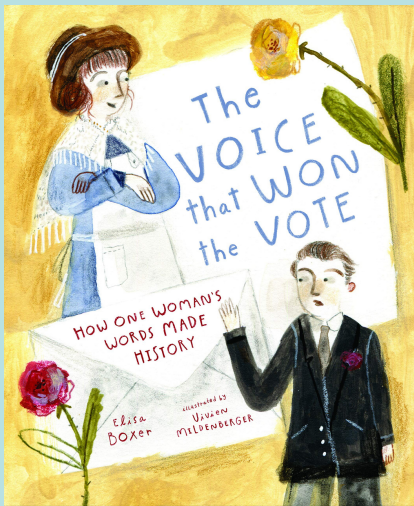


Women's Suffrage 100th Anniversary

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



The Voice that Won the Vote: How One Woman's Words Made History

Written by Elisa Boxer

Illustrated by Vivien Mildenerberger

Synopsis

In August of 1920, women's suffrage in America came down to the vote in Tennessee. If the Tennessee legislature approved the 19th amendment it would be ratified, giving all American women the right to vote. The historic moment came down to a single vote and the voter who tipped the scale toward equality did so because of a powerful letter his mother, Febb Burn, had written him urging him to "Vote for suffrage and don't forget to be a good boy." "The Voice That Won the Vote" is the story of Febb, her son Harry, and the letter that gave all American women a voice.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Genre: **Nonfiction Picture Book Biography**

Grade Level: **2-5**

Age range: **7-10 years**

Lexile: **570L**

Publisher: **Sleeping Bear Press, 2020**

Content-Specific Vocabulary

Amendment: (n) a change or addition designed to improve a text, piece of legislation

Ratify: (v) to approve officially

Voice: (n) a particular attitude or opinion expressed

Vote: (n)+(v) a formal indication of a choice



Tennessee Social Studies Standards and Practices

Standard 5.47

Identify Tennessee's role in the passage of the 19th Amendment, including the impact of Anne Dallas Dudley and Harry Burn.

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:

- **What were some strategies and responses women received in 1920 as they fought for voting rights?**
 - Strategies: Organized meetings, marched in parades, carried signs, made speeches, wore yellow roses (Boxer, p. 3)
 - Responses: Silenced; Called "Troublemakers! Uncivilized! Female Voters will surely cause chaos! Women with a voice in politics? Nonsense! The only vote a woman needs is the vote to choose her husband!" (Boxer, p. 4)



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After Reading Extension Activities

Author's Note

- Review Elisa Boxer's "Author's Note" at the end of the book for more information about Harry and Febb Burn.

Timeline Activity

- There is a helpful timeline at the bottom of the two-page spread at the end of the picture book. Have students choose one event from the timeline and research it, using various sources. Then have students write a paragraph explaining what they learned. Ask students to consider: Why was this event important to the women's suffrage movement?

Virtually Visit the Burn Memorial

- Just steps from the Woman Suffrage Memorial in Knoxville, TN, sits the Burn Memorial. Erected in 2018, this memorial statue by Nashville sculptor Alan LeQuire depicts Rep. Harry Burn of Niota and his mother, Febb, and honors each of their roles in the ratification of the 19th Amendment.
- <https://www.visitknoxville.com/listings/burn-memorial/1855/>

Standards and EQ's continued

- **Who was Febb Burn? What did she do to progress women's suffrage?**
 - Febb Burn lived in McMinn County and was known as "smart and strong willed." She attended college and became a teacher (Boxer, p. 6). She was also the mother to state representative Harry Burn. She progressed the movement of women's suffrage by writing a letter to her son to "vote for suffrage and don't keep them in doubt," which caused Harry to ultimately vote "Aye" and make Tennessee the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment.
- **Who was Harry Burn? How did his views change?**
 - Harry Burn (son of Febb Burn) served as "the youngest lawmaker in Tennessee" (Boxer, p. 9). He had voted against women's suffrage in the first round and proudly wore a red rose to signify "keeping women in the home, and out of the voting booth." (Boxer, p. 13). However, Harry changed his vote to uphold the 19th amendment stating, "I know that a mother's advice is always safest for a boy to follow" (Boxer, p. 19). When interviewed by newspapers, he stated that he had to, "follow my conscience. It kept telling me women are people" (Boxer, p. 23). He also defended his vote for suffrage by writing in the legislative record that he wanted, "...to free seventeen million women from political slavery." See: "Proud of Opportunity To Free American Women From Political Slavery." The Chattanooga News. August 19, 1920, p. 1. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Library of Congress. <http://bit.ly/2MNFipm>

Teaching with Primary Sources

- **Look at the Letter to Rep. Harry T. Burn from his mother, August 1920, C.M. McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library, Knoxville, TN.** <http://bit.ly/3aoViGf>
 - This seven-page letter was written by Febb Burn to her son Harry, a member of the 1920 Tennessee House of Representatives. In it, Febb touches on local happenings and events in the town of Niota, but also uses her correspondence to urge Harry to vote in favor of woman suffrage.
 - Ask students: What did Harry's mother say for him to do? What do you think she meant when she said "Don't forget to be a good boy and help Miss Catt?" Who was Miss Catt?
- **The 19th Amendment:** <http://bit.ly/3pQQC2g>
 - Ask students: Who introduced the 19th Amendment to Congress? Why was the 19th Amendment often called the "Susan B. Anthony Amendment"? When was the 19th Amendment ratified? Does the 19th Amendment actually state that women have the right to vote? Did the 19th Amendment grant all people the right to vote? Who was excluded?
- **Have students look at pro-suffrage banners at:** <http://bit.ly/3amCZBI> and <http://bit.ly/3csaANb>
 - Ask students what colors represented the pro-suffrage movement and why these colors were significant. Ask students about the red and yellow roses on the front cover of the picture book. What were the arguments pro-suffragists and anti-suffragists gave for/against woman suffrage?

