

At-Home Summer Expedition Booklist

Women's Suffrage

At-home storytime is an effective way to promote language and literacy skills and help encourage a lifelong love of reading and learning.

Below are recommended books for children 12 and under. These storybooks provide entertaining tales about leading suffragists like Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Ida B. Wells and Alice Paul and include stories of tremendous triumph and difficult challenges faced by women in the movement to present day.



You Forgot Your Skirt, Amelia Bloomer! by Shana Corey

Year: 2000

Book Synopsis: Amelia Bloomer was born in New York in 1818, but moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1855 and soon began a single-handed women's rights campaign. She was known as a rebellious reformer and early women's rights activist, and she invented bloomers (baggy pantaloons worn with a short skirt over them), thus liberating women from the dangerous and oppressive clothing of the time.

Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote by Tanya Lee Stone

Year: 2008

Book Synopsis: The life of suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton is told in a first-person narrative, from when she was a kid doing activities "only boys were supposed to do" all the way through the Seneca Falls Women's Rights Conference.

Ida B. Wells: Let the Truth be Told by Walter Dean Myers

Year: 2008

Book Synopsis: Ida B. Wells' sense of justice started at a young age when she noticed that Black people were not allowed to enter certain places, work at certain jobs or receive a fair trial. This little girl became an incredible leader who fought for several causes, one of which was suffrage.

Marching With Aunt Susan: Susan B. Anthony and the Fight for Women's Suffrage by Claire Rudolf Murphy

Year: 2011

Book Synopsis: This storybook is told from the perspective of Bessie Kieth Pond as a child. She grew up in a family of suffragists, and she met Susan B. Anthony at suffrage teas and rallies organized by her aunt and mom. The story culminates in the 1896 referendum for women's suffrage in California, and Bessie's sadness when the referendum failed. It would finally pass in 1911.

Fight of the Century: Alice Paul Battles Woodrow Wilson for the Vote by Barb Rosenstock

Year: 2020

Book Synopsis: When Woodrow Wilson was inaugurated as President, Alice Paul was waiting — and knew he would meet his match! Paul was determined to win the battle for women's suffrage, and she battered Wilson with clever protests, articulate arguments, and a ferocious refusal to quit. In this picture book biography, the author captures the struggle between Paul and Wilson as a four-round boxing match.

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The Voice That Won The Vote: How One Woman's Words Made History by Elisa

Boxer

Year: 2020

Book Synopsis: August, 1920: Tennessee's legislature is about to cast a history-making vote. If they approve the 19th Amendment, it will be ratified and women across the country will be assured of their right to vote. If they don't, the suffragists have more battles ahead. The decision came down to a single vote, and a shocking moment when Harry Burns — previously a staunch opponent of suffrage — voted in favor of suffrage. And he did so because of a letter from his indomitable mother, Febb Burns, who said "Vote for suffrage and don't forget to be a good boy." This picture book celebrates a defining moment of American history — and the determined woman whose letter helped give all women a voice in politics.

Susan B. Anthony: Her Fight for Equal Rights by Monica Kulling

Year: 2020

Book Synopsis: In this biography reader from the "Step Into Reading" series, children will learn why suffragist Susan B. Anthony was so determined to fight for women's rights, from her battle for equal pay to her infamous "illegal" vote.

My Name Is Truth: The Life of Sojourner Truth by Ann Turner

Year: 2015

Book Synopsis: Formerly-enslaved woman Isabella Baumfree transformed herself into Sojourner Truth, speaking out for equal rights on behalf of both the abolitionists and the women's rights movement. This illustrated picture book biography is written in the voice of Truth herself, like a monologue in dialect, giving young readers a sense of the power of the spoken word to influence people. The story begins with Truth still enslaved and follows her as she escapes, finds a new life and then is reborn into a remarkable orator.

National Woman's Party: Fight for Suffrage by Emily Beth Sohn

Year: 2020

Book Synopsis: This graphic novel tells the origins of the National Woman's Party and their fight to win the vote. Despite criticism from the public and mistreatment by public officials, the suffragists were determined to gain the right to vote.

How Women Won the Vote: Alice Paul, Lucy Burns, and Their Big Idea by Susan Campbell Bartolet

Year: 2020

Book Synopsis: This book tells the story of the final push toward the 19th Amendment, in part, because of the leadership of Alice Paul and Lucy Burns. The two met in a London jail after being arrested in British suffrage protests, and two women knew they wanted to reinvigorate the American suffrage battle. The pair organized the D.C. Women's March of 1913, a stunning and attention-grabbing parade right before the inauguration of President Woodrow Wilson, and that was just the beginning of their protests.

Around America to Win the Vote: Two Suffragists, A Kitten and 10,000 Miles by Mara Rockliff

Year: 2016

Book Synopsis: This tells the story of suffragists Nell Richardson and Alice Burke - along with a typewriter, sewing machine and a kitten - who went on a road trip to collect signatures in support of women's suffrage, culminating with their arrival in New York City in September 1916. The book highlights the creative methods suffragists used to gain the vote will help children visualize what happened during the movement

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I Could Do That!: Esther Morris Gets Women the Vote by Linda Arms White

Year: 2005

Book Synopsis: Esther Morris, of Wyoming, fought for women's suffrage in her state. The book follows her actions, from approaching legislators, inviting them to tea parties and asking them straight out to introduce and vote for a bill to allow women to vote. Women in Wyoming got that right in 1869, more than 50 years before the passage of the 19th Amendment.

Miss Paul and the President: The Creative Campaign for Women's Right to Vote by Dean Robbins

Year: 2016

Book Synopsis: This book tells the story of suffragist Alice Paul, who held protests and parades in front of the White House to bring the cause of women's suffrage to the attention of Woodrow Wilson. It also shows how Wilson's daughter was moved by Paul's efforts and persuaded her father to meet with Paul, and how Wilson eventually came to support women's suffrage himself.

Ballots for Belva: The True Story of a Woman's Race for the Presidency by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen

Year: 2008

Book Synopsis: This storybook focuses on the dynamic life of Belva Lockwood. The reader learns about her childhood, when she went to college even though her father disapproved and how she became a teacher and worked with Susan B. Anthony to help girls get the same rights as boys to speak in public and participate in physical activities. Lockwood would eventually go to law school but was denied a diploma because she was a woman, and she also ran for president in 1884 — even though she couldn't vote in the election.

Lillian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by Jonah Winter

Year: 2015

Book Synopsis: This is the story of an African-American woman following the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and her reminiscences of what her family went through even after they were technically given the right to vote — things like poll taxes and tests given specifically to disenfranchise African-American voters.

If You Lived When Women Won Their Rights by Anne Kamma

Year: 2008

Book Synopsis: There was a time that girls and women in the United States could not: wear pants; play sports on a team; ride a bicycle; or go to college. That all began to change in 1848, when American women (and some men) met in Seneca Falls at the first convention for women's rights held anywhere in the world. In the familiar question-and-answer format, this installment in the "If You Lived..." history series tells the story of how women worked to get equal rights with men, culminating in the 19th Amendment.

Elizabeth Started All the Trouble by Doreen Rappaport

Year: 2016

Book Synopsis: When suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton and her friend are denied entry to an important meeting just because they are women, it sets a series of events into motion. From the historic Seneca Falls Convention to Wyoming becoming the first state where women could vote, this book skips in and out through the ages of fighting for women's rights, bringing readers right up to present-day.

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

Year: 2015

Book Synopsis: When women were just beginning their quest for the vote, it's important to remember that African Americans still faced the struggle to end enslavement, too. In this work of historical fiction, the author imagines a conversation between Harriet Tubman, the well-known Underground Railroad conductor and civil rights advocate, and Susan B. Anthony, the women's suffrage leader. As they chat, they tell their stories, set against the backdrop of a rapidly changing America.

Bold and Brave: Ten Heroes Who Won Women the Right to Vote by Kirsten Gillibrand

Year: 2018

Book Synopsis: Each page of this book is dedicated to one of 10 women who fought for women's suffrage. Seeing the struggle for women's suffrage from the point of view of many different women, who all did different things during the movement, is a way to understand the different methods that were used.

She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World by Chelsea Clinton

Year: 2017

Book Synopsis: In this book, Chelsea Clinton tells the stories of 13 influential women throughout history. People like Harriet Tubman and Helen Keller. And Clara Lemlich, who organized strikes for safer working conditions, and Claudette Colvin, who inspired Rosa Parks.