



LITERATURE CONNECTION ACTIVITY

Fight On! Mary Church Terrell's Battle for Integration by Dennis Brindell and Judith Bloom Fradin

OBJECTIVE

Students examine what it means to create positive change in a community.

MATERIALS

Fight On! Mary Church Terrell's Battle for Integration – Dennis Brindell and Judith Bloom Fradin

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

- ✓ Read aloud to your students, or have them read, Chapter One: *A Bowl of Soup*.
- ✓ This chapter captures a very important series of events in the life of Mary Church Terrell.
- ✓ Ask your students, *What do you think spurred Mary Church Terrell to go to Thompson's Cafeteria with her friends?*
- ✓ Ask, *Why did Mrs. Terrell ask the manager, "Doesn't the Constitution of the United States apply here?"*
- ✓ Ask your class if they think the Thompson Restaurant Case will be won by Mrs. Terrell. Ask them why they responded as they did, and then inform them that they will find out over the course of reading the book.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *How would you describe Mary Church Terrell's life and contributions?*
- ★ *When Mrs. Terrell was segregated in the workplace she quit her job and told her employers she would not work under those conditions? What did that accomplish?*
- ★ *How was Mary Church Terrell effective in the work she did? Was she able to accomplish what she did on her own, or did she work with others?*

- ★ *Are there still injustices in our country? What are they?*
- ★ *What could you do to fight these injustices?*
- ★ *How do you think Mrs. Terrell would feel about the state of race relations in America if she were alive today?*
- ★ *What can you do to improve where you live?*

ACTIVITY

- ✓ Have your students investigate the lives of individuals who have positively impacted America.
- ✓ Plan for your students to research and write a report on a person who has contributed greatly to our society. Give your students the freedom to choose who they would like to research, but encourage them to write about someone who they do not know much about.
- ✓ Say, *There are many people who have worked to end injustices and bring a greater sense of equality to America. Many of these people we know: Rosa Parks, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Susan B. Anthony. Many of these people we may not be as familiar with, such as Mary Church Terrell, before reading this book. You are going to investigate the life of one of these people and share with the class how this person impacted our country.*
- ✓ Have your students share their work with their peers through oral presentations of five minutes or less.