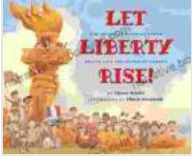


# How America's Schoolchildren Helped Save the Statue of Liberty

Standing proudly in New York Harbor, the Statue of Liberty is an iconic symbol of freedom and democracy, welcoming countless immigrants to American shores. But did you know that this beloved landmark almost met a tragic end?





## Let Liberty Rise!: How America's Schoolchildren Helped Save the Statue of Liberty

by Chana Stiefel

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 53196 KB

Print length : 40 pages

Lending : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported



In the early 20th century, the Statue of Liberty was in a state of disrepair, its copper skin oxidizing and its torch crumbling. The government lacked the funds to restore it, and it seemed that the symbol of American ideals might be lost forever.

Enter the schoolchildren of America. Inspired by their teachers and the spirit of patriotism, they launched a nationwide fundraising campaign in 1907.

### **Operation Pennies for the Pedestal**

The campaign became known as "Operation Pennies for the Pedestal," and it captured the hearts of children across the country. From Maine to California, students set up penny boxes in schools, churches, and stores, urging everyone to contribute whatever they could.

The response was overwhelming. Children emptied their piggy banks, sold lemonade, and even organized street performances to raise money. Within

a year, they had collected over \$100,000 (equivalent to millions of dollars today).



The children's efforts caught the attention of President Teddy Roosevelt, who praised their patriotism and encouraged their cause. He even donated his own salary to the fund.

### **The Restoration Begins**

With the funds secured, the restoration of the Statue of Liberty began in 1908. Workers scraped off the old copper skin and replaced it with a more durable stainless steel alloy. They also repaired the torch and replaced the original torch with a new one topped with gold leaf.



On October 28, 1912, the newly restored Statue of Liberty was unveiled to the public. The children of America had played a pivotal role in saving one

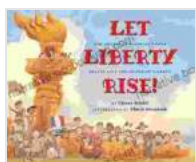
of the nation's most cherished landmarks.

## A Symbol of Hope and Unity

The Statue of Liberty has been a beacon of hope and unity for generations. It represents the ideals of freedom, democracy, and opportunity that have shaped the American dream. And it is a testament to the power of young people to make a difference in the world.

The story of how America's schoolchildren saved the Statue of Liberty is a reminder that even the smallest actions can have a profound impact. It inspires us to believe that together, we can overcome any challenge and build a better future.

As we celebrate the upcoming Independence Day, let us remember the children who helped preserve the Statue of Liberty. Their legacy is a reminder that the spirit of patriotism and civic responsibility lives on in the hearts of young Americans today.



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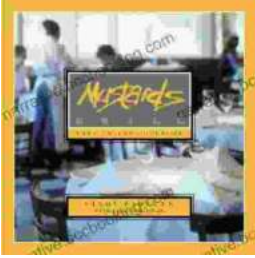
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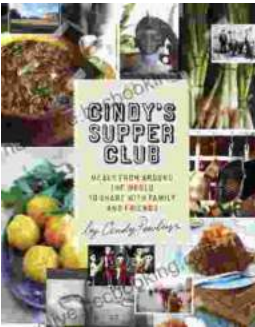
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