



BLACK WOMEN FREEDOM FIGHTERS!

A COLORING & DISCUSSION BOOK
BY: REV. DEREK TERRY

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Disclaimer: The bios in this resource contain heavy subject matter. This book is designed for an adult to read to/with a child so that you can answer questions and give context/further explanation. I know that many feel that we should shield children from the harsh realities of racism and racial violence, but I believe that "age appropriate" information will help shape them into citizens who fight for justice and equality. With that being said, please review the biographies and decided how you wish to present the lives of these awesome women to the children in your life!

In 2016 I started leading discussions on race and social justice called Race: Rage & Fear to host difficult and brave conversations on racism and racial violence through education and direct action activities.

In 2020, this work shifted online due to the Coronavirus pandemic. I recently started a Patreon site to raise funds to increase the impact of this work. The money given by the current patrons paid for the development and publication of this document! A PDF of this mini coloring & discussion book is available for free online at Patreon.com/RaceRageFear and 1,000 Printed copies are available for free as well.

Thank you for your help in creating quality anti-racist content. If you would like to partner with others in this community and have access to exclusive content and resources please visit Patreon.com/RaceRageFear or email: RevDerekTerry@gmail.com.



-Rev. Derek Terry
@RevDerekTerry

A Note to Parents:



HER-STORY!

Positive stories and visual representations of strong, intelligent, and powerful Black women are often excluded from the story of America. Women were essential to the success of the Civil Rights Movement, yet most of the work that they did was left out of the mainstream media at the time and the pages of today's history books.

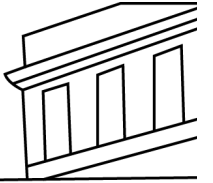
The eight women featured in these pages helped to make our country a better place for all races and genders. America is not perfect, but the bravery and efforts of women like those featured here can help our country be better.

The biographies and questions are designed to help adults start conversations with their children about some of the information covered. Google, Youtube, and chat with friends to learn with your children as you take this journey together.

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CLAUDETTE COLVIN



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Claudette Colvin was born on September 5, 1939 and was raised in a poor neighborhood in Montgomery, Alabama. On March 2, 1955 (when Claudette was only 15 years old) she was riding a Montgomery City bus home from school in the "Colored Section" of the bus. The law stated that if the "White Section" of the bus ran out of seats then the Black people were supposed to stand and allow the White person to have their seat. When a White woman got on the bus, the driver commanded Claudette and three other Black people to give up their seats so that the White woman could sit. Claudette refused to move and was arrested by the police on the bus.

Claudette was arrested 9 months before Rosa Parks was. Claudette and Rosa inspired Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others to start the bus boycott that started the modern Civil Rights Movement. Claudette continued to fight for freedom and became a nurse when she grew up. She is now 81 years.

Making Black people stand whenever a White person came on the bus was unfair. Is there anything unfair that you see in your community? _____

Why do you think some people stand up to unfair rules/laws and other people don't? _____

Are you brave like Claudette? Will you stand up for justice?

FANNIE LOU HAMMER



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Fannie Lou Hammer was born in Montgomery County, Alabama on October 6, 1917. When she was 2 years old her family moved to Mississippi where they worked on a plantation as sharecroppers. Sharecropping was usually an unfair way that landowners took advantage of the poor families who lived and worked on their land by paying them little money for their hard work. Fannie Lou started picking cotton on the plantation when she was 6 years old and had to drop out of school at age 12 to work fulltime. When she was 13 years old she was picking 200-300 pounds of cotton per day even with polio.

Fannie Lou stayed and worked on the plantation through her childhood and even after she was an adult. In 1962 she attended a civil rights meeting and learned that as a US citizen she had a right to vote although many Black people were denied that right. She was beaten, threatened, and even arrested when she fought to register and help other people register to vote. Racist White people did not want Black people to vote. In 1964 she gave a powerful and brave speech explaining how she was beaten and jailed just for trying to register to vote. Fannie Lou died in 1977.

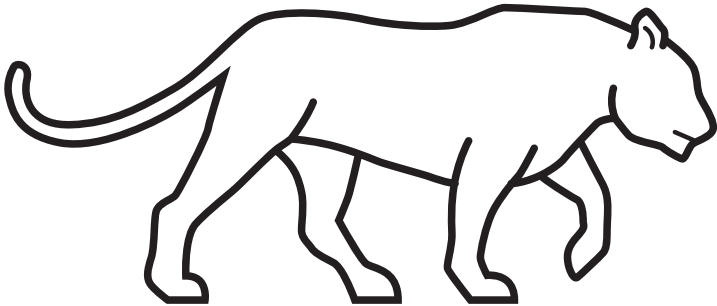
Should everyone be able to vote? Why or why not? _____

Fannie Lou was brave to give a speech after she had already been beaten, why do you think she told her story? _____



KATHLEEN CLEAVER

ALL POWER
TO THE
PEOPLE!



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Kathleen Cleaver was born in Dallas, Texas on May 13, 1945. Her father was a professional in the United States Foreign Service so growing up she lived in India, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and the Philippines. In the mid 1960's while attending college in the US she dropped out of school to work with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC- pronounced "snick"). It was a very important organization in the Civil Rights Movement that was started and ran by college students who were committed and dedicated to the movement. In 1967 she moved to San Francisco, California to join a group started by college students called The Black Panther Party which fought for the fair treatment of Black people in the United States. Once in San Francisco, Kathleen became the first woman to hold a senior leadership position in The Black Panther Party.

Kathleen and her family eventually moved outside of the United States for 12 years because they were constantly bullied by racists who did not like The Black Panther Party and what they fought for. Eventually Kathleen moved back to America and graduated from Yale University and Yale Law School. She is now 75 years old and a law professor at Emory University School of Law in Atlanta, Georgia.

Do you think that women should have the same opportunities in leadership as men? Why or Why Not? _____

School was important for Kathleen so she we went back years after quitting. Why is school important to you? _____

GLORIA RICHARDSON



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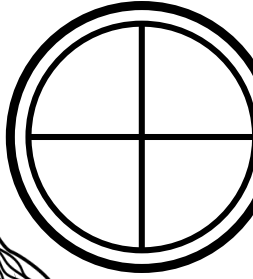
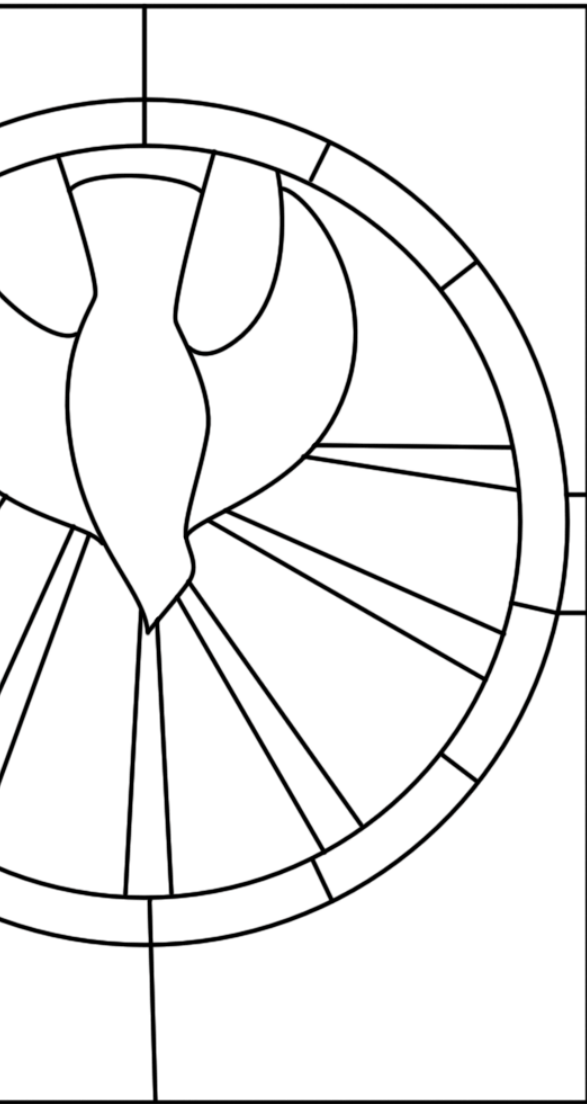
Gloria Richardson was born on May 6, 1922 in Cambridge, Maryland to a very prominent Black family that owned and operated multiple successful businesses. After graduating from Howard University in Washington, DC she returned to Cambridge where she lived and eventually joined the Civil Rights Movement. In 1962 she helped organize the Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee and became its spokesperson.

In 1963 Gloria led weeks of protests with hundreds of people in the streets of Cambridge to fight for Black people to be treated fairly. "Race Street" literally divided the Blacks from the Whites in the city. One day while protesting Gloria heard a loud noise and rushed to the front of hundreds of protestors to find out what happened. Once there she was confronted by an angry police officer jabbing a gun in her face. There is a famous photo of her pushing the gun out of her face. Gloria and her fellow protestors forced the city to end their segregation policies by protesting every day. Gloria was known for being a powerful speaker and confident leader. She spent her life supporting young people in their fights for freedom and equality. She is now 98 years old.

Gloria has explained that she was brave while protesting because of the support of the other protestors that she worked with. Who helps you be brave? _____

What are some things that you can do to help others feel brave when they are in a scary situation? _____

PRATHIA HALL



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Prathia (pronounced Pray-thee-a) Hall was born on January 1, 1940 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and graduated from Temple University in 1962. Prathia was a member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC- pronounced "snick") that was made up of college students and young adults who fought for freedom. She tirelessly fought for the rights of Black people to vote. Some racist White people didn't want Black people to vote but Prathia and her coworkers helped to educate and register people to anyway. This was very dangerous work because the racists who didn't want Black people to vote were sometimes very violent. Once Prathia and some of her coworkers were even struck when people shot into the building that they were meeting in. They all survived.

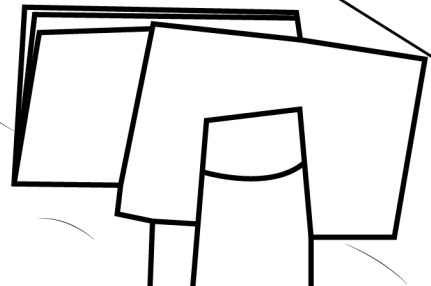
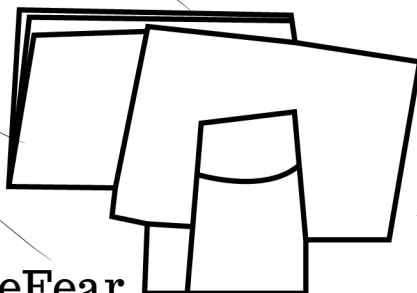
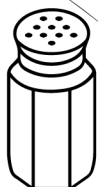
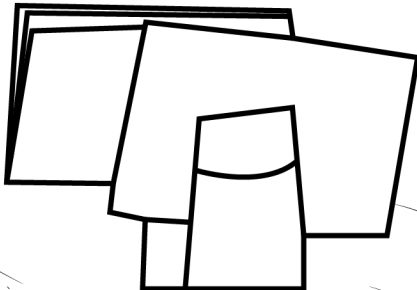
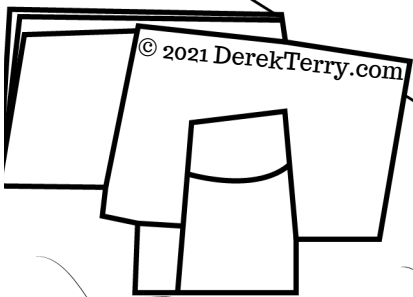
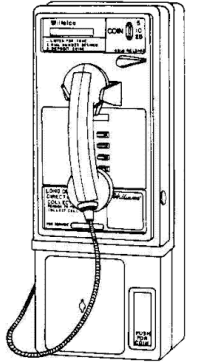
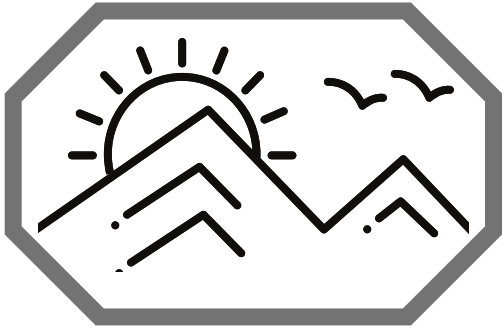
In 1962 Prathia delivered a prayer at a meeting after a Black church was bombed by racists. During that prayer she kept repeating the phrase "I Have a Dream" as she prayed to God for justice and equality. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. happened to be in the audience and later told Prathia that he loved her prayer and the phrase, "I Have a Dream." One year later Dr. King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream Speech" inspired by her. Years later Prathia earned a PhD degree and became a college dean in Dayton, Ohio. She died in 2002.

Prathia used her voice to inspire Dr. King. How can you inspire others like she did? _____

What is your dream for our world? _____



JUDY RICHARDSON



Judy Richardson was born March 10, 1944 in Tarrytown, New York. She was first introduced to the power of organizing and activism by her father who was a respected "union man" at his local United Auto Workers Union. In 1962 she entered college and as a freshman she joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC- pronounced "snick") when she was only 18 years old. SNCC was a very important organization made up of young freedom fighters.

In 1963 Judy left college and moved to Atlanta to work in the SNCC main office where she helped with office duties and participated in sit-ins with other young people. Some restaurants didn't allow Black people to eat in them so SNCC members planned and organized opportunities to go to such places and "sit-in" place until they were served. As they sat, racist restaurant workers/owners grew angry and called the police who then arrested the protestors. Doing this brought attention to the unfair laws that allowed Black people to be denied the same rights as White people. Judy was arrested several times and jailed for 4-5 days at a time because she participated in sit-ins. When she was older, Judy returned to college and graduated. She is now an activist and documentary filmmaker.

Judy used her office work skills to help SNCC fight for freedom. What are you good at that can help make positive changes in the world? _____

How old does a freedom fighter have to be? _____

ELIZABETH ECKFORD

STOP



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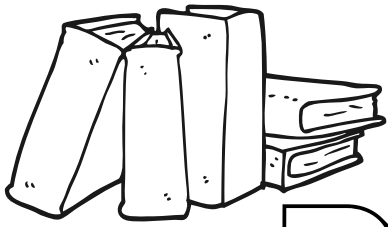
Elizabeth Eckford was born on October 4, 1941 in Little Rock, Arkansas. In September of 1957 when Elizabeth was only 15 years old she was one of the "Little Rock Nine." They were the first Black students to attend the city's all white high school. The morning that the Black students were scheduled to go to the school they planned to meet and walk in together.

Unfortunately, Elizabeth didn't have a home telephone so she rode the city bus and walked to the school alone not knowing of the plan to go together.

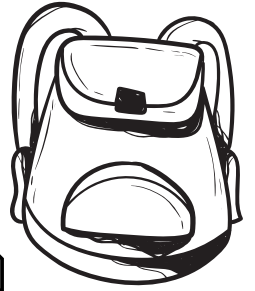
While heading towards the school racist White people yelled threats at Elizabeth who bravely continued alone. Armed guards would not let Elizabeth into the school so the shy young lady pushed through the crowd of angry racists and sat on a bus stop beneath a stop sign to pray and gather her thoughts. While sitting there racists continued to threaten and taunt her. Eventually Elizabeth was able to flee onto a city bus. A few weeks later the Little Rock Nine were escorted into the school by federal troops sent by the President of the United States. They helped to bring changes to schools all over the country and were bullied every day by their racist classmates and even some teachers. Elizabeth later graduated from Central State University in Ohio and now at 79 years old lives back in Little Rock.

How do you think Elizabeth was able to ignore the hateful words and threats at the bus stop? _____

What should we do when we see someone being treated unfairly? _____



RUBY BRIDGES



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Ruby Bridges was born September 8, 1954 in Tylertown, Mississippi where her family lived and worked as sharecroppers. When she was 4 years old her family relocated to New Orleans, Louisiana. When Ruby was 6 years old her parents told her that she was going to go to a new school. That day four tall US Marshals came to their home to take Ruby to her new all White school.

For a year Ruby had to enter and exit the school with the US Marshals as angry racists stood in front of the school and yelled mean things. They also carried signs that had mean things written on them. Only an out of town teacher agreed to teach Ruby and no other students were in her class. Some stayed away because their parents didn't want them in class with a Black child. Some stayed away because their parents were afraid of the mob of protestors around the school. This meant that Ruby was in class with just the teacher for the whole year. Eventually, the protests stopped and by the next year Ruby no longer needed to be escorted by US Marshals. Ruby has been the chair of The Ruby Bridges Foundation which promotes "the values of tolerance, respect, and appreciation of all differences" since starting it in 1999.

Ruby was brave to go to school every day with mobs of people protesting her. What helps you feel brave? _____

What do you think about the one teacher that was willing to teach Ruby when others wouldn't? _____

One word you would use to describe Ruby: _____

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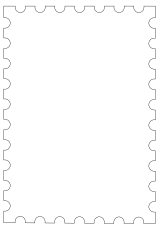


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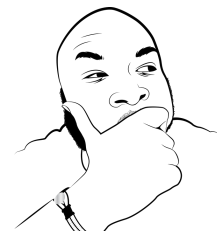
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