

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



ABOUT THE BOOK

Genre: Nonfiction Picture Book Biography
Grade Level: 2-5
Age range: 7-10 years
Lexile: 650L
Publisher: Calkins Creek, 2020

Content Specific Vocabulary

Battle: (n) a sustained fight; (v.) to struggle tenaciously to achieve or resist something

Fight: (v) engage in (a war or battle); struggle or campaign against (something); move forward with difficulty, especially by pushing through a crowd or overcoming physical obstacles



Fight of the Century: Alice Paul Battles Woodrow Wilson for the Vote

Written by Barb Rosenstock Illustrated by Sarah Green

Synopsis

When Woodrow Wilson was elected President, he didn't know that he would be participating in one of the greatest fights of the century: the battle for women's right to vote. The formidable Alice Paul was a leader in the women's suffrage movement and saw President Wilson's election as an opportunity to win the vote for women. She battered her opponent with endless strategic arguments and carefully coordinated protests, calling for a new amendment granting women the right to vote. With a spirit and determination that never quit--even when peaceful protests were met with violence and even when many women were thrown in jail--Paul eventually convinced President Wilson to support her cause, changing the country forever. Cleverly framed as a boxing match, this book provides a fascinating and compelling look at an important moment in American history.

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?

Sub-questions:

- **Who is Alice Paul? How is she different from other suffragists?**
 - Alice Paul was born on January 11, 1885, as the oldest of four children to Quaker parents William Paul and Tacie Parry. After her education, she joined British suffragists Christabel and Emmeline Pankhurst in their protests in England which led her to be arrested for the cause seven times. She then returned to the United States determined to win women the right to vote. Impatient with the pace of the movement in the US, Alice Paul and her followers were beginning to question the methods of the previous generation. Waiting patiently and allowing for time to pass without success no longer sat well with the younger generation of suffragists.
 - Alice formed the National Woman's Party (NWP) and their group was the first to target a president to support the cause (Rosenstock, p. 6-8; Author's Note) by marching on his inauguration in March of 1913.



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After Reading Extension Activities

The Long March to Suffrage

At the end of the book is a two-page timeline showing the path to women's suffrage from 1776 to 1920.

Read the timeline and choose one item from it which you find interesting. Research the item, and then write a paragraph explaining what you learned about it.

Policing Peaceful Protests

Pretend that you are a citizen of Washington, D.C. when Woodrow Wilson is President. You read a story in the newspaper about Alice Paul and other suffragists being put in jail for peacefully protesting. Write a letter to the editor of the newspaper in which you explain why jailing peaceful protestors is wrong. You might want to use one or more of the rights guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution to explain your case.

The Endpapers

Share the endpapers of the picture book. Endpapers consist of a two-page spread in the front and back of the book. The endpapers' color is known as "aliceblue" which is perfect for this book. Look at the color and discuss what types of feelings they evoke. Maybe somber, pensive, antique, etc.

Standards and EQ's continued

- Paul and her group did not stop there; Alice Paul and the many suffragists in her corner organized and finally, in 1918, Wilson decided to support the suffrage amendment which later became the 19th Amendment in 1920.
 - Primary Source: "Conversations with Alice Paul." [alicepaul.org. https://alicepaul.org/audio-interview/.](https://alicepaul.org/audio-interview/)
 - Secondary Source: "Who Was Alice Paul." [alicepaul.org. Alice Paul Institute Inc. https://alicepaul.org/who-was-alice-paul/.](https://alicepaul.org/who-was-alice-paul/)
- **Who is Woodrow Wilson? How would you describe his relationship to Alice Paul?**
 - Woodrow Wilson was born on December 28th, 1856, as the third child of minister Joseph Ruggles Wilson and Janet "Jessie" Woodrow. After struggling in his own education, he became a professor and later the governor of New Jersey which led him to his role as the President-elect and finally 28th president of the United States.
 - Wilson's relationship with Paul starts with mild irritation and builds to contention and finally partnership.

Teaching with Primary Sources

- **"Disgraceful Scenes" at Parade:** <https://bit.ly/2SprQuW>
 - Share this article about the 1913 parade from the Women's Journal and "Suffrage News." Ask students to consider the title of the article and to think about what they learned from reading the picture book on Alice Paul. How were the suffragists treated at the parade--what were the "disgraceful scenes"? Tell students that some of the marchers were tripped and violently attacked, while police on the parade route did little to help. By the end of the day, over 100 women had to be hospitalized for injuries. (Also refer to the picture book, which states "Angry men spill into the street. They push, spit, and throw lit cigars at the marchers. Go home where you belong!")
- **Who were the Silent Sentinels?:** <https://www.alicepaul.org>
 - Alice Paul was brave. In order to achieve her goal of winning the right to vote for women, she sometimes did things that no one had dared to do before. In 1917, through her organization, the National Woman's Party, Alice Paul organized hundreds of women to come together in a very public display of protest in front of the White House. No one had ever dared to picket in front of the White House, but Alice Paul did. As a Quaker, Alice Paul believed in acts of peace and non-violence. She wanted to bring greater attention to the suffrage movement, and she did not want people to be harmed. She and many other suffragists stood peacefully and silently on the sidewalk in front of the White House to picket in support of their right to vote. Because these women did not speak but let their signs and sashes convey their message, they were called "Silent Sentinels."



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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/>

