



## Exercising Our First Amendment Rights

### Read Aloud Lesson based on the book *The Youngest Marcher* by Cynthia Levinson

It is apparent that the voices of our youngest citizens are becoming more and more important. Think about Greta Thunberg and her campaign to save the earth. Think about the students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida and their campaign for gun control. The book *The Youngest Marcher* is about Audrey Faye Hendricks, a nine-year old who played a role in the Civic Rights Movement. Now, in this challenging time, think about how each of us – young and old – can make a positive difference by following the guidelines, listening to the adults in our lives, and making sure we reach out to the people we love...by phone, by video, by mail...but all with love.

(Historical note: *The Youngest Marcher* takes place during the time in our country of *segregation*. Segregation is *the practice of requiring separate housing, education and other services for people of color*.)

After you read/listen to *The Youngest Marcher*, think about the following questions:

1. What did Audrey want? Did she want to eat ice cream inside a restaurant with a counter? Did she want to sit downstairs at the movie theatre? Did she want to have a new school book? Do you think these were reasonable requests? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think Dr. King told the people at the church to, “Fill the jails. Pack cells up so tight that police will have to quit arresting people for demanding more rights”?
3. Why did Audrey think, “Protestors got to look nice”?
4. Do you think Audrey was a leader? A hero? Or both a leader and a hero?
5. Who do you think are leaders in these challenging times? Who would you describe as heroes?