICE 3: I REMEMBER READING “MAN’S SEARCH FOR MEANING WRITTEN BY “VICTOR FRANKEL, A HOLOCAUST CAMP SURVIVOR , WHO BELIEVED THAT LOVING SOMEONE GAVE HIM THE STRENGTH TO ENDURE THE SUFFERING. HE THOUGHT OF HIS WIFE AND MADE BELIEVE SHE WAS NEXT TO HIM AND THEY TALKED TOGETHER. AND HE ADDED THAT IT DID NOT MATTER WHETHER SHE HAPPENED TO BE ALIVE OR NOT.

EVA: I FELT SO ALONE AS A REFUGEE, THAT I IMAGINED WALKING AND TALKING WITH MY FATHER. AND HOW HE SUGGESTED I USE MY SMILE. AND BELIEVE GOODNESS EXISTS.

CHORUS: GOODNESS DOES EXIST. GOODNESS AND LOVE ARE SOULMATES.

VOICE 4: TELL US YOUR FAVORITE SONGS

EVA : MY :FAVORITE SONG IS FROM PUCCINI'S OPERA “LA BOHEME” , THE TWO CHARACTERS, MIMI AND RODOLPHO, HAVE JUST MET AND HE ACCIDENTALLY TOUCHES HER HAND AND EXCLAIMS IN SONG “*CHE GELIDA MANINA*” (“*HOW COLD IS YOUR HAND.*”

VOICE 4: WHY IS THAT YOUR FAVORITE SONG?

EVA: BECAUSE WHENEVER MY MOTHER LOOKED WORRIED. MY FATHER WOULD TAKE HER HAND AND SING THAT SONG. (lalala...) AND MY MOTHER WOULD SMILE. SHE LOVED OPERA.

CHORUS: A COMBINATION OF LOVE AND GOODNESS.

VOICE 5: ROSMARIE, YOUR TURN TO TELL US YOUR FAVORITE SONG AND WHY YOU LOVE IT.

ROSMARIE: I LOVE SO VERY MANY SONGS AND THE WAY THEY AFFECT PEOPLE. ONCE AMONG OUR LISTENING AUDIENCE THERE WAS A YOUNG BOY, AN ORPHAN. HIS NAME WAS GEORGIO AND MAYBE THE LOVE OF MY FATHER SPILLED INTO THIS CHILD BECAUSE HE FOLLOWED US SOMEWHERE IN SOUTH AMERICA.

EVA: MY MOTHER HAD A FAVORITE POEM THAT SHE WOULD RECITE:

UEBER ALLEN GIPFELN IST RUH
(OVER ALL TREETOPS IS PEACE)
UEBER ALLEN SPITZEN HOERST DU KAUM EINEN HAUCH
(YOU CAN HARDLY HEAR A BREEZE)
DIE VOEGLEIN SCHLAFEN IM WALDE
(THE BIRDS SLEEP IN THE WOODS)
WARTE NUR BALDE RUHEST DU AUCH.
(SOON, TOO, YOU WILL HAVE PEACE)

VOICE 1: EVA, WOULD YOU SAY THE WORDS IN GERMAN
AND EVERYBODY WILL REPEAT THEM IN ENGLISH

EVA: SAYS THE LINES IN GERMAN

CHORUS : (FOLLOWS WITH THE LINES IN ENGLISH)

EVA: THANK YOU SO MUCH. IT IS A BLESSING.

SCENE 5: THE TEAR OF GRIEF MEMORIAL

(ROSEMARIE, EVA, VOICES 1-5, CHORUS)

ROSEMARIE: GIVEN THE PRESENT TURMOIL IN THE WORLD LET'S ALSO PAY
TRIBUTE TO *THE TEAR OF GRIEF* MEMORIAL

CHORUS: YES THE WORLD IS SO VERY WEARY OF VIOLENCE

EVERYBODY: SO VERY WEARY OF VIOLENCE

VOICE 1: THE MEMORIAL IS A 100-FOOT TOWER MADE OF STEEL AND COATED IN
BRONZE, SPLIT WITH A JAGGED OPENING IN THE MIDDLE

VOICE 2: SPLIT WITH A JAGGED OPENING IN THE MIDDLE

VOICE 3: AND INSIDE HANGS A LARGE STAINLESS STEEL TEARDROP 40 FEET
HIGH

CHORUS: IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHOSE LIVES WERE LOST DURING THE
TERRORIST ATTACKS IN THE UNITED STATES.

VOICE 4: THE ELEVEN SIDES OF THE MONUMENT'S BASE BEAR NAMEPLATES OF THOSE THAT DIED IN THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS ON THE 1993 WORLD TRADE CENTER BOMBING

VOICE 5: IT CAN BE SEEN FROM THE STATEN ISLAND FERRY

VOICE 1: AND LISTEN UP, THE MONUMENT WAS DEDICATED IN A CEREMONY ATTENDED BY FORMER U.S. PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON AND PRIME MINISTER OF RUSSIA VLADIMIR PUTIN.

CHORUS: A GIFT FROM THE RUSSIANS. WOULD YOU BELIEVE?

ROSMARIE: MY MOTHER AND ALL OF US BELIEVE FAITH IN GOD CAN TURN EVIL TO GOOD. DID NOT ANNE FRANK ALSO BELIEVE THAT IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING THERE IS GOOD IN THE HEART OF EVERYONE

CHORUS: YES, THERE IS GOOD IN EVERYONE.

EVA: I WOULD LIKE TO END WITH MY FAVORITE POEM BY ANOTHER TRIBUTE HONOREE, LANGSTON HUGHES.

*Bring me all of your dreams
You dreamers
Bring me all of your Heart
Melodies
That I may wrap them in a
Blue-cloud cloth
Far away from the rough fingers
Of the world*

QUESTIONS:

1. What does the poet imply?
2. What does he mean by "blue -cloud cloth?"
3. What are the "rough fingers of the world?"
4. What line would you use to decorate on a poster?
5. Choose a song that you could use to choreograph the poem.

EVA: NOW YOU PROBABLY UNDERSTAND THAT TRIBUTES TO INSPIRATIONAL PEOPLE ARE BLESSINGS.

CHORUS: WE DO UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE LEARNING ABOUT GOODNESS.

EVERYBODY: HALLELUJAH!

ROSMARIE: I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT GOODNESS WHEN I WAS A MISSIONARY IN NEW GUINEA.

EVA: REALLY! WHERE ELSE HAVE YOU BEEN?

ROSMARIE: IN DENMARK, HOLLAND, AND SWEDEN WHERE WE SANG A'CAPELLA. ONCE BACK IN THE USA WE BEGAN SINGING TOURS. THE WHOLE FAMILY LOVED TO SING ESPECIALLY A'CAPELLA.

EVA: WHAT IS YOUR WISH FOR THE FUTURE?

ROSMARIE: WHEN I WAS IN ISRAEL, THE LAND OF THE BIBLE AND HOW MUCH DIFFERENCE ISRAEL COULD MAKE IN TERMS OF WORLD PEACE.

EVA: YOU ARE RIGHT ROSMARIE. WHEN I VISITED ISRAEL I REALIZED HOW MUCH SUNLIGHT THERE IS AND I BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT WOULD BE A PLACE FOR MANY RELIGIONS TO LIVE SIDE BY SIDE.

ROSMARIE: ONE OF THESE DAYS WE WILL LEARN HOW WE CAN ALL LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE.

EVERYBODY: AMEN.

NOTE: MUSIC IS AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE. PLEASE CHOOSE AS MANY SONGS AS YOU WISH (A'CAPELLA) AND WEAVE THEM INTO THIS TRIBUTE.