

Sometimes People March by Tessa Allen

Vocabulary

- Injustice: to treat people unfairly. This can be seen in interactions, policies, and beliefs.
- Upstander: is the term used for a person who speaks or acts in support of an individual or cause, especially if the person is being bullied, marginalized, or the cause is defending a marginalized group. An upstander recognizes a wrong and does something to correct it.
- Bystander: is the term used for a person who notices a wrong or injustice, who does not act in support of an individual or cause, even if the person is being bullied or marginalized. A bystander may recognize a wrong but does not act to correct it.
- Ally: someone who shows support for someone else (or a group of people) and advocates for their needs, especially when the person or group is unable to do so for themselves.
- Solidarity: is about unity amongst people with a common interest or common goal, usually with a common plight. Within this group of people support must be present to be expressed as solidarity.

Before Reading...

- What do you know about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous March on Washington?
- Read the title and take a look at the illustration on the front of the book. What do you think this book might be about? Describe what you notice. What might the symbols drawn on the posters represent?
- People throughout the history of the United States, and even today, march for many different reasons. As you read the book, look closely for examples of why people have marched in the United States.

During Reading...

- Pause on the page that reads, "Marching is something people do together when they want to resist injustice." What does it mean to resist? What is injustice? Why is it important for allyship to be a part of protest?
- Pause again on the page that reads, "Sometimes people carry signs to share their stories of resistance." Look closely at the signs the people are holding. What do you notice about the people and their signs? (perspective-taking)
- Many people have worked to make our country more inclusive. The signs on this page represent social justice issues from our past and from our present. Can you identify examples from the past and from the present and explain what they are trying to improve?
 - Compare and contrast issues from the past to issues being protested today.

AFTER READING

- What words describe how the people who march felt? How do you know they felt that way, or what examples from the book support your answer?
 - How can feelings of fear, anger, frustration, or injustice be channeled into action for change?
- Re-read the page “Sometimes great change starts small, with a brave question.” How can a question be brave?
- When we listen to each other, our understanding of each other and the world grows. Tell about a time when you had a problem and someone really listened to you.
(separate) When people march, they are raising their voices together to amplify one message. How can a community demonstrate that it has listened to the people who march?

POLY PREP PROTEST DAY

- Did you participate in Poly’s first Protest Day last year? If yes, what was your cause? If not, would you like to share why?
- Thinking about protests in the wake of George Floyd’s death...
 - Have you marched before? If yes, what were you protesting?
 - Can you describe what you were feeling when you were marching?
 - Do you know anyone that has been part of a march? What were they protesting?