

# Suffrage: Books for Children and Young Adults

These are suffrage/women's history books I recommend for young people.  
Detailed descriptions and cover photos are provided.  
I would be happy to lend my copies for preview or short term use (about a week).

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# *Around America To Win the Vote*

## *Two Suffragists, a Kitten, and 10,000 Miles*

by Mara Rockliff, illustrated by Hadley Hooper, 2016, Candlewick Press

level: read-aloud and discuss - 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade  
independent reading - 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade

read-aloud time: about 7 minutes

34 picture book pages (simple drawings, minimal text)  
+ 4 pages of text on driving in 1916, suffrage history, and sources



summary:

- tells of two suffragists who drive a car in a big loop around America
- shows only positive responses to their “Votes for Women!” cry
- names about 20 cities and states, shows a map of their route
- shows problems with poor roads, weather
- doesn’t explain the significance of **yellow** car, cake, etc. until next to last page of end materials (It was a suffrage color, along with white and purple.)

vocabulary to pre-teach:

cause (as a noun)	postcard
blizzard	signatures
useful	smuggled
daffodil	souvenirs
goldenrod	Tribune (a newspaper)

questions:

1. What made this trip hard? (roads, weather, many miles)
2. What cause did they believe in? (women’s right to vote)
3. What did they accomplish? (making people aware)
4. What things were yellow? Why? (car, cat’s bow, clothes, lunch, hats, cake, signs—symbol of suffrage)
5. What other ways do we use to show what we believe in? (team colors, holidays, etc.)
6. Suffragists use the word “persist” meaning to keep trying no matter what. Did Nell and Alice persist? How? (finished a long trip in spite of set-backs, having to change to a train, being lost; Alice going again)

# *Blast Back! Women's Suffrage*

by Nancy Olin, illustrated by Roger Simo, 2018, Little Bee Books

level: 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade independent

112 pages illustrated with black/white line drawings on almost every page  
table of contents, bibliography

summary:

- focuses almost entirely on suffrage, in the U.S. and Britain
- major events in suffrage history
- short profiles of women and men suffragists, sometimes mixing the two countries
- map of eleven western U.S. states where women could vote by 1915
- twelve pages at the end on suffrage around the world and in modern day
- p.43 shows an apparently nude woman from the back, in a picture frame ???

questions:

How are the words "suffrage" and "franchise" related?  
(Both mean essentially the same-the right to vote.)

How did The British suffragettes differ in their tactics from most American suffragists?  
( By 1908 the British were using more confrontational means, such as vandalism and violence. They stopped protests when WWI started, while U.S. women didn't.-- p. 43, 45, 74, 75)

How did men support suffrage in the U.S.?  
(helped women with conventions and endorsements,  
joined their organizations or started their own, voted in favor)

Which countries were the first to adopt women's suffrage?  
(p. 88-91. Note: Colorado women won full suffrage in 1893, the same year as the first country, New Zealand.)

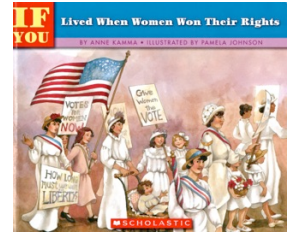
# *If You Lived When Women Won Their Rights*

by Anne Kamma, illustrated by Pamela Johnson, 2006, Scholastic

level: read-aloud and discuss – 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade  
independent reading – 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade  
great introduction to suffrage for 8<sup>th</sup> grade to adult

read-aloud time: 30 minutes, best in segments mixed with activities

64 pages illustrated by color drawings and a few small photos  
48 sections, each answering the question that is its title



## summary:

- begins with a brief view of women's rights, starting in colonial times,
- concentrates on 1848 (convention)-1920(voting), see timeline on p. 7
- mentions many women in history, profiles on seven suffragists
- highlights challenges and hardships faced by women, esp. suffragists
- includes sections on women in the West, focusing on Wyoming
- includes how girls and women dressed, and how that impacted daily living

## questions:

Use any in the Table of Contents.

Discuss how the suffrage movement grew and how suffragists demonstrated persistence.

What customs did women change on their way to getting the vote?  
(women not speaking in public, not staying at home, not being controlled by husbands, etc.)

Imagine what Charlotte Woodward, the young glove-maker from the first convention, would have felt or said about voting for the first time in 1920.

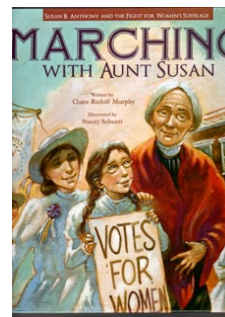
# *Marching with Aunt Susan*

## *Susan B. Anthony and the Fight for Women's Suffrage*

by Claire Rudolf Murphy  
illustrated by Stacey Schuett

level: read-aloud and discuss – 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Independent reading – 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade

read aloud time: about 8.5 minutes



28 picture book pages (richly illustrated)  
+ 5 pages on the real Bessie, California and U. S. suffrage history, Susan's bio, timeline, and further resources; suffrage scrapbook items on inside covers

vocabulary: strenuous, rally, suffrage vs. suffering, headquarters, factory, zeal, election, campaign, referendum

history which may need explaining: child labor, licking envelopes

summary:

- begins with Bessie, a real girl, being discriminated against as a girl
- Bessie's Aunt Mary brings Susan B. Anthony to tea
- Bessie learns about the suffrage cause, visits factory girls, marches in a parade
- the 1895 California suffrage effort fails, but Bessie makes progress

questions:

1. Why did Bessie feel like women needed the vote?      unfair treatment as a girl, factory girls' lives
2. What did the women do to try to win the vote?      unite, invite Susan, rally, posters, march, letters, give money
3. Who disagreed with them, and how?      Bessie's brothers, male hecklers, egg-thrower, Rita's Dad removing her
4. How did Susan, Mama, and Bessie deal with disappointment?      persistence, moving on



# *Rightfully Ours: How Women Won the Vote*

by Kerrie Logan Hollihan  
Chicago Review Press, 2012

level: 6<sup>th</sup>-adult



130 pages, generous black/white illustrations, + contents, timeline, preface, index, and 21 related activities for kids or adults, books to read, places to visit

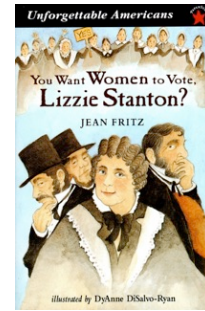
summary:

- profiles of Lucy Stone, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, shorter ones of Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Beecher Stowe
- good background on societal changes and problems of each era
- postponing suffrage work for the Civil War, efforts of Clara Barton, other women
- the amendment process and how suffragist were left out of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>
- suffrage group splits over tactics & beliefs about the Negro vote; start newspapers
- Victoria Woodhull runs for President; Wyoming -first woman voters, judge, Gov.
- industrial era, temperance & Frances Willard, clubs, Mary Church Terrell
- 20th cent., Jane Addams, Matilda Gage, Carrie C. Catt, Harriet Stanton Blatch, labor becomes active - Rose Schneiderman
- British influence, Alice Paul, Lucy Burns, Ida B. Wells, more assertive tactics and harsher responses, WWI, Jeannette Rankin, jail/abuse, Louise Havemeyer
- 1920: amendment passed on Congress, states ratify with TN the 36<sup>th</sup>, voting, 1923-Alice Paul writes the Equal Right Amendment

comprehensive, readable, with excellent use of primary sources for narrative, illustrations, and activities

## *You Want Women to Vote, Lizzie Stanton?*

by Jean Fritz, illustrated by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan  
Penguin Putnam Books, 1995



level: chapter book, comprehensive coverage, 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade

88 pages, 8 chapters, illustrated with full page black/white drawings  
+ quotations, end notes, bibliography, index

summary:

- childhood, marriage and abolition conference, motherhood
- Seneca Falls convention, bloomers, partnering with Susan B. Anthony
- work on NY marriage laws, more babies, running for office
- Kansas campaigns, starting their magazine and national organization
- lecturing, writing history of suffrage, petitions for suffrage amendment

## *Sojourner Truth*

by Laura Hamilton Waxman  
Barnes & Noble, History Maker Bios, 2008



level: 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade

48 pages, 5 chapters, varied illustrations  
+ table of contents, intro, timeline, honors received, resources,  
bibliography, index

summary:

- life as a slave in NY, being sold away from parents, love, marriage, children
- running away to freedom, son sold South and she sued to get him back
- life as a free woman, became a traveling preacher, changing her name
- joined a community, learned about abolition and suffrage, spoke for them
- supported her causes and the Civil War, went to help freed slaves in D.C.
- advocated for poor and working women, tried to vote (turned away)



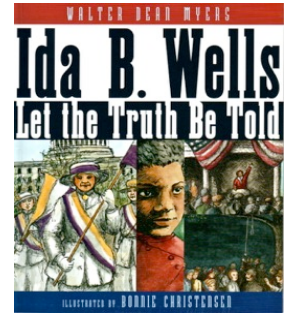
## *Ida B. Wells: Let the Truth Be Told*

by Walter Dean Myers, illustrated by Bonnie Christensen

read-aloud time: about 13 minutes

level: advanced vocabulary, despite picture book appearance;  
strong content;

could be used as a read-aloud for 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> with re-phrasing, explaining



33 pages, illustrated with color drawings,

+4 pages with a timeline of her life, quotations from Ida repeated

advanced vocabulary: constitution, amendment, lynching, boycott, eloquence,  
opportunities, conductor, incident, influential, dastardly, inauguration,  
articles, essays, attorney, nationalist, dynamic

summary:

--a moving biography of Ida Wells

--presents her unfailing advocacy against civil rights abuses, esp. lynching

--mentions her interaction with Susan B. Anthony and Jane Addams

--one page of text (p. 30) and one illustration on suffrage, including her refusal to be segregated when marching in a suffrage parade in Washington

questions:

How did Ida respond to unfair treatment of herself and others?

(resistance, law suit, writing and publishing, speaking, running for office)

What were Ida's greatest strengths? How did she use them?

(courage, reading and writing, working with others, telling the truth)

(to fight for justice, shed light on wrongs, rally others)

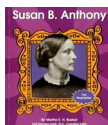
What did getting the vote for women mean to Ida?

( a tool for political change, esp. for black women)

## Books about Susan B. Anthony

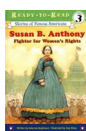
in order of increasing reading level, length, and complexity

### *Susan B. Anthony*, by Martha E. H. Rustad



from Pebble Books, First Biographies series, 2002  
illustrated with black/white photographs  
24 pages: her early life, beliefs, work for women's rights  
timeline at bottom of each page, table of contents,  
glossary, index

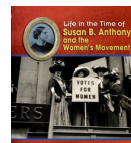
### *Susan B. Anthony: Fighter for Women's Rights*, by Deborah Hopkinson



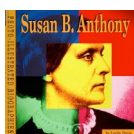
from Ready-to-Read (Level 3): Stories of Famous Americans  
illustrated with color drawings  
24 pages: early life, early activism, speaking tours,  
Civil War, illegal voting, last speech  
timeline of her life

### *Susan B. Anthony and the Women's Movement*

from Heinemann Library, 2008  
illustrated with black/white photographs + color drawings  
32 pages on women's rights in the 1800s, conventions, her allies,  
illegal voting, WY & CO, Alice Paul, amendment passed  
table of contents, glossary words in bold text, life long ago, timeline,  
resources, index



### *Susan B. Anthony: a Photo-Illustrated Biography*, by Lucile Davis



from Bridgestone Books, 1998  
32 pages: Quaker heritage, early years, teaching, Stanton,  
petitioning, abolition, newspaper, speaking tours,  
amendment  
table of contents, famous quotations,  
important dates, vocabulary, index

### *Susan B. Anthony*, by Stephanie Sammartino McPherson



from Barnes & Noble, History Maker Bios, 2006  
illustrated with black/white photos and color drawings  
48 pages: intro, Quaker beginning, teaching career, abolition, suffrage,  
bloomers, petitions, lecture tours, 1876 centennial speech  
table of contents, timeline, resources, bibliography, index  
and working women, tried to vote (turned away)

## Books about women making history

*Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race,*

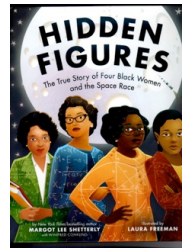
by Margot Lee Shetterly with Winifred Conkling

illustrated by Laura Freeman

Harper, 2018

4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> grade

picture book, 30 pg. + timeline, four profiles, glossary, author's note



*She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World*

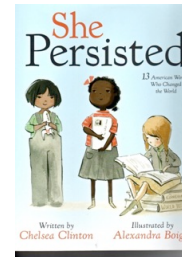
by Chelsea Clinton, illustrated by Alexandra Boiger

Philomel Books, 2017

3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade

picture book highlighting: Harriet Tubman,  
Helen Keller, Clara Lemlich,

Nellie Bly, Virginia Apgar, Maria Tallchief, Claudette Colvin, Ruby Bridges,  
Margaret Chase Smith, Sally Ride, Florence Griffith Joyner, Oprah Winfrey,  
Sonia Sotomayor, two pages each



*She Persisted Around the World: 13 Women Who Changed History*

by Chelsea Clinton, illustrated by Alexandra Boiger

Philomel Books, 2018

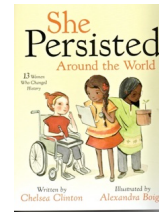
3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade

picture book highlighting: Sor Juana Ines De La Cruz,

Caroline Herschel, Kate Sheppard, Marie Curie, Viola Desmond,

Mary Verghese, Aisha Rateb, Wangari Maathal, Joanne Rowling,

Sissi Lima do Amor, Leymah Gbowee, Yuan Yuan Tan, Malala Yousafzai



# Great for Girls

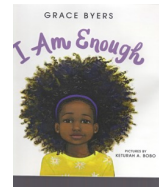
## *I Am Enough*

by Grace Byers, illustrated by Keturah A. Bobo

Harper Collins, 2018

K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade

picture book affirming self confidence and acceptance of others  
diversity shown in illustrations



## *Princesses Wear Pants*

by Savannah Guthrie and Allison Oppenheim

illustrated by Eva Byrne

Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2017

picture book written in rhyme

Penelope wears pants when she wants to do activities where they work best.

1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> grade

