



## LITERATURE CONNECTION ACTIVITY

*A Time for Courage: The Suffragette Diary of Kathleen Bowen* by Kathryn Lasky

### OBJECTIVE

Students examine the right to vote by reading a fictional account of a girl living in the U.S. in the early 20th century.

### MATERIALS

*A Time for Courage: The Suffragette Diary of Kathleen Bowen* - Kathryn Lasky

### PRE-READING ACTIVITY

- ✓ Consider doing the *Historical Debate – Women’s Suffrage* activity as your pre-reading activity. It can be found in the The Right to Vote theme under the concept, *Expanding the Right to Vote*.
- ✓ The *Historical Debate – Women’s Suffrage* activity will thoroughly engage the students in the issue of women’s suffrage before reading the book.
- ✓ Spend some time discussing what historical fiction is and how this book is an example of it.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *What do you think it was like to be a young woman in a period when women were denied the right to vote?*
- ★ *What were Kat’s mom and other family members hoping to achieve in picketing? What do you think it was like to picket day after day?*
- ★ *What do you think the right to vote meant to the female characters in this book?*
- ★ *Why do you think people were reluctant to give women the right to vote?*
- ★ *Why do you think Kathryn Lasky wrote this book?*

### ACTIVITY

- ✓ Have your students write a journal entry as if they were living in a time when a minority group of Americans was denied the right to vote. They should address the issue of suffrage in their entries, whether it concerns women and the right to vote, African-Americans and the right to vote, Native Americans and the right to vote, and so on.
- ✓ Tell your students that just as *A Time for Courage: The Suffragette Diary of Kathleen Bowen* is an example of historical fiction, their entries must be as well. They need to make their entries as realistic as possible, referencing dates and the real people of that period.
- ✓ Give your students the tools to be as accurate as possible: they may need history books, Internet access, etc.
- ✓ Have your students read their journal entries to the class. Encourage them to be creative in their dress and speech.