

Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote

By Tanya Lee Stone

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Elizabeth Cady Stanton stood up and fought for what she believed in. From an early age, she knew that women were not given rights equal to men. But rather than accept her lesser status, Elizabeth went to college and later gathered other like-minded women to challenge the right to vote.Here is the inspiring story of an extraordinary woman who changed America forever because she wouldn't take "no" for an answer.

Elizabeth Leads the Way is a 2009 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal
Grade 1–4—Stone looks at the life of Stanton from childhood to her emergence as a pioneering leader of women's rights. The "strong-spirited, rule-breaking" girl asserted her independence by embracing physical and academic challenges and by questioning traditional viewpoints. This comes through in energetic, lucid prose that focuses on Elizabeth's ideas and feelings rather than on specific events. By consistently sticking to the subject's own experiences, without detours into historical details or even any dates, the author introduces a historical figure whom readers can relate to as a person. Excellent gouache and colored pencil illustrations, rendered in a lighthearted folk-art style, provide rich background for the brief text. They establish the time period through visual details and capture Stanton's spirit and the attitudes of those she encounters without overstatement. The book culminates with the event that propelled the woman into the national spotlight: her presentation at a convention in Seneca Falls, NY, in 1848, of the Declaration of Right and Sentiments, which included a call for women's voting rights. "Elizabeth had tossed a stone in the water and the ripples grew wider and wider and wider." An author's note briefly covers Stanton's subsequent accomplishments. Through words and pictures that work together and an emphasis on ideas and personality rather than factoids, this well-conceived introduction is just right for a young audience.—*Steven Engelfried, Multnomah County Library, OR*
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From Booklist
Starred Review Most young people will be unfamiliar with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and what she accomplished. Stone goes a long way toward correcting that, wisely beginning with a pithy introduction that links the life of women in the early nineteenth century with that of readers today: “What would you do if someone told you you can’t be what you want to be because you are a girl? . . . your voice doesn’t matter? Would you fight for your rights? Elizabeth did.” What follows is a short, incisive biography covering some of the high points of Stanton’s life, beginning with her shocking realization about how unfairly the law treated women, which translated into Stanton’s lifelong work for women’s suffrage. In shorts text bites, Stone explains how Stanton met her abolitionist husband (and refused to give up her name), the origins of the women’s rights movement, and the effect of the Women’s Rights Conference in Seneca Falls, New York. This focus works well for the audience, though the brevity leaves some holes. Susan B. Anthony, for instance, is pictured, though unnamed. The child-pleasing artwork features characters a bit reminiscent of clothespin dolls, but the cameos of action, matched by full-page pictures, make the history accessible. A must for library shelves. Grades 1-3. --Ilene Cooper

Review

“This biography brims with upbeat energy as the spirited woman sets out to change the system--an energy amplified by Rebecca Gibbon's bright folk art-styled pictures.” ?*The Washington Post*

“A short, incisive biography . . . the cameos of action, matched by full-page pictures, make the history accessible. A must for library shelves.” ?*Booklist, Starred Review*

“[This book] fires up readers with a portrait of the 19th-century feminist Elizabeth Cady Stanton. . . . The sometimes informational tone is animated and energized by Gibbon's plentiful vignettes and paintings, rendered in a vibrant folk-art style.” ?*Publishers Weekly*

“Through words and pictures that work together and an emphasis on ideas and personality rather than factoids, this well-conceived introduction is just right for a young audience.” ?*School Library Journal*

“In lively prose well-matched by Gibbon's irrepressible images, Stone tells the story of suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton. . . . A fine introduction for very young readers to the woman and her key role in American history.” ?*Kirkus Reviews*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Patrick Taylor:

Information is provisions for those to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone in everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even a huge concern. What people must be consider when those information which is inside the former life are hard to be find than now's taking seriously which one is suitable to believe or which one often the resource are convinced. If you receive the unstable resource then you understand it as your main information there will be huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen in you if you take Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote as your daily resource information.

William Patterson:

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