

Read the passage.

Michelangelo had heard about a big block of marble-eighteen feet high-that was lying a yard. He went to the town hall to ask about it and was told by an official that it was worthless.

Didn't they tell you?" said the official. "A fellow called Simone da Fiesole started to carve statue years ago. He drilled a big hole right through the block. Then he chipped half the stone away from the front and back of the hole. It used to be a beautiful block, without any flaws."

"da Fiesole ought to be hanged," fumed the official.

Michelangelo wondered just how bad the damage was. He wanted to see for himself if he could cut a figure out of the damaged

block. "Can I at least go and see it?" he asked.

Michelangelo spent a long time looking at the stone. He walked around it, took measurements, stood in front of it and thought. As soon as he was home, he started drawing and making a little wax model of a statue of David, which had been da Fiesole's subject.

When he was sure he could carve his figure out of the damaged block, he asked the mayor to give it to him.

Michelangelo sculpted the statue of David, one of his most famous masterpieces, out of the block. He extracted the statue so exactly that da Fiesole's chisel marks can still be seen on it.

1. Mark these sentences as true (T) or not true (NT).

a. The official was angry with Michelangelo for asking about the block of stone.

b. Michelangelo was convinced by the official's explanation about the damaged stone.

c. Michelangelo chose to carve the same subject as da Fiesole.

d. Michelangelo did not need to ask anyone for permission to work on the damaged black of stone.

2. Answer these questions.

a. Describe the kind of damage the block had?

b. Michelangelo chose to carve a particular figure. Name it and mention two reasons for

his choice.

c. Describe the way Michelangelo got the block of marble.

3. Find words in the passage that mean-

a. something that has no real value-

b. mistakes or faults-

c. an excellent specimen of

