

Adapted from 1 Samuel 17

One day, David delivered food to his brothers who were battling the Philistines. He heard a Philistine shouting and making fun of them.

"Who is that man?" asked David. They told him about Goliath, the mighty warrior. No one could defeat him! But David wasn't afraid of the giant. When King Saul heard of David's bravery, he called David before him.

"Don't worry, I'll go fight that giant," said David.

"But he's a warrior," said Saul. "You're only a boy."

"I killed a lion and bear to protect my father's sheep," said David. "God will help me kill this giant."

Saul gave David his armor and weapons. But they were too big for David.

So without any armor, David went to face the giant. He stopped by a stream to pick up some stones and placed them in his bag. Then he stood before Goliath.

"Am I a dog that you come at me with sticks?" bellowed Goliath. David looked up and said, "You come against me with,' weapons, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty. This is God's battle!" Then David put a stone



in his sling and swung it around and around until the sling whistled. The stone whizzed through the air and smacked Goliath right in the forehead. And the giant fell to the ground with a mighty earth-shaking thud!

“The Duel”

By: Emily Dickinson

I took my power in my hand
And went against the world;
'Twas not so much as David had,
But I was twice as bold.

I aimed my pebble, but myself
Was all the one that fell.
Was it Goliath was too large,
Or only I too small?

My David and Goliath Moment

Many writers, poets, sports announcers, etc. allude to *David and Goliath moments*. David won his battle with the giant, however, the poet of “The Duel” did not. Have you ever experienced a David and Goliath moment, where you were the underdog battling against a major obstacle? Were you victorious, or were you defeated?

Reader Response Writing:

- Paragraph One: describe the obstacle or situation you were facing, using as many descriptive details as are appropriate. What made this obstacle or situation so challenging? Why were you afraid?
- Paragraph Two: Compare yourself to either David or Emily Dickinson by explaining if you were victorious over your Goliath (David) or defeated by it (Dickinson). Why do you think the situation ended the way it did?