



Peaceful Fights for Equal Rights by Rob Sanders

The world has witnessed the death of George Floyd. Protests have erupted throughout our nation and well beyond. Protests call attention to an event or cause with the goal of encouraging change. The following is a read-aloud and lesson designed to support our youngest citizens and future change agents to understand the art of a peaceful and meaningful protest. As leaders throughout our country gather to develop an action plan for change, we hope they will include the voices of our children.

The first step in this lesson is to have the children *listen to (*There are several read-alouds of this book on YouTube.) *Peaceful Fights for Equal Rights* by Rob Sanders. The book is skillfully designed to give meaning to a complex social issue through an accessible picture book.

1. Lots of people who are peacefully protesting in our streets would embrace the quote that begins the book *Peaceful Fights for Equal Rights*. Think about the quote: *Every voice matters, no matter how small. It's time to make a difference.* How do you think the protestors can make a difference? What would you tell them that they need to do?
2. In the book, there are many action verbs to describe some of the things we can do *to promote peaceful fights for equal rights*. One of the words is *question*. Do you think active citizens question authority; that is, do active citizens of all ages question an adult, a teacher, a police officer, a community leader, if they do not think something is right? Why or why not?
3. A peaceful protest is defined as *an event in which people gather to show their disapproval of something*. Think about the protests organized by Dr. Martin Luther King. Dr. King promoted the idea that protests need to be **nonviolent**. Why do you think it was so important to Dr. King that protests against racism be nonviolent?

4. Let's take a look at some of the action words in the book. After you look at the list, put them in what you think is their order of importance. Then, if you can, share your order with others.

- a. Assemble – gather together
- b. Make buttons, banners, and bumper stickers
- c. Educate – Tell others about your cause
- d. Give time
- e. Join others
- f. Take a knee
- g. March
- h. Speak out
- i. Vote
- j. Be nonviolent
- k. Develop an Action Plan
- l. Volunteer – Willingly perform a service without pay

5. Do you think our youngest citizens should sit at the table with our politicians, clergy and community leaders when they talk about action plans to address the current protestors' concerns about social injustice? Be prepared to support your answer.

6. A protest can start a conversation that could lead to change. What ideas for change would you suggest to the politicians, clergy, and community leaders who will address the social injustices that sparked the current protests?