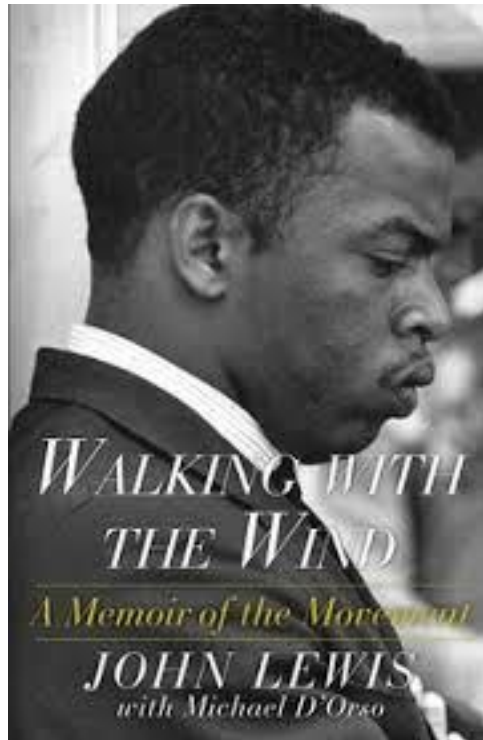




Pre-Journey Reading Guides

In an effort to prepare you to have an outstanding and meaningful Sojourn experience we have provided you with these texts to explore. As you read, note key players, events and emotional impact of the events described. This information will directly inform your understanding of the people you will meet, their actions during the movement and the impact they had. Use the following questions to guide your reading, please note that page numbers and chapters are provided to direct you to the most important information.

Text 1: WALKING WITH THE WIND Reading Guide

Context: Congressman and lifelong activist John Lewis' memoir is one of the most important records of the Civil Rights Movement.

Objectives:

- *Students will be able to trace the path Lewis took from ordinary citizen to civil rights champion.*
- *Students will recognize effective tactics for calling attention to a cause and engaging others to affect progress around issues of social justice and racial tensions.*

Directions: Look at the bolded headlines and go to that section in the book. Review the questions before reading so you are prepared to respond successfully.

Prologue to Walking with the Wind p. xv-xvii

- 1) John Lewis tells a story about one Saturday afternoon when he was a young boy. What happened that afternoon? How did that impact him?
- 2) Lewis states, "Children holding hands, walking with the wind. That is America to me." What do you think he means by this?
- 3) Describe Lewis's concept of a "Beloved Community".

Chapter 4: "The Boy from Troy" p.56-70

- 4) In this chapter young John Lewis meets Dr. King for the first time. What was the purpose of the meeting, and what were Lewis's impressions of King and the meeting's outcome afterwards?

Chapter 11: "We March Today" p. 202-232

- 5) Describe the major civil rights organizations of the day:

- To complete the chart it is okay to use bullet point notes.

Organization	SNCC	NAACP	SCLC	CORE
Full Name of Organization				
Who Led them in the 1960s?				
What people made up this group? What were their jobs?				

Rock star bonus points: please note any strategies they used successfully to advance civil rights causes.

- 6) Consider what race relations were like in America in 1963, the purpose of the March on Washington and Dr. King's message in his "I Have a Dream Speech". Why do you believe many leaders considered John Lewis' speech so controversial?
- 7) How was the controversy resolved?
- 8) Do you agree with Lewis's decision to change his speech? Explain why you feel that way.
- 9) What did you find most interesting or moving in this chapter?

Chapter 13: "Feel Angry with Me" p.261-282

- 10) In this chapter Lewis talks about "Mississippi Freedom Summer." Describe the 5 W's + H of this event (Who, What, When, Where, Why & How)
- 11) In your opinion, was the Mississippi Freedom Summer a successful campaign? Explain why or why not, and what challenges and resources could have affected the outcome.
- 12) Describe what happened to Chaney, Goodman, and in June of 1964? How do you think this made other activists and volunteers feel?
- 13) On page 282 Lewis states, "...we emerged from Mississippi Summer with a purpose, a goal, an object of hope." What do you believe he meant by this?
- 14) What did the Klan refer the Mickey Schwerner as?
- 15) Who was with Mickey Schwerner on June 21, 1964?
- 16) On page 274, what was June 15 – September 15, 1964 referred to as?

Fill in the number during June 15th- September 15th, 1964:

_____ Arrests
_____ Beatings
_____ Shootings
_____ Churching Burnings
_____ Bombings

17) What did Congress pass during June-September 1964 and what did this new law do?

Chapter 16: “Bloody Sunday” p. 335-362 (As you read this chapter, think about what you would be willing to put yourself on the line for.)

- 1) Why didn't Dr. King participate in the March 7th “Bloody Sunday” protest? How do SCLC members react? What is your reaction to his decision?
- 2) Lewis describes March 7th as somber. Why do you think that is? Describe the number of people who were there and who they were.
- 3) What did the marchers see as they came over the top of the Edmund Pettus Bridge?
- 4) Who was at the front line of the march, and what did Major Cloud tell the marchers after they had crossed the bridge? How many troopers were at Selma that day?
- 5) How much time were the marchers given to disperse, and what did they do when they were told to leave? Describe what the troopers did to the marchers and, more specifically, what happened to John Lewis? How many marchers were injured?
- 6) How did the New York Times respond to Bloody Sunday? What does their editorial decision say about whether the media was fair or accurate at the time?
- 7) Describe John Lewis' condition when he speaks to the marchers the evening of Bloody Sunday. What does he say and how does it make you feel?
- 8) What was so ironic about the television show that was interrupted to bring the news account of Bloody Sunday? Explain this irony in detail.
- 9) Why was Bloody Sunday so different from the struggles in Birmingham according to John Lewis?
- 10) How did the American people respond to Bloody Sunday, and the images coming out of Alabama?
- 11) What motivated the infighting between SNCC and SCLC after Bloody Sunday?
- 12) Why did the Congress for Racial Equality (CORE) and SNCC come to Selma after Bloody Sunday?
- 13) What do you think of George Wallace's comments regarding Bloody Sunday and how do they make you feel?
- 14) Why were many marchers upset with Dr. King after the attack on the Edmund Pettus Bridge? Why did Dr. King act the way he did, and why did that confuse people? How did Jim Forman and SNCC react?
- 15) Describe Federal Judge Johnson and his reasons for issuing or not issuing an injunction (court order). Did this help or hurt the campaign in Selma?
- 16) Describe the BIG PICTURE according to John Lewis when he is released from the hospital. Is he an optimist or a pessimist? Why?
- 17) Reverend James Reeb in on the Civil Rights Memorial. Describe what happened to him and how it makes you feel.
- 18) Describe the irony of the relationship between Judge Johnson and George Wallace (on page 350). Did these two men like each other? How far back do these men go and what does their relationship say about Judge Johnson?
- 19) Was Governor George Wallace responsible for the attack on the Edmund Pettus Bridge? What does Col. Al Lingo think?
- 20) Describe President Johnson's response to the Bloody Sunday attack. What did Governor Wallace and President Johnson meet about and what was the result of their meeting?
- 21) As Lewis was in Selma, what was going on in Montgomery, Alabama and why was it a grave concern for Lewis?

- 22) Describe President Johnson's words when sharing with America that he was going to ask Congress for a Voting Rights Act. How does reading this make you feel about LBJ and how did it make John Lewis feel when he heard the President's words?
- 23) Did you have any emotional reaction to any part of LBJ's speech?
- 24) What was Dr. King's reaction to President Johnson's speech and how did Jim Forman react? What does this say about the split between SCLC and SNCC?
- 25) Why does Jim Forman surprise and disgust Dr. King and others with his speech regarding Gov. Wallace and Pres. Johnson? Do you agree with Forman's words, or are they inappropriate?
- 26) Describe Judge Johnson's decision regarding whether the marchers have the right to march all the way to Montgomery.
- 27) What equipment did the marchers need to march to the Alabama State Capitol on March 21, 1965?
- 28) How many miles was the march from Selma to Montgomery and how much protection was provided this time by the Federal and State governments?
- 29) Who was in front line of the march on March 21st? Describe the people who marched that day.
- 30) About how many miles did the marchers cover per day? What did Judge Johnson's order limit the amount of marchers during certain periods?
- 31) Why did John Lewis go back to Selma each night during the march to Montgomery?
- 32) Describe the concert the night before the marchers reached Montgomery. Which celebrities were there and what was the overall feeling that night?
- 33) How many people made the last leg of the march to Montgomery (and how far out were they from St. Jude's to Montgomery)?
- 34) Why did people dress like Dr. King on the final leg of the march and how does reading this make you feel?
- 35) How does John Lewis describe walking into Montgomery, how does he feel?
- 36) Read Dr. King's speech on the steps of the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery (p.360) and describe how it makes you feel. You can read the entire speech in your book Testament of Hope on page 227.
- 37) Describe John Lewis' visit with President Johnson after the President had signed the VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965. According to Lewis this law had "teeth." Why?
- 38) Who did LBJ give pens to that day after signing the VOTING RIGHTS ACT? If you were John Lewis, how would you feel?
- 39) Lewis states that for many people the Civil Rights Movement the Selma March was the end of then- faith in the Movement. What does Lewis mean by this and how was the murder of Viola Liuzzo's part of this statement?
- 40) ****Many historians call the March on Washington (where Dr. King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech) the high-water mark of the movement. Which do you think is the most important part of the Civil Rights Movement and why?
- 41) After reading about Bloody Sunday, what do you think of your country and what it stands for?
- 42) If you could have been in Selma in the month of March 1965 what role would you hope you could have played? Would you put yourself on the line for the right to vote as many did in Selma and all over Alabama?

Chapter 18: "Why?" Start on p.403 and stop on p.413

- 43) John Lewis was with Robert Kennedy the night Dr. King was assassinated and we will hear RFK's extemporaneous speech that April 4, 1968.
- 44) Read RFK's speech after the assassination of Dr. King. Pick one line from his speech and explain why it is meaningful to you.
- 45) How did the crowd react to RFK's speech? How did Lewis react?
- 46) What was the reaction of the nation to the death of Dr. King?

