

Marching with Aunt Susan

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

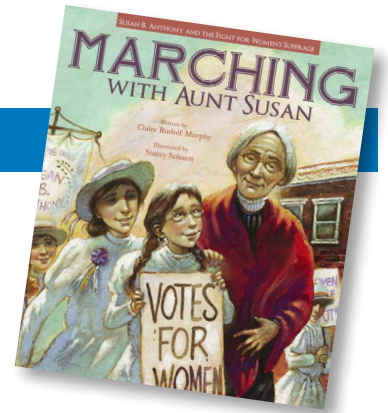
Themes: Women's Rights, History, Family, Perseverance

Book Brief: It's 1896, and women in America don't have the right to vote in elections. Follow along with one brave young girl as she fights for equal rights with her friends, family, and Susan B. Anthony.

Author: Claire Rudolf Murphy

Illustrator: Stacey Schuett

Content Connections: Social Studies



TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Have students guess what the book will be about based on the title and cover illustration.

Has anyone heard of Susan B. Anthony? What does "suffrage" mean? Can students guess based on the protest signs?

The Pictures: Flip through the pictures. When do you think this story is set? Why?

Prior Knowledge: Ask the class what they know about voting rights in the US. Where do these rights

come from? Explain that, when the country was founded, only white men who owned property could vote. Eventually, thanks to people like Susan B. Anthony, almost all* adult citizens gained the right to vote in elections. Women were granted the right to vote by the 19th Amendment, ratified in 1920.

Vocabulary: suffrage, referendum, campaign, election, zeal

Purpose for Reading: As we read, pay attention to all the different ways Bessie works to help the women's suffrage movement even though she's only a child.



WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Monitoring Comprehension
- ◆ Why can't Bessie go hiking?
- ◆ What does Aunt Susan want? Why?
- ◆ What do Rita and Bessie see at the factory?

- ◆ Why is Bessie upset?
- ◆ Why are the men so angry at the marchers?
- ◆ What happens in the election?
- ◆ Why does Mama want to learn how to ride a bike?
- ◆ Why do you think Papa lets Bessie go hiking?

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: How does Bessie help the suffrage movement? Is she helping even when she's not marching in parades or donating money? How do Bessie's actions show that one person can make a big impact on the world around them?

Extending Our Thinking: Why is voting so important for our system of government? What does it mean to live in a *representative democracy*? Can the vote of one person really make a difference? What other groups have fought for the right to vote in the United States?

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.

*Many people with felony convictions are barred from voting by state law.



Reading Is Fundamental