



Dear Family Member,

During the next several days, your child will learn about the significance of the phrase *fighting for a cause*. S/he will learn about seven important people in American history who fought for civil rights—such as the right to vote and the right to be free from discrimination—and human rights. Your child will learn about the way in which the work of these people had a profound impact on the ability of others to exercise their rights. S/he will also understand the connection between ideas and action, and how ordinary people can have an extraordinary impact on the lives of others.

Over the next several days, your child will become familiar with the following historical figures whose sacrifices and dedication advanced the rights of certain groups and sought to promote the common good:

- Susan B. Anthony
- Eleanor Roosevelt
- Mary McLeod Bethune
- Jackie Robinson

Below are some suggestions for activities that you may do at home to reinforce what your child is learning about fighting for a cause.

1. Draw and Write

Have your child draw and/or write about what s/he has learned regarding the different causes for which people fought (equal rights, women’s rights, human rights) and the contributions made by the historical figures noted above. Some possibilities might include Susan B. Anthony traveling around the country by wagon, carriage, or train, fighting for women’s suffrage; Jackie Robinson being inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame; or Mary McLeod Bethune establishing a school for girls. Ask questions to help your child use the vocabulary learned at school.

2. Rights and Responsibilities

Talk with your child about some of the rights held by U.S. citizens. Have your child share some of the rights s/he has learned about in class, and together talk about the responsibilities of citizens to properly exercise those rights. For example, citizens have the right to vote, but they also have a responsibility to learn about the candidates.

3. Sayings and Phrases: Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk/Two Heads are Better Than One

Your child may talk about these sayings and their meanings in relation to the attitude and work of the people they are hearing about who stood for change. Discuss the meanings of these sayings with your child, and together think about some situations in which you can use either of them. Have your child share with you a specific example of how Anthony, Roosevelt, Bethune, or Robinson may have behaved differently—and perhaps even lost their courage to work for change—if they had “cried over spilled milk.” For the phrase “two heads are better than one,” discuss with your child what specific things they have accomplished at times when they worked with someone else to solve a problem.

4. Words to Use

Below is a list of some of the words that your child has been learning about and using. Try to use these words as they come up in everyday speech with your child.

- *courage*—It often takes a great deal of courage to stand up for what is right.
- *ballots*—Susan B. Anthony and several other women cast their ballots for president before it was legal to do so.
- *admirable*—President Lincoln had many admirable qualities.
- *proud*—Juanita was proud when she learned to play the piano.
- *challenge*—Jackie Robinson had the courage to challenge people's attitudes about professional athletes.

5. Read Aloud Each Day

It is very important that you read to your child each day. The local library has many books on the activists who fought for civil rights and human rights, and a list of books and other resources relevant to this topic is attached to this letter.

Be sure to let your child know how much you enjoy hearing about what s/he has learned at school.



Recommended Trade Books for Fighting for a Cause

Trade Book List

1. *Amazing Grace*, by Mary Hoffman and illustrated by Caroline Binch (Dial, 1991) ISBN 978-0803710405
2. *The Ballot Box Battle*, by Emily Arnold McCully (Dragonfly Books, 1998) ISBN 978-0679893127
3. *Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote*, by Tanya Lee Stone and illustrated by Rebecca Gibbon (Henry Holt and Co., 2008) ISBN 978-0805079036
4. *Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins*, by Carole Boston Weatherford and illustrated by Jerome Lagarrigue (Puffin Books, 2007) ISBN 978-0142408940
5. *Freedom Summer*, by Deborah Wiles and illustrated by Jerome Lagarrigue (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2001) ISBN 978-0689830167
6. *Heroes for Civil Rights*, by David A. Adler and illustrated by Bill Farnsworth (Holiday House, 2007) ISBN 978-0823420087
7. *If You Lived When Women Won Their Rights*, by Anne Kamma and illustrated by Pamela Johnson (Scholastic Inc., 2008) ISBN 978-0439748698
8. *The Other Side*, by Jacqueline Woodson and illustrated by E.B. Lewis (Putnam, 2001) ISBN 978-0399231162
9. *Remember the Ladies: 100 Great American Women*, by Cheryl Harness (HarperCollins, 2003) ISBN 978-0064438698
10. *Richard Wright and the Library Card*, by William Miller and illustrated by Gregory Christie (Lee & Low Books, 1999) ISBN 978-1880000885
11. *The Story of Ruby Bridges*, by Robert Coles and illustrated by George Ford (Scholastic Paperbacks, 2010) ISBN 978-0439472265

12. *When Marian Sang*, by Pam Muñoz Ryan and illustrated by Brian Selznick (Scholastic Press, 2002) ISBN 978-0439269674

Susan B. Anthony

13. *Susan B. Anthony*, by Alexandra Wallner (Holiday House, 2012) ISBN 978-0823419531
14. *Susan B. Anthony (First Biographies)*, by Martha E. H. Rustad (Capstone Press, 2002) ISBN 978-0736894487
15. *Susan B. Anthony: Fighter for Freedom and Equality*, by Suzanne Slade and illustrated by Craig Orback (Picture Window Books, 2007) ISBN 978-1404831049
16. *Susan B. Anthony: Fighter for Women’s Rights*, by Deborah Hopkinson and illustrated by Amy Bates (Simon Spotlight, 2005) ISBN 978-0689869099

Mary McLeod Bethune

17. *Mary McLeod Bethune (Rookie Biographies)*, by Susan Evento (Children’s Press, 2004) ISBN 978-0516258300
18. *Mary McLeod Bethune*, by Eloise Greenfield and illustrated by Jerry Pinkney (HarperCollins, 1994) ISBN 978-0064461689
19. *Mary McLeod Bethune: A Great Teacher (Great African Americans)*, by Patricia C. McKissack and Fredrick McKissack, Jr. (Enslow Elementary, 2001) ISBN 978-0766016804

Cesar Chavez

20. *A Picture Book of Cesar Chavez (Picture Book Biography)*, by David A. Adler and Michael S. Adler, and illustrated by Marie Olofsdotter (Holiday House, 2011) 978-0823423835
21. *Cesar Chavez (Rookie Biographies)*, by Susan Eddy (Children’s Press, 2004) ISBN 978-0516279237
22. *Cesar Chavez: A Hero for Everyone (Milestone Books)*, by Gary Soto and illustrated by Lori Lohstoeter (Aladdin, 2003) ISBN 978-0689859229

23. *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez*, by Kathleen Krull and illustrated by Yuyi Morales (Harcourt Children's Books, 2003) ISBN 978-0152014377

Martin Luther King Jr.

24. *A Lesson for Martin Luther King Jr. (Childhood of Famous Americans)*, by Denise Lewis Patrick and illustrated by Rodney S. Pate (Simon Spotlight, 2003) ISBN 978-0689853975
25. *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*, by Doreen Rappaport and illustrated by Brian Collier (Hyperion Books, 2007) ISBN 978-1423106357
26. *Martin Luther King Jr. (Rookie Biographies)*, by Wil Mara (Children's Press, 2013) ISBN 978-0531247389
27. *My Brother Martin: A Sister Remembers—Growing Up with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*, by Christine King Farris and illustrated by Chris Soentpiet (Aladdin, 2005) ISBN 978-0689843884
28. *A Picture Book of Martin Luther King, Jr. (Picture Book Biography)*, by David A. Adler and illustrated by Robert Casilla (Holiday House, 1990) ISBN 978-0823408474

Rosa Parks

29. *I Am Rosa Parks*, by Rosa Parks and Jim Haskins, and illustrated by Wil Clay (Houghton Mifflin, 2000) ISBN 978-0618062409
30. *A Picture Book of Rosa Parks (Picture Book Biography)*, by David A. Adler and illustrated by Robert Casilla (Holiday House, 1995) ISBN 978-0823411771
31. *Rosa*, by Nikki Giovanni and illustrated by Bryan Collier (Square Fish, 2007) ISBN 978-0312376024
32. *Rosa Parks (Rookie Biographies)*, by Wil Mara (Children's Press, 2007) ISBN 978-0531125922
33. *Rosa Parks: A Life of Courage*, by Ann-Marie Kishel (Lerner, 2006) ISBN 978-0822534785

Jackie Robinson

34. *Jackie Robinson (Rookie Biographies)*, by Wil Mara (Children's Press, 2003) ISBN 978-0516273365
35. *Jackie Robinson: American Hero*, by Sharon Robinson (Scholastic, 2013) ISBN 978-0545540063
36. *A Picture Book of Jackie Robinson (Picture Book Biography)*, by David A. Adler and illustrated by Robert Casilla (Holiday House, 1997) ISBN 978-0823413041
37. *Teammates*, by Peter Golenbock and illustrated by Paul Bacon (Harcourt, 1992) ISBN 978-0152006037
38. *Who Was Jackie Robinson?*, by Gail Herman and illustrated by John O'Brien (Grosset and Dunlap, 2010) ISBN 978-0448455570

Eleanor Roosevelt

39. *Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride*, by Pam Muñoz Ryan and illustrated by Brian Selznick (Scholastic Press, 1999) ISBN 978-0590960755
40. *Eleanor*, by Barbara Cooney (Puffin, 1999) ISBN 978-0439137362
41. *A Picture Book of Eleanor Roosevelt (Picture Book Biography)*, by David A. Adler and illustrated by Robert Casilla (Holiday House, 1995) ISBN 978-0823411573
42. *Who Was Eleanor Roosevelt?*, by Gare Thompson and illustrated by Nancy Harrison (Grosset and Dunlap, 2004) ISBN 978-0448435091

Family Resources

43. *50 American Heroes Every Kid Should Meet*, by Dennis Denenberg and Lorraine Roscoe (Millbrook Press, 2006) ISBN 978-0761395485
44. *The Civil Rights Movement for Kids: A History with 21 Activities*, by Mary C. Turck (Chicago Review Press Inc., 2000) ISBN 978-1556523700

Websites and Other Resources

Student Resources

1. **America's Story: Cesar Chavez**
http://www.americaslibrary.gov/aa/chavez/aa_chavez_subj.html
2. **America's Story: Martin Luther King Jr.**
http://www.americaslibrary.gov/aa/king/aa_king_subj.html
3. **America's Story: Elizabeth Cady Stanton**
http://www.americaslibrary.gov/aa/stanton/aa_stanton_subj.html
4. **Brain Pop Jr.: Rosa Parks (Membership required)**
<http://www.brainpopjr.com/socialstudies/biographies/rosaparks/preview.weml>
5. **Brain Pop Jr.: Martin Luther King, Jr. (Membership required)**
<http://www.brainpopjr.com/socialstudies/biographies/martinlutherkingjr/preview.weml>
6. **Brain Pop Jr.: Susan B. Anthony (Membership required)**
<http://www.brainpopjr.com/socialstudies/biographies/susanbanthony/preview.weml>

Family Resources

7. **Elizabeth Cady Stanton & Susan B. Anthony: Not for Ourselves Alone, Public Broadcasting Part 1**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNOznB9NV-Y>

DVD/video

8. **Jackie Robinson Mini-Bio, The Biography Channel**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILIA20AqA5I>
9. **MLK: The King and His Dream**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6Au81aHuSg>