



Friends for Freedom: The Story of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass

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Book Description

Elementary | Biography

This picture book non-fiction story explains the unlikely friendship of the leading suffragist, Susan B. Anthony, and leading abolitionist and freed slave, Frederick Douglass. Despite disagreements or hardships, Anthony and Douglass remained friends, and together they promoted equality and changed the nation. The author weaves together information about the fight against slavery and the battle for women's rights, showing how the two movements were tied together. An author's note provides more information on research and on the bronze sculpture of Anthony and Douglass in Rochester, New York, that depicts the two friends having tea.

Discussion Questions

- How do you think Susan and Frederick were able to stay friends even when they fought? Can you be friends with someone you might disagree with?
- Why is it important for friends support each other through hard things?
- Think of a time when you and a friend supported one another in a project of some kind. Did your friend help lighten your load? How does supporting one another help us achieve bigger goals?
- What can you do to support your friends and help them achieve their goals?

Utah Connection

Emmeline B. Wells was a Utah woman who worked for decades to promote women's rights. She first met Susan B. Anthony when Anthony visited Utah in 1871 to celebrate Utah women gaining suffrage, and Wells slowly built a friendship with the leader of the national women's movement as she attended several national suffrage conventions. Anthony visited Utah again in 1895 to celebrate the inclusion of women's suffrage in the proposed state constitution, and she even bequeathed a gold ring to Wells when she died in 1906. Anthony and Wells were unlikely friends given that Anthony did not personally support polygamy and Wells was a polygamist wife. However, Anthony believed that women should be granted voting rights regardless of their marital statuses and included polygamous Mormon women in the National Woman Suffrage Association when others did not want to include them.



Emmeline B. Wells. Courtesy of Utah State Historical Society.