



Chasing Freedom: The Life Journeys of Harriet Tubman and Susan B. Anthony, Inspired by Historical Facts

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Illustrated by Michele Wood

Book Description

Elementary | Historical fiction

This historical fiction picture book captures an imagined conversation between Harriet Tubman and Susan B. Anthony that is based on historical fact about what they might recall regarding their triumphs and struggles fighting to achieve equal rights for African Americans and women. Caldecott-award winning illustrator Michele Wood provides rich illustrations to Coretta Scott King Award winner Grimes' engaging text. Extensive back matter provides additional resources for study and discussion.

Discussion Questions

- How might the struggle for equal rights be different if groups like those led by Harriet and Susan did not work together to achieve their goals?
- Despite the fact that they were both women, Harriet and Susan experienced discrimination in different ways. How and why?
- Imagine a tea between two Utah women. Who would be at this tea? What would they discuss?
- If Susan B. Anthony and Harriet Tubman invited you to tea and asked you for an update on efforts towards equality to all, what would you tell them? What examples would you give them from your life and society to demonstrate progress and/or lack of progress?

Utah Connection

Although the 19th Amendment granted women's suffrage nationally, the fight for universal suffrage in the United States was not over. Not all women residing in Utah were granted the vote in 1870 or with statehood in 1896 or with

the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920.

Though the 14th Amendment had earlier defined "citizens" as any person born in the United States, the amendment was interpreted to restrict the citizenship rights (including the right to vote) of many. For example, since Native Americans were not considered U.S. citizens during this time period, they were excluded from women's voting rights in Utah in 1870 and 1896, and nationally in 1920. Legal barriers enacted in numerous states effectively made it impossible for African Americans to vote. Many Asian immigrants in the United States were legally prohibited from applying for citizenship (and voting rights) simply because of their countries of origin. Imagine a conversation between the people in Utah fighting for their voting rights after 1920 and the women who were able to vote at this point.



Signing of the Indian Citizenship Act with President Coolidge and Osage Indians on the White House lawn in 1924. Photo courtesy of Library of Congress.