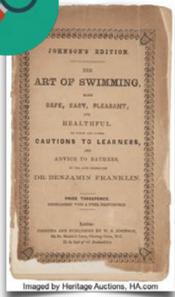


## Text Set to Accompany

# Ben Franklin's Big Splash: The Mostly True Story of His First Invention

### Primary Sources & Research Materials

These texts tell readers more about Ben Franklin and his inventions.

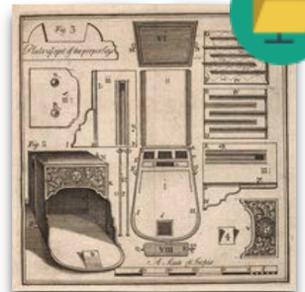


#### [Benjamin Franklin's On The Art of Swimming](#)

The University of Michigan has an online archive which includes the essays of Benjamin Franklin. The text of his essay on swimming is available for readers. "When I was a boy, I made two oval pallets, each about ten inches long, and six broad, with a hole for the thumb, in order to retain it fast in the palm of my hand. ..."

#### [Library of Congress Exhibit: Benjamin Franklin... In His Own Words](#)

The "Scientist and Inventor" section of this online exhibit shares more about Ben Franklin's role as an inventor throughout his life. The exhibit showcases primary sources, including Franklin's own writings and drawings, that show how things like the Franklin Stove and bifocals came to be.



#### [Franklin Artifacts Collection](#)

The online Franklin Artifacts collection allows viewers to see pictures of objects from Benjamin Franklin's life. Clicking on the "Scientist & Inventor" tab will allow viewers to see artifacts that connect to Ben Franklin's lifetime love of inventing. Each artifact is accompanied by a detailed description of its history. Some interesting artifacts include the library chair with folding steps and the four-sided music stand.



### Content Connections

These texts explore topics such as Benjamin Franklin's legacy and modern inventions.



#### [Video: Benjamin Franklin and the Sport of Swimming](#)

The International Swimming Hall of Fame honored Benjamin Franklin for his contributions to the sport of swimming. A Benjamin Franklin reenactor was interviewed by a historian about Benjamin Franklin's connections to swimming as well as his swimming paddle invention.

#### [Podcast: Wow in the World: Two Whats?! And a Wow! - Inventoritos](#)

This episode of NPR's *Two Whats?! And a Wow!* teaches about the science of inventions. The hosts challenge listeners to find facts from fiction about inventions. In this episode, listeners are encouraged to create their own inventions using their problem-solving and engineering skills.



#### [Newsela Article: 10-year-old boy invents winning game inspired by sister with autism](#)

Ten-year-old Kusa Xiong designed a ping pong game accessible to his 12-year-old sister, Pahnuly, who has autism. The game involves a vertical frame for a ping pong ball to hang from, and improves hand-eye coordination. Kusa hopes to create more inventions to support his older sister.

#### [Video: How To Be An Inventor! With Kid President](#)

Kid President shares the stories of two kid inventors and their inventions. He then visits a GE Aviation facility to learn from professional inventors about the process of taking an idea to reality. Engineers give Kid President advice for pursuing an idea and revising his thinking.



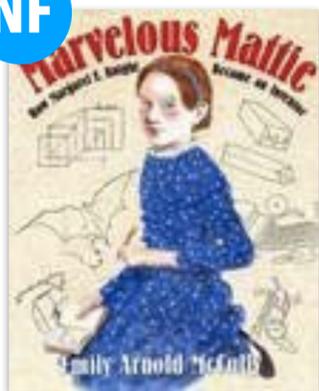
## Text Set to Accompany

# Ben Franklin's Big Splash: The Mostly True Story of His First Invention

### Texts to Pair with *Ben Franklin's Big Splash*

These fiction and nonfiction texts can be read alongside *Ben Franklin's Big Splash* for deeper exploration of inventions and creative thinking.

NF



*Marvelous Mattie:  
How Margaret E. Knight  
Became an Inventor*  
By Emily Arnold McCully

This biography tells the story of "the Lady Edison" Margaret Knight, whose inventions are still in our lives today.

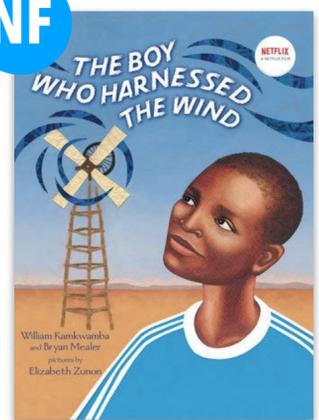
F



*The Most Magnificent Thing*  
By Ashley Spires

What happens when something doesn't work out on the first try? The girl in this book learns from her failures and persists towards success!

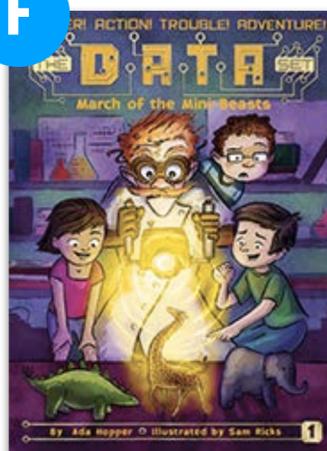
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*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*  
By William Kamkwamba  
& Bryan Mealer

This true story captures how William Kamkwamba figured out how to use junkyard scraps to bring electricity to his village.

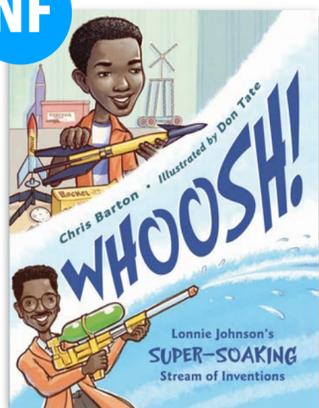
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*The Data Set Series*  
By Ada Hopper

With a mad scientist for a next door neighbor, things are bound to be interesting for the Data Set! Gabe, Laura, and Cesar each specialize in a different science subject.

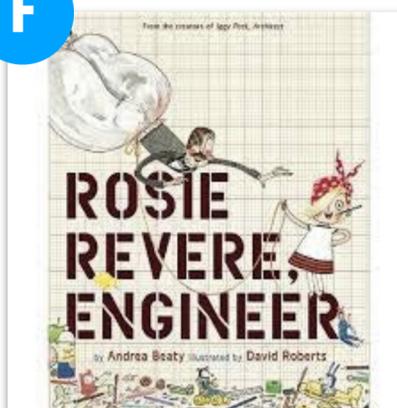
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*Whoosh!:  
Lonnie Johnson's Super-Soaking  
Stream of Inventions*  
by Chris Barton

Kids use Lonnie Johnson's Super Soaker to this day, and *Whoosh!* tells how Lonnie's creativity led to the accidental invention.

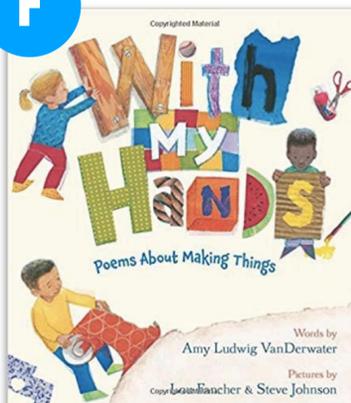
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*Rosie Revere, Engineer*  
By Andrea Beaty

Rosie sets out to change the world with her inventions, but they never seem to turn out quite right. Rosie's Great Aunt Rose teaches her that the only true failure comes if you quit.

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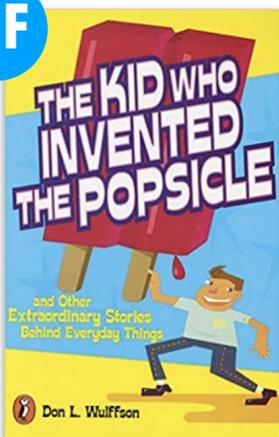


*With My Hands:*

*Poems About Making Things*  
By Amy Ludwig VanDerwater

This poetry collection celebrates tinkering, creating, and inventing with your own two hands. What might you be able to create from materials around you?

NF



*The Kid Who Invented the Popsicle  
And Other Extraordinary Stories  
Behind Everyday Things*  
By Don L. Wulffson

Ever wonder how ice cream sundaes came to be? What about motorcycles or Mickey Mouse? This chapter book tells over 100 origin stories.

F

= Fiction

NF

= Nonfiction