



TeachersFirst READING TREKS

Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom

Teacher Guide

Access Reading
Trek Map

Grade Level & Content Areas

Ages: 11+

Grades: 6–9 (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 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.

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

Writing

- Text Types and Purposes

- Craft and Structure
- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
- 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 on an interactive whiteboard using the Reading Trek map, highlighting its various layers.
2. View "[U.S. Rep. John Lewis' Firsthand Account of Surviving 'Bloody Sunday'](#)." Students may also be interested in the movie [Selma](#). (Note: these portray the graphic violence of Bloody Sunday).
3. The media's coverage of Bloody Sunday and the Selma to Montgomery March mobilized citizens across the United States. Watch NewseumED's "The Press and the Civil Rights Movement" ([TeachersFirst review](#)) video as a class, then have students complete comprehension questions and an extension activity.
4. Students can create a Civil Rights timeline of ten to twenty important events using Timeline Infographic Templates ([TeacherFirst review](#)), using NewseumEd's Civil Rights Timeline ([TeachersFirst review](#)) as an example.
5. 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.

6. 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.

Extension Activities:

1. Lynda Blackmon Lowreys 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 that has had a serious, positive impact on their lives, then create a motivational "Who's Who Video Wall" using Animoto ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to link all student videos for display in a common area. Alternatively, you can use DesignCap ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to create a single image print that can be mounted and displayed within 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? ([TeachersFirst review](#)), including the extension pack.
4. Have students select an illustration by [PJ Loughran](#) and respond to its meaning.
5. Using this Read Write Think ([TeachersFirst review](#)) lesson plan, ask students to demonstrate comprehension after each chapter by reflecting through journal writing and illustrating.

Helpful Resources

From TeachersFirst:

- [TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps](#)
- [TeachersFirst Review of Google My Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: Google My Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: Engage & Inspire with Reading Treks](#)

Other Resources:

- [Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom Teaching Guide](#) from Penguin Books (scroll below the book description to download the guide as a PDF)
- [Foundation Document for Selma to Montgomery, Alabama National Trail](#)
- PBS NEWSHOUR Classroom Lesson Plan - [From Selma to Montgomery: An Introduction to the 1965 Marches](#)
- [John Lewis: The Selma to Montgomery Marches](#)