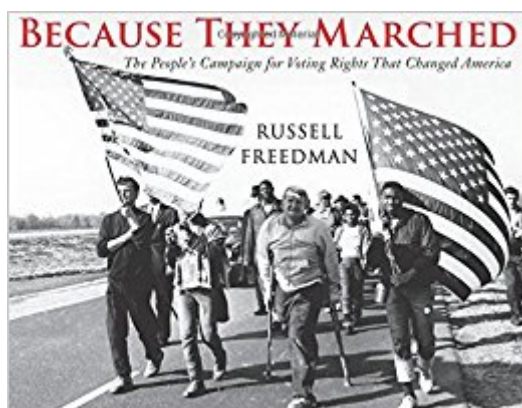


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Because They Marched: The People's Campaign For Voting Rights That Changed America



Synopsis

For the 50th anniversary of the 1965 march for voting right from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, Newberry Medalist Russell Freedman has written a riveting account of this pivotal event in the history of civil rights. Illustrated with more than forty photographs, this is an essential chronicle of events every American should know.~ ~

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up
•With the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 approaching, this book captures a significant struggle in history, focusing on the two years leading up to President Lyndon Johnson signing the act into law. Freedman gives readers the necessary context they need to understand the Civil Rights Movement and the importance of Selma, Alabama. Through short chapters, skilled, fluid writing, powerful photographs, and firsthand accounts of the clash between black and white Americans, Freedman has crafted an account of a crucial time in history; readers will easily be able to imagine that a grandfather or great-grandfather is telling this story. This well-organized work is ideal for research projects. Like Ann Bausum's *Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement* (National Geographic, 2013), this is a strong, engaging look at the subject. A first choice for libraries looking for titles on the Civil Rights Movement.

Jeni Tahaney, Duncanville High School Library, TX --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

One of the most decorated nonfiction writers in the field brings his style to a well-told story of the struggle for voting rights in the American South. Fifty years ago, as the civil rights movement took hold, the attempts to ensure African-American access to the vote increasingly took center stage. A newly passed Civil Rights Act did not guarantee voting rights, so activists in the South continued to press for them at both the state and federal levels. The barriers to voting—poll taxes, literacy tests, limits on registration—were difficult to overcome. Physical abuse and financial intimidation also kept people from the polls. Activist churches were subject to firebombs and burning. Selma, Ala., became a flashpoint. As Freedman begins his narrative, student activism had propelled teachers and other middle-class blacks to get involved. The death of an unarmed demonstrator drove organizers to plan a march from Selma to the state's capital, Montgomery an attempt that resulted in Bloody Sunday, one of the single most violent moments of the movement, and served to prod action on the Voting Rights Act in Congress. Freedman's meticulous research and elegant prose brings freshness to a story that has been told many times over. --Kirkus Reviews, Starred Review

Commemorating the upcoming 50th anniversary of the 1965 march for voting rights from Selma to Montgomery, Freedman (The Boston Tea Party) delivers a thorough account of the context and events leading up to and through this momentous protest. The book's eight chapters pull readers into the decades-long struggle via clear, concise storytelling and myriad quotes from participants, many of them young at the time. "Algebra gave way to activism," writes Freedman. "This explosion of teenage activism alarmed some parents and took the white authorities by surprise." The momentum-building narrative and often-graphic b&w photos captivate as they recount demonstrations big and small: from sit-ins and wade-ins (for desegregated beaches) to the well-known Selma schoolteachers march and Bloody Sunday at the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Freedman details day-by-day the culminating several-thousand-strong march to Montgomery, which spurred the passage of the Voting Rights Act. Current threats to the act are described in an epilogue. A timeline, select bibliography, source notes, and index round out this well-researched story that honors the many who stood up and fought against inequities at the ballot box. --Publishers Weekly, Starred Review

Like Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott (2006), in which Freedman detailed events from 1955, his latest historical narrative transports readers to Alabama to experience another significant turning point in the civil rights movement. The story opens in January 1965, when 105 black teachers attempted to register to vote but were met with violence on the courthouse steps in Selma, Alabama. Brutal attacks by segregationists increased during the weeks to come. Soon, Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders and

demonstrators joined Selma's voting-rights campaign, which culminated in a peaceful, triumphant protest march to Montgomery in March and, in August, led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act. The major role played by Selma's courageous teenagers and children makes this a particularly sympathetic and significant story for young Americans. Freedman writes with great immediacy, weaving pertinent first-person accounts into a beautifully written narrative that is moving as well as informative. Tied closely to the text, the many well-chosen black-and-white photos record significant events, capture dramatic moments, and show individuals who took part in these historic events. With a timeless narrative and a timely epilogue, this handsome volume offers a vivid account of a pivotal moment in American history. --Booklist, Starred Review --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Great condition.

Excellent

great book

great

This book is written for middle grade readers and presents an excellent overview of America's long history of segregation and discrimination that led to the campaign for voting rights for African Americans. America's history has not always been pretty or kind to minorities, and if this country is to ever live up to its stated constitution ideals, then we must start by telling the truth of our past to ourselves and our children.

Look what the Democrats did to these committed Americans! Over and over again, this book demonstrates the corruption at the heart of the democrat leadership. After the Civil Rights Act was passed by the Republicans in Congress, the Selma protests and marches forced LBJ's hand into signing the law. No longer could Democrat politicians deny black people equal protection under the law. It started then. It's still underway. Sooner or later, Democrats WILL stop holding black Americans in poverty. But as long as they can, they will keep trying to keep black Americans helpless, hopeless, and stupid. Look around.

The coverage lacks balance. Grim photographic overkill could be alarming to younger readers.

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