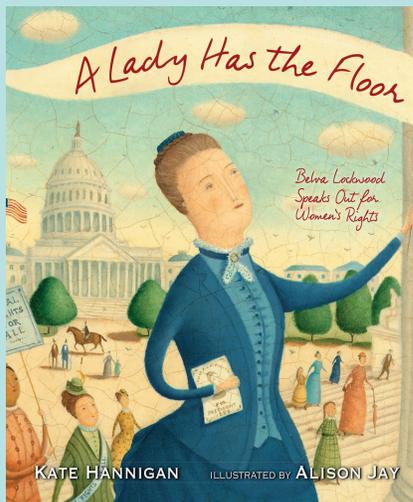


# Women's Suffrage 100th Anniversary

# TEACHER'S GUIDE

UTK Center for Children's and Young Adult Literature

City of Knoxville Suffrage Seed Fund • East Tennessee Historical Society • Knox County Schools



## A Lady Has the Floor: Belva Lockwood Speaks Out for Women's Rights

Written by Kate Hannigan Illustrated by Alison Jay

### Synopsis

Unafraid to take to the floor and speak her mind, Belva Lockwood--the first woman to get a law degree; the first woman to argue a case before the Supreme Court, and the first woman to run for president in 1884--devoted her life to overcoming obstacles and demanding equality for women.

## Tennessee Social Studies Standards and Practices

### Standard 5.09

Analyze the major goals, struggles, and achievements of the Progressive Era, including: Prohibition (18th Amendment), women's suffrage (19th Amendment), and the lack of child labor laws.

### Essential Questions

What were the major goals, struggles, and achievements of the women's suffrage movement? What did suffragists hope to achieve? What obstacles stood in their way? What are some milestones in the movement?

The women's suffrage movement in the US began in the 1840s and continued through the 1920s. It ended with the ratification of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote.

### Sub-questions:

- **Who was Belva Lockwood? Why is she important in US history**

<https://bit.ly/39NgBIV>

- Also see this Primary Source: Lockwood, Belva A. "My Efforts to Become a Lawyer, Lippincott's Monthly Magazine Vol. XLI (1888): 229,
- This article was written by Belva Lockwood for the Lippincott's Monthly Magazine. In it she details her life from her childhood to her acceptance to the Supreme Court Bar. The way in which she speaks of her childhood, her adolescence, and her struggles into adulthood is a crucial resource to understanding just who Belva Lockwood was and what shaped her into the person she became later on in her life.

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Genre: **Nonfiction Picture Book Biography**  
Grade Level: **2-5**  
Age range: **7-10 years**  
Lexile: **780L**  
Publisher: **Calkins Creek, 2018**

### Adjectives Used to Describe Belva

Bold  
Bright-eyed  
Courageous  
Determined  
Eager  
First  
Practical  
Proud  
Shocked  
Smart  
Strong  
Unafraid  
Undaunted  
Unembarrassed



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## After Reading Extension Activities

### A Day in the Life of Belva Lockwood

Imagine that you are Belva Lockwood as a young girl (the age you are now). Write a diary entry describing a typical day in your life. What activities do you do at school and home over the course of your day? Are there things you'd like to do that you aren't allowed to do? If so, what are they? In what ways would you like for your life to be different than it is now?

### Famous Firsts

Belva Lockwood was the first woman to run for President of the United States, but the timeline at the end of the book mentions several other women who were "famous firsts": Susanna Salter, Jeannette Rankin, Nellie Taylor Ross, Miriam "Ma" Ferguson, Hattie Wyatt Caraway, Frances Perkins, Shirley Chisholm, Sandra Day O'Connor, Geraldine Ferraro, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Kamala Harris. Choose one of these women and use multiple sources to learn more. After you've done some research on her, write a paragraph about her that answers these questions: Who is she? What was she the first to do? Why is this first important?

## Standards and EQ's continued

- **What did Belva want? What stood in her way?**
  - She wanted equal pay as men. She wanted the opportunity to take math and science classes and participate in physical activities, like men did. She wanted the opportunity to go to college and law school. She wanted women to have the right to vote.
  - Societal beliefs about women stood in the way. People believed women's minds were too weak to understand math and science, and that women were too physically weak to participate in physical activities. People believed women belonged in the home, raising children and taking care of their husbands--this was how women could be good citizens.
- **What were some of Belva's important achievements?**
  - First woman to get a law degree.
  - First woman to be admitted to the Supreme Court bar.
  - First woman to argue a case before the Supreme Court.
  - First woman to run a full-fledged campaign for president (Belva was not the first woman to run for president. In 1872, New York City newspaper publisher Victoria Woodhull had declared herself a presidential candidate, against Ulysses Grant and Horace Greeley. But Woodhull had to pull out of the race only a month after entering. Belva was the first woman to run a full-fledged campaign for President).

## Teaching with Primary Sources

- **Could a Woman Run for President in 1884? Did Women Ride Bicycles in 1884? Use Primary Sources to Find Out: <https://bit.ly/39P5YyI>**
  - A column in the September 26th, 1884, issue of "The Easley Messenger" presents Belva as a presidential candidate and also provides visual descriptions of her bicycling through Washington, D.C. (You can also Google an image of Belva Lockwood on her bicycle). Share these primary sources with students. After doing so, students may want to know if she was the first woman to run for president. Others, while knowing she did not win, may wonder how many votes she received. All of these can bring students back to the picture book for answers.
- **How Did Others React to Belva Lockwood's Presidential Campaign? Use Primary Sources to Find Out: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>**
  - Ask students to focus on how others reacted to Lockwood's presidential campaign, paying close attention to the two-page illustration in the picture book that shows men in gowns parading in the street to make fun of Lockwood. The book tells us that during Belva's campaign, "her opponents got busy... Men paraded through the streets in bonnets and gowns, making fun of Belva. Newspapers said she dyed her hair, wore scarlet underwear while riding her bicycle--anything to embarrass her!" Then have students read "Belva Bloomed," published in the "Rock Island Argus," on Oct. 30th, 1884. This is a newspaper article that describes men "having great sport" as they play a hoax on the public and tell them Belva is coming to town to talk about political issues of the day.



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Find a more comprehensive curriculum guide with additional instructional activities, interdisciplinary projects, and supplemental materials here: <https://ccyal.utk.edu/lit-kits/womens-suffrage-lit-kit/>

