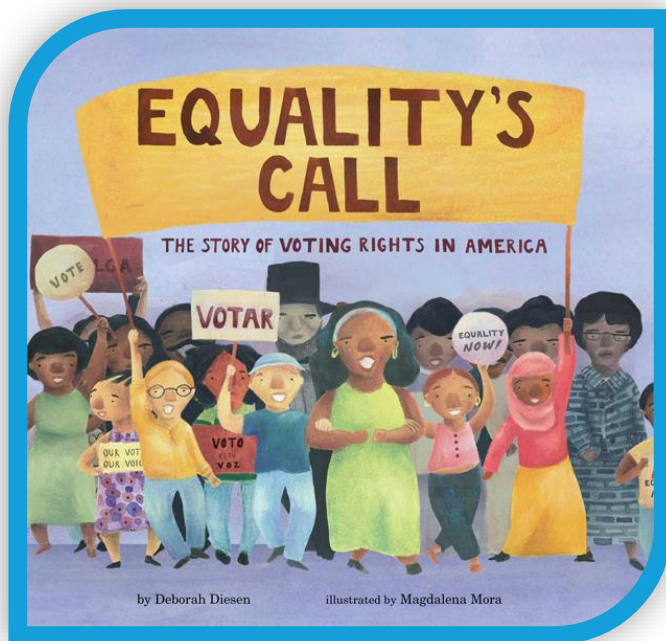




# Book of the Month

Presented by ADL's Education Department

**About the Book of the Month Parent/Family Discussion Guide:** This collection of featured books is from Books Matter: The Best Kid Lit on Bias, Diversity and Social Justice. The books teach about bias and prejudice, promote respect for diversity, encourage social action and reinforce themes addressed in education programs of [A World of Difference® Institute](#), ADL's international anti-bias education and diversity training provider. For parents, guardians and family members, reading the books listed on this site with your children and integrating the concepts into your interactions with them is an excellent way to help children grapple with and learn about these important principles.



## Equality's Call: The Story of Voting Rights in America

Deborah Diesen (Author), Magdalena Mora (Illustrator)

ISBN: 978-1534439580

Publisher: Beach Lane Books

Year Published: 2020

Age Range: 5–9

### Book Themes

Voting Rights, Equity, Racism, Sexism, Bias, Social Justice

### About the Book

The founders of the United States declared that consent of the governed was a key part of their plan for the new nation. But for many years, only white men who had money could vote. This unflinching and inspiring history of voting rights looks back at the activists who answered equality's call, working tirelessly to secure the right for all to vote, and it also looks forward to the future and the work that still needs to be done.

### Conversation Starters

Whether you read the book along with your child or your child reads it on their own and you discuss it later, use these open-ended questions to deepen the conversation. Remember not to judge their

responses and to listen thoughtfully and engage in a give-and-take that helps them expand upon their understanding of the book and its themes.

- What is the book about?
- Why do you think the author wrote the book?
- The sentence, “A right isn’t right till it’s granted to all,” is repeated throughout the book. What does that sentence mean to you?
- How do people feel when they are able to vote? Have you ever voted for something and how did that feel?
- What did you learn about voting rights?
- Why do you think the book is called “Equality’s Call?” What does equality mean?
- What is the message of the book?

## Talking Points

Below are some important considerations that will make this a learning opportunity for your child and your family.

### 1. Voting

Talk with your child about what it means to vote by asking if they have ever voted for anything. Explain that when we vote for a person or for something important to us, it’s a way to express our opinion and make our voice heard. Explain that in political elections, people vote for people (like Mayor, Senator, President, etc.) and laws. Because they probably aren’t old enough to vote in elections, ask your child about whether they have ever voted in a school election, voted in a survey or an online poll or if, as a family, we voted on something (e.g., game to play, dessert to have). Then ask: *Why did you vote? How did it feel to vote?* Talk about your own experiences with voting, in elections and other ways. Explain how it feels to vote, how you decided upon who or what you will be voting. During election times, vote as a family by going to the polls together or filling out a mail-in/absentee ballot together if you vote by mail. As you complete your ballot, discuss who you are voting for and why.

### 2. Voting Rights

Re-visit the conversation above about your child and voting, and your own experience voting. Ask whether anything ever stopped or prevented them from voting. If so, ask what prevented them from voting and how felt. Then, read the back pages of the book, “Voting-Related Amendments and Legislation” on pages 38-39. Explain that “legislation” refers to are laws that are created by elected officials (Mayors, Senators, House of Representatives, etc.) and voters. Read aloud some/all of the information on these pages and talk about the history of voting rights. Explain, as the book does, that not everyone was able to vote when our country was established, not was everyone able to vote throughout our history, including Black people, other people of color, women and others. Ask how they think people felt when they weren’t able to vote and use the information in the back of the book to delve deeper. Also, explain that the issue of voting rights is still a problem in our country. Even though people may have the right to vote, they are unable to vote. Over the past few years, several states passed laws that limit certain people’s ability to vote or make it more difficult to vote for certain people. Explain that many people are working on this so that everyone can freely vote.

### 3. Social Justice Activism

Explain that throughout our history, not everyone has had the right to vote. As they learned about in the book, people have worked to change those laws and made it so that everyone can vote. Talk with your child about the actions people take when they feel that something is unfair or unjust. You can introduce the concept of **activism** by eliciting/explaining that it is when people get involved in activities and actions to change something they believe is unfair or unjust. Explain that throughout our country's history, activists and others have fought to make sure everyone had the right to vote. Together, read about some of the Voting Rights Activists described on page 40-41 of the book. Explain that people working together as activists helped to achieve many of the voting rights and they are still working to address how people are currently prevented from voting. Share with your child situations or times when you have engaged in activism, and talk about something you might do together about an issue you care about. Convey the message that when we see something unfair or unjust—whether it's something small in our school/community or on a larger scale like voting rights—we can do something about it.

### Other Books You May Like



*Grace for President* by Kelly DiPucchio, [www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/grace-for-president](http://www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/grace-for-president)

*Lillian's Right to Vote* by Jonah Winter, [www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/lillians-right-to-vote](http://www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/lillians-right-to-vote)

*V is for Voting* by Kate Farrell, [www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/v-is-for-voting](http://www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/v-is-for-voting)

### ADL Additional Resources

The following are curriculum and resources on elections, activism, social justice and people, identity and culture.

#### Curriculum Resources

Social Justice Poetry, [www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/lesson-plans/social-justice-poetry](http://www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/lesson-plans/social-justice-poetry).

Voting Rights Then and Now, [www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/lesson-plans/voting-rights-then-and-now](http://www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/lesson-plans/voting-rights-then-and-now).

#### Websites

7 Engaging Picture Books about Voting and Elections

[www.adl.org/blog/7-engaging-picture-books-about-voting-and-elections](http://www.adl.org/blog/7-engaging-picture-books-about-voting-and-elections)

This blog includes a round-up of picture books for elementary students about voting, elections and the power of democracy. Talking with young children about voting and elections can open doors to conversations about fairness, democracy, citizenship and participation.

### 10 Ways Youth Can Engage in Activism

[www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/10-ways-youth-can-engage-in-activism](http://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/10-ways-youth-can-engage-in-activism)

A list of ideas for bringing social activism into the classroom and outside of the school walls. These strategies can be acted upon individually, organized together as a group and young people can join with a larger effort that is taking place locally or nationally.

### Parent, Family and Caregiver Resources

[www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/parent-family-and-caregiver-resources](http://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/parent-family-and-caregiver-resources)

Strategies, tips, guiding principles and resources to help parents, family members and caregivers impart values and principles to the children in their lives.

### The Question Corner: Early Childhood FAQs

[www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/question-corner](http://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/question-corner)

A collection of answers to frequently asked questions about anti-bias issues faced by early childhood professionals and family members interested in promoting respect for diversity among young children.

### Table Talk: Family Conversations about Current Events

[www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/table-talk](http://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/table-talk)

Provides the tools parents and family members need to engage their families in conversations about important news stories and other timely discussions about societal and world events. Includes discussion guides containing a topic summary, questions to start the conversation and dig deeper, ideas for taking action and additional resources. See "[Let's Talk about Voting!](#)"

### Teaching about Elections

[www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/teaching-about-elections](http://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/teaching-about-elections)

Elections provide great opportunities to teach students about civics, how government works, the electoral process, current events and issues, historical context and campaign politics. This page provides education resources, lesson plans and other election-related pedagogical content to assist you in teaching about elections.

### Children's Books

Below are links to lists of recommended anti-bias and multicultural books for the indicated category.

[People, Identity & Culture](#)

[Social Justice](#)