



## *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement*

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### **Book Description**

*Middle/High School | Poetry/Biography*

This multiple award-winning book uses poetry told in a first-person voice and vivid collage illustrations to share the story of Fannie Lou Hamer. When Fannie was in her 40s, she learned from young activists who spoke at her church that she had voting rights, and she volunteered to register to vote despite the potential dangers in doing so. Though she faced numerous threats and was brutally beaten, she continued to champion civil rights.

### **Discussion Questions**

- Of all the things Fannie did to improve the rights and conditions for African Americans, which one do you think made the biggest difference? Why?
- Why do you think the people who beat her were never punished?
- What gave Fannie courage to do really difficult things in her life? How can you have that same kind of courage?

### **Utah Connection**

Mignon Barker Richmond was the first African American woman to graduate from a Utah college (Utah State University), in 1921. Like Fannie Lou Hamer, Mignon worked to improve the lives of African Americans in her community. She enjoyed a lifelong association with the YWCA and served as president of the Salt Lake Chapter of the NAACP. She helped found the Nettie Gregory Center, the first civic building in Salt Lake City built by African Americans, in 1964.



*Mignon Barker Richmond (third from right) joins other students for an outdoor performance. Photo courtesy Utah State University Special Collections*