



TeachersFirst **READING TREKS**

Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March

Teacher Guide

Grade Level & Content Areas

Access Reading
Trek Map

Ages: 11+

Grades: 6–10 (independent)

Reading Level: 5th grade

Lexile Measure: 780L

Guided Reading Level: X

Developmental Reading

Assessment (DRA): 60

Content Areas: English/language arts and social studies (including history).

Synopsis of Book

Lynda Blackmon Lowery shares the story of her participation in the historic civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama—first with history collaborators Elspeth Leacock and Susan Buckley, then with the world. As the story unfolds, readers learn that despite segregation and often violent efforts to limit opportunities for African Americans at that time, many individuals—including school children—joined the movement for voting rights, equality, and so much more. In her memoir, Lowery tells of her arrests and injuries on Bloody Sunday, of stereotyping and changes of mindsets, and how this march sparked change across America. The book includes photographs, illustrations, and a discussion guide.

Standards

Common Core State Standards for K–5

Reading: Literature

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure

Writing

- Text Types and Purposes
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge

Common Core State Standards for 6–12

Reading: Literature

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure
- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Writing

- Text Types and Purposes
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge

National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

- Theme 1: CULTURE
- Theme 2: TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE
- Theme 3: PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS
- Theme 6: POWER, AUTHORITY, AND GOVERNANCE
- Theme 10: CIVIC IDEALS AND PRACTICES

National Core Arts Standards for Visual Arts

- CREATING
- RESPONDING

Using a TeachersFirst® Reading Trek to Explore This Book

TeachersFirst Reading Treks create a virtual field trip of resources about a piece of literature or a text using the My Maps feature of Google Maps. To motivate and enrich student reading, teachers and students can reference this visual collection of web resources and images as they relate to the contents of a book.

TeachersFirst has done the hard work for you! Use the activities in this teacher guide and the accompanying [Reading Trek map](#) as you and your students explore this book. And, if you feel inspired, you (or your students) can create your own Reading Trek about this or another book!

Using This Reading Trek in Class

Below is a list of ideas for how to use this Reading Trek in your educational setting.

Working with the Map:

1. Introduce the book to the whole class by displaying the [Reading Trek map](#) on an interactive whiteboard and highlighting its various layers.
2. [Watch or listen to Lynda Blackmon Lowery](#) recount her childhood during this period and discuss the background of events that led to her landmark action, then view illustrations and photographs from the book and primary sources, including original film footage.
3. View U.S. Representative John Lewis's [firsthand account of surviving Bloody Sunday](#). Students may also be interested in the movie [Selma](#). (Note: both of these videos portray graphic violence between protestors and law enforcement).

4. The media's coverage of Bloody Sunday and the Selma to Montgomery March mobilized citizens across the United States. Watch NewseumED's video, "The Press and the Civil Rights Movement" ([TeachersFirst review](#)), as a class, then have students complete comprehension questions and an extension activity.
5. Students can use Timeline Infographic Templates ([TeacherFirst review](#)) to create a timeline of the Civil Rights Movement that includes ten to twenty important events. View NewseumEd's Civil Rights Timeline ([TeachersFirst review](#)) as an example.
6. Students can play *That's Your Right* ([TeachersFirst review](#)) independently or

against classmates, choosing five tokens that represent the five rights that have the highest importance to them. Kids, Know Your Rights! ([TeachersFirst review](#)) will be a helpful resource for this activity.

7. Have students reflect on a time they were denied participation in an activity or event and craft a letter to the person or organization that explains their disappointment and other emotions as appropriate. Students should suggest alternative solutions for the future.
8. Have students reflect on the map and discuss sites they would add to the map that have not been included.

Extension Activities:

1. Lynda Blackmon Lowery's grandmother took her to hear Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speak on January 3, 1965. Ask students to reflect on an individual they've listened to who has had a serious, positive impact on their lives, then create a motivational Who's Who Video Wall. Use Animoto ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to link all student videos for display in a common area. Alternatively, you can use DesignCap Poster Creator ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to create a single image print that can be mounted and displayed in the community.
2. Create a visual essay or infographic about the importance of voting using Canva Infographic Maker ([TeachersFirst review](#)).
3. Play Do I Have a *Right?*, an interactive game from iCivics ([TeachersFirst review](#)). Don't miss the extension pack.
4. Have students select an illustration by [PJ Loughran](#) and respond to its meaning.
5. Explore this [PBS lesson plan](#) on the enduring significance of the Selma to Montgomery March.
6. Invite students to explore images from the Library of Congress's online catalog [related to the Selma March](#), then analyze an image using the [Library of Congress's analysis tool](#).

Helpful Resources

From TeachersFirst:

- [TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps](#)
- [TeachersFirst Review of Google My Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: Building Background Knowledge with Reading Treks](#)
- [OK2Ask: No Passport Required: Cross-Curricular Learning Journeys with Google My Maps](#)

Other Resources:

- [Penguin Books - *Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom* Teaching Guide](#) (scroll below the book description to download the guide as a PDF)
- [Selma to Montgomery StoryMap](#)
- [“John Lewis: The Selma to Montgomery Marches”](#) (video)