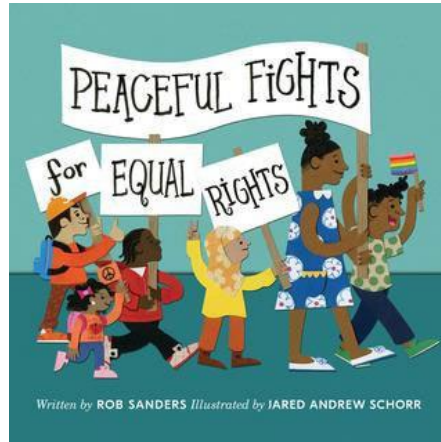


Peaceful Fights for Equal Rights



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Topics: Constitution, Rights and responsibilities, Student voice, Rules, Community organizing

Genres: Picture books, nonfiction, Constitutional freedoms

In 2020, the world witnessed the death of George Floyd. Protests erupted throughout our nation. Protests call attention to a cause with the goal of encouraging change. This read-aloud lesson is designed to help our youngest citizens and future change agents understand the art of a peaceful and meaningful protest. As leaders throughout our country develop an action plan for change, we hope they will include the voices of our children.

Read/*Listen to (*There are several read-alouds of this book on YouTube) *Peaceful Fights for Equal Rights* by Rob Sanders. The book is designed to give meaning to a complex social issue through an accessible picture book.

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During the Read Aloud:

1. 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 should question authority if they think something is wrong? 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 Jr. 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 protestors' concerns about

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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 address the social injustices that spark protests?

