

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).

Kathy DeHerrera

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or call 719-564-1013 (leave message)

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Around America To Win the Vote

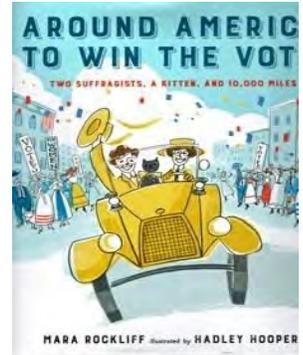
Two Suffragists, a Kitten, and 10,000 Miles

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

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

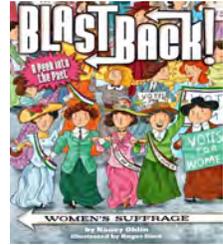
cause (as a noun)	postcard
blizzard	signatures
useful	smuggled
daffodil	souvenirs
goldenrod	Tribune (a newspaper)

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: 5th-8th 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)

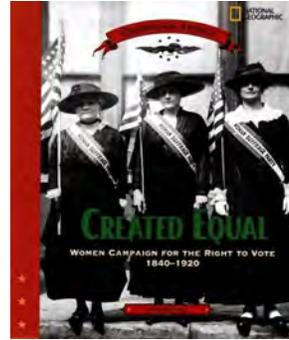
How did men support suffrage in the U.S.?
(helped women with conventions and endorsements,
joined their organizations or started their own, voted in favor)

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.)

*Created Equal:
Women Campaign for the Right to Vote
1840-1920*

by Ann Rossi
National Geographic, 2005

level: 5th-adult



40 pages, illustrations and quotations, + contents, glossary, and index
books to read, places to visit

summary:

- Victorian “true womanhood,”
- temperance and abolition,
- Seneca Falls Convention,
- Elizabeth Stanton teams with Susan B. Anthony, and why, + short bios,
- Lucy Stone bio and her unique marriage,
- Civil War work, 14th and 15th Amendments,
- suffragists split and reunite, Carrie C. Catt bio,
- anti-suffragists’ efforts,
- Alice Paul’s activities,
- Edna Purcell, a young clerk, marches in a suffrage parade,
- ratifying the 19th Amendment, Tennessee’s War of the Roses,
- cartoons,
- immediate voting in 1920, short and long term impacts

excellent resource on the national suffrage movement, concise but not over-simplified,
gives reasons as well as events, quotations are excellent

If You Lived When Women Won Their Rights

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

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

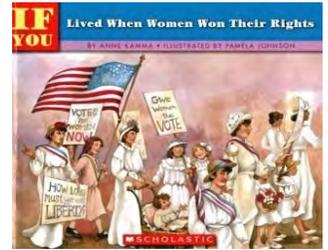
questions:

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 – 2nd - 5th grade
Independent reading – 2nd - 5th 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

Miss Paul and the President

The Creative Campaign for Women's Right to Vote

by Dean Robbins
illustrated by Nancy Zhang

level: read-aloud and discuss – 2nd - 4th grade
Independent reading – 2nd - 5th grade

read aloud time: about 8.5 minutes
(without explanations or discussion)

34 picture book pages (richly illustrated)
including one page for author's note and bibliography

vocabulary: jeer, hullabaloo, unfurl a scroll, strode, Constitution, Washington, D.C.,
gawk, caboose, mischief



a simplified and sanitized version of Alice Paul's efforts to force President Woodrow Wilson to endorse women's suffrage, and his reactions to her

summary:

- describes the suffrage parade which overshadowed Wilson's arrival in D.C.
- Alice's childhood mischief and the development of her interest in suffrage
- Alice's meeting with Wilson, her tactics to change his mind
- the emerging support from Wilson's daughter Margaret
- Alice's arrest (as she wanted) and Wilson's turn-around

questions:

1. What made Alice realize that women should vote?
unfair treatment of her mother, reading books
2. What did Alice and the other women do to try to win the vote?
parade, ask the President, form a group, make signs, send a train across the country where they gave speeches, march outside the White House, go to jail
3. How do you think Margaret felt, and why?
concerned for her father, interested in the letters, for suffrage

Rightfully Ours: How Women Won the Vote

by Kerrie Logan Hollihan
Chicago Review Press, 2012

level: 6th-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 14th and 15th
- 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 36th, voting, 1923-Alice Paul writes the Equal Right Amendment

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

You Wouldn't Want to Be a Suffragist!

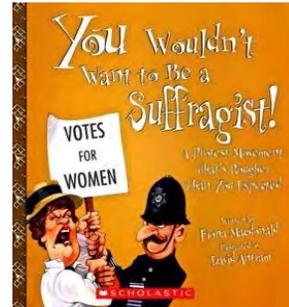
A Protest Movement That's Rougher Than You Expected

by Fiona Macdonald, illustrated by David Antram, 2008, Scholastic

level: independent reading - 3rd-8th grade

recommended for read-aloud only in very small groups;
lots of print and some pictures are small

32 picture book pages (colorful drawings)
helpful hints on how to be a suffragist + glossary, index



summary:

In 1920 a young American woman is visited by her British great aunt Edith, who tells her about the struggle in England, while cousin Mabel talks about the U.S.

- Brit Mary Wollstonecraft and her 1792 book on women's rights
- the 1848 convention in Seneca Falls, NY, and many early suffragists
- Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton disrupted US Centennial events
- suffrage efforts, tactics and symbols
- the Pankhursts radicalizing the movement in Britain, imprisonment, hunger strikes and force-feeding
- progress in the Western US; parades in the East, WWI
- victory in Britain (1918) and US (1920) and almost world-wide

vocabulary: see glossary on p. 30

questions:

1. How was the British suffrage movement different from the American one? (more violent toward people and Property, victory 2 years earlier)
2. In what ways was being a suffragist hard? (tough travel, hard work, jail, abuse)
3. What actions did women use to fight for the vote? (formed clubs, petitioned, marched, picketed, resisted, etc.)
4. Would you have wanted to be a Suffragist? (Both females and males were.)

SUFFRAGIST BIOGRAPHIES

Elizabeth Leads the Way

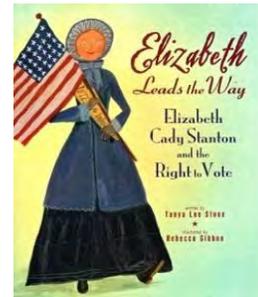
Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote

by Tanya Lee Stone, illustrated by Rebecca Gibbon, 2008, Henry Holt & Co.

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

read-aloud time: about 8 minutes

36 picture book pages (colorful drawings)
+ one page Author's Note and Sources lists



summary:

- Seneca Falls Conference, 1848, first group demand for the vote, simplified
- tells how women needed rights, (Unfair!), how only men could change laws
- showed things Elizabeth did to prove herself, her education
- tells how she and her friends decided to have a meeting about women's rights
- reveals Elizabeth's shocking idea to help women change things (getting the vote)

vocabulary to pre-teach or clarify during story:

Preposterous!	abolitionist
flabbergasted	waver
Declaration of Independence	

questions:

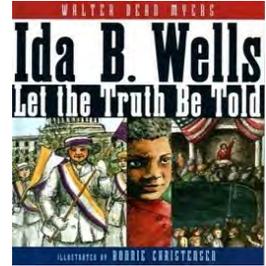
- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. What did Elizabeth learn about fairness men for girls and women? | (girls pitied, woman lost farm, only could change laws—by voting) |
| 2. What did Elizabeth do to prove she was as good as a boy? | (horse hurdles, rafting, extra study) |
| 3. What was Elizabeth's idea for making things more fair for women? | (getting the vote for women so they could help change unfair laws) |

4. How did people react to Elizabeth's idea? (even friends were shocked, world was not ready, but she kept working)

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 5th-7th 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:

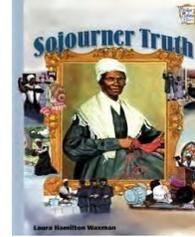
How did Ida respond to unfair treatment of herself and others?
(resistance, law suit, writing and publishing, speaking, running for office)

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)

Sojourner Truth

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



level: 4th-7th grade

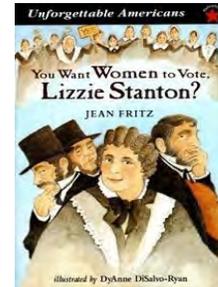
48 pages, 5 chapters, varied illustrations
+ table of contents, intro, timeline, honors received, resources,
bibliography, index

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)

You Want Women to Vote, Lizzie Stanton?

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



level: chapter book, comprehensive coverage, 5th-8th grade

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

summary:

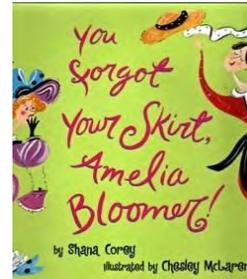
- childhood, marriage and abolition conference, motherhood
- Seneca Falls convention, bloomers, partnering with Susan B. Anthony
- work on NY marriage laws, more babies, running for office
- Kansas campaigns, starting their magazine and national organization
- lecturing, writing history of suffrage,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

You Forgot Your Skirt, Amelia Bloomer

by Shana Corey, illustrated by Chesley McLaren, 2000, Scholastic Press

level: read-aloud and discuss – late 2nd-5th grade
independent reading - 3rd-5th grade

read-aloud time: about 6 minutes



36 picture book pages (colorful drawings)

Minimal text in a curly font that might be a problem for youngest readers.

+ one page Author's Note with details on Amelia Bloomer and bloomers

summary:

- tells of 1800s suffragist, Amelia Bloomer, who did not want to be a proper lady including not voting
- shows problems with fashions of the day, like long, heavy skirts, corsets, hoops
- shows a visit from Libby in a totally new kind of outfit (pants under a skirt)
- reveals reactions, pro and con, of others to the new outfit
- demonstrates what Amelia could do in the new outfit
- tells how Amelia publicized the outfit and its pattern, so it was named "Bloomers"

vocabulary to pre-teach or explain as you go:

"proper lady"

corset

hoops

townspeople

pattern (for dressmaking)

improper

words to express reactions:

was aghast

Shocking!

Marvelous!

I declare!

Balderdash!

intro: Describe how, in a long ago time, women and girls wore only dresses and skirts. They were supposed to stay at home, not have jobs, and were not allowed to vote.

questions:

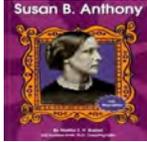
1. How was Amelia different from proper ladies? (wanted to vote, have a job, dress differently)
2. What was wrong with the clothes ladies were supposed to wear? (too heavy, too long, drug in dirt, too tight)
3. Why couldn't little girls run or climb trees? (had to dress like the grown-up ladies)
4. What new kind of clothes did Libby (pants, but covered by a shorter skirt)

show Amelia?

Books about Susan B. Anthony

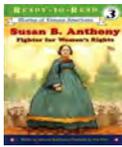
in order of increasing reading level, length, and complexity

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



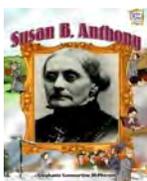
Susan B. Anthony: a Photo-Illustrated Biography, by Lucile Davis



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)

HOORAY for GIRLS and WOMEN

A is for Abigail: An Almanac of Amazing American Women

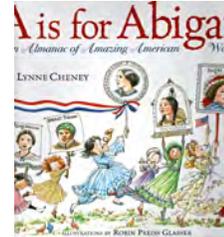
by Lynne Cheney

illustrated by Robin Preiss Glasser

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2003

4th-8th grade, 24 pg.

an alphabet book with one or more women for each letter,
color drawings, quotations, short descriptions + end notes



Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women

by Catherine Thimmesh

illustrated by Melissa Sweet

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2000

5th to 7th grade, 60 pg.

four page stories on inventors (paper bags to Kevlar)

+ chronological list, names of competitions, sources, index



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

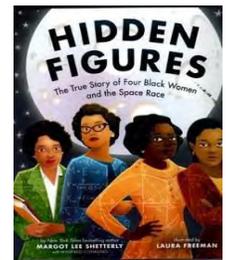
by Margot Lee Shetterly with Winifred Conkling

illustrated by Laura Freeman

Harper, 2018

4th to 7th grade

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



She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World

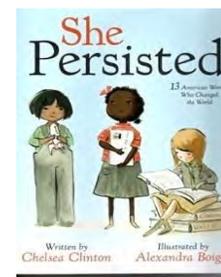
by Chelsea Clinton, illustrated by Alexandra Boiger

Philomel Books, 2017

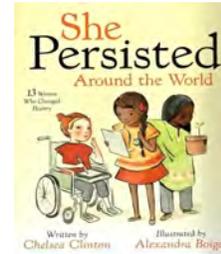
3rd to 6th grade

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

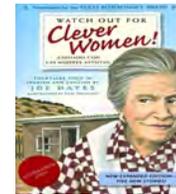


She Persisted Around the World: 13 Women Who Changed History
by Chelsea Clinton, illustrated by Alexandra Boiger
Philomel Books, 2018
3rd to 6th grade



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

Watch Out for Clever Women! Cuidado Con las Mujeres Astutas!
folktales told in Spanish and English by Joe Hayes
illustrated by Vicki Trego Hill



stories of women solving problems, saving family members,
and foiling villains with sheer brain power
2nd grade to adult

Women of the West

by Bobbie Kalman & Jane Lewis
Crabtree Publishing Company, 2011
4th to 8th grade



well illustrated 32 page book about women pioneers:
moving to the West, living and working there,
clothing, family life, **wanting rights and the vote**;
includes immigrants, African Americans and Native Americans as groups
and individuals
glossary and index

INDIVIDUAL STORIES

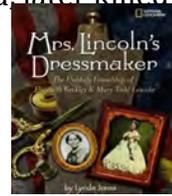
Anne Hutchinson (History Maker Bios)
by Susan Bivin Aller, Barnes & Noble, 2010
3rd to 6th grade, 48 pg.



an educated Puritan woman, mother of 15, angered Boston preachers by interpreting the Bible and adding her own ideas; was put on trial for holding meetings in her home, criticizing the ministers, defended herself, said God talked to her; was banished, later killed; her descendants include 3 US presidents

Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker:

The Unlikely Friendship of Elizabeth Keckley & Mary Todd Lincoln
by Lynda Jones, National Geographic, 2009
5th-8th grade, 80 pg.



37 years as a slave, Elizabeth bought freedom for herself and her son, became a successful dressmaker in D.C.
Mary lost social status in marrying Lincoln; strove to assert herself as First Lady partly through fashion,
Elizabeth became her dressmaker, confidante, and loyal friend, tried to help Mary after Lincoln's death

Nellie Bly (History Maker Bios)
by Shannon Knudsen, Barnes & Noble, 2005
3rd to 6th grade, 48 pg.



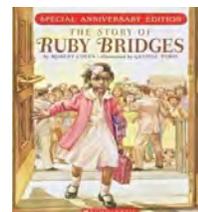
48 page biography with drawing and photos from childhood through her career as a reporter, and after; undercover reporting on factory work and a mental institution; frustrations she faced as a woman in a traditionally male profession; her round-the-world in 80 trip, fame

Sacagawea (History Maker Bios)
by Jane Sutcliffe, Barnes & Noble, 2009
3rd to 6th grade, 48 pg.



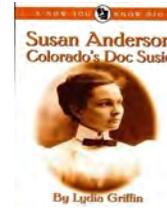
48 page biography with drawing and photos a young Shoshone woman travels with her new baby and husband on the Lewis and Clark expedition, helping them in many ways; how she saw the ocean and got to vote on where to place their winter fort; 2 different points of view in Indian versions of her story

The Story of Ruby Bridges
by Robert Coles, illustrated by George Ford
Scholastic, 1995
3rd to 6th grade



In New Orleans in 1960, Ruby Bridges, age 6,
enters first grade as part of court-ordered desegregation,
escorted by marshals past angry protesters, and prays for them.
14 pages, predominately color drawings

Susan Anderson: Colorado's Doc Susie (A Now You Know Bio)
by Lydia Griffin, Filter Press, 2010
4th-8th grade, 72 pg,



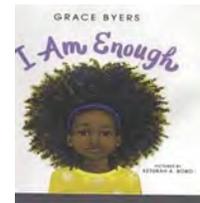
an 1897 graduate from medical school, who overcame family disruption,
personal setbacks, and TB to become a beloved mountain doctor in CO
never married or had children, cared deeply for her patients (often unable to
pay her), practiced medicine until she was 84
served as coroner to investigate deaths of workers on the Moffat Tunnel
(extra information on topics such as Elizabeth Blackwell, TB, the Depression)

GREAT for GIRLS

I Am Enough

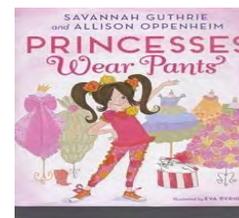
by Grace Byers, illustrated by Keturah A. Bobo
Harper Collins, 2018
K-3rd grade

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.
1st to 4th grade