



Ida B. Wells: Let the Truth Be Told

Written by Walter Dean Myers
Illustrated by Bonnie Christensen

Book Description

Elementary | Biography

This award-winning picture book biography tells the story of Ida B. Wells, suffragist, activist, educator, and journalist, who spoke out about the evils of lynching and the unequal treatment of African Americans. Quotes from Wells's autobiography are weaved throughout and paired with beautiful watercolor illustrations.

Discussion Questions

- What truth do you think Ida wanted told? When have you spoken truth?
- What was Ida's strongest weapon against discrimination?
- What admirable characteristics did Ida portray? How can you develop similar characteristics?
- What role did Ida play in fighting for women's suffrage and equal rights for all people? What type of discrimination did she experience in that role?
- What impact did Ida's words have on the nation?
- When you witness discrimination against others (or towards yourself), what can you do?

Utah and Natural Connections

Even though laws are written and passed, sometimes these laws aren't fairly enforced. In the case of voting rights, throughout history many states and the federal government have passed restrictive laws and practices making voting difficult if not impossible for various groups of people. Examples: 1) after the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was passed in 1870, giving black men the right to vote, some states and counties still prevented African Americans from voting by passing their own restrictive laws. 2) Congress passed laws in 1924 that granted U.S. citizenship (and voting rights) to all American Indians, even those living on reservations under sovereign indigenous nations. But American Indians in Utah could not vote because they were not considered "residents" of Utah but "residents" of their own tribal nations. In 1957, the Utah State Legislature passed a law that allowed all American Indians in Utah to vote regardless of whether they lived on a reservation or not. 3) In the late 1800s, Congress passed anti-polygamy laws. The Edmunds-Tucker Act took away the voting rights of polygamous men and *all* Utah women.



Ida B. Wells