



Miss Paul and the President

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Book Description

Elementary | Biography

Alice Paul grew up watching what her father and other men could do, and she wanted to be able to do the same. Wearing her signature purple hat, Alice organized suffrage parades, wrote letters, protested outside the White House, and met with U.S. President Woodrow Wilson. He dismissed women's suffrage as a minor concern. However, her persistence paid off, eventually convincing President Wilson to support women's suffrage.

Discussion Questions

- Alice was incredibly persistent, particularly when her task seemed impossible. Have you ever continued persisting in an endeavor even when it seemed impossible?
- Do you agree or disagree with the tactics Alice used to change President Wilson's opinion on women's suffrage?
- What tactics did Alice use that you still see people using today to change people's opinions on issues?
- Like Alice, do you notice things in the world that need changing? How might you go about helping make these changes?

Utah Connection

Utah suffragists Lavern Robertson and Minnie Quay were so committed to fighting for the national suffrage amendment that they joined one of the most famous protests by the National Woman's Party and participated in picketing the White House in 1917, ultimately becoming victims of the infamous "Night of Terror." For two and a half years, almost 2000 women from around the country took turns picketing outside the White House six days a week until the suffrage amendment finally passed both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives on June 4, 1919.



Utahn Lavern Robertson standing fourth from left with other suffragists as part of the Silent Sentinels on November 10, 1917. Courtesy of Library of Congress.