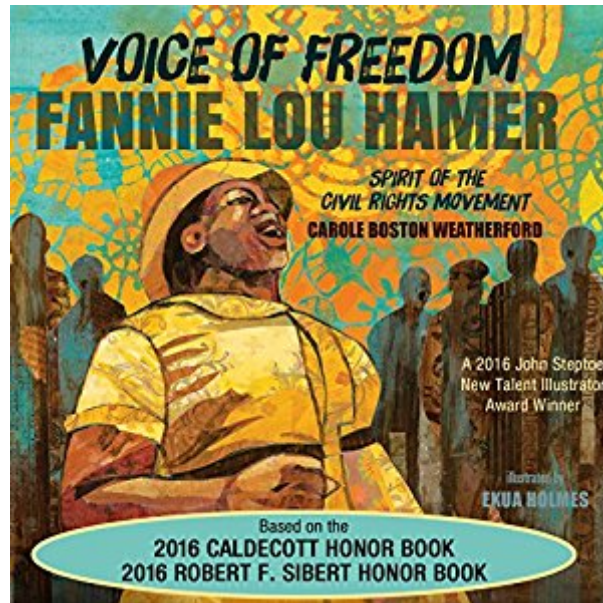


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# Voice Of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer - Spirit Of The Civil Rights Movement



## Synopsis

Despite fierce prejudice and abuse, even being beaten to within an inch of her life, Fannie Lou Hamer was a champion of civil rights from the 1950s until her death in 1977. Integral to the Freedom Summer of 1964, Ms. Hamer gave a speech at the Democratic National Convention that, despite President Johnson's interference, aired on national TV news and spurred the nation to support the Freedom Democrats. Based on the critically acclaimed 2016 Caldecott and Sibert Honor Book and winner of the Boston Globe Horn Book Honor Award, *Voice of Freedom* celebrates Fannie Lou Hamer's life and legacy with a message of hope, determination, and strength.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A Civil Rights story focusing on one of the figures lucky enough to not only survive, but thrive. Fannie Lou Hamer went from being the daughter of sharecroppers billed by their landlord into what was basically slavery. She died a congresswoman and continued fighter for equal rights. While this story doesn't end in a tragic death, it also doesn't pull punches. One of the beatings Hamer suffered while imprisoned during her activist years is portrayed point-blank, her hands trying to cover her face from the kicks of her abusers. And, while the medical side isn't shown, the story of her forced reproductive sterilization is told, which is going to need some explaining to your young listeners. Obviously, this is not a book you can hand to your kids and then go about your own chores. This is a sit-together, long discussion sort of read. But it is especially worth it, and a perfect book to read in response to the terrible racial injustice of today. This shows that equal rights is a process, but a process that is, at least, progressing, and can progress further with out help.

Summary: Fannie Lou Hamer's story is told in her own poetic voice, illustrated with collage renderings of events throughout her life. Born in the Mississippi delta, the youngest of 20 children, Fannie Lou had to drop out of school after sixth grade to work in the cotton fields. She married Perry Hamer and adopted two daughters after being tricked into having an operation to prevent her from being able to have children. In 1962, she attended her first voter registration meeting, unaware that blacks even had the right to vote. Within the year she was deeply involved in the Civil Rights Movement, losing her job and her home as a result. Imprisoned and badly beaten, she refused to give up her work, eventually becoming a national spokesperson for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and addressing the 1964 Democratic National Convention about voter discrimination. Fannie Lou also worked to improve conditions in Mississippi, organizing cotton pickers and starting a Head Start program. She died in 1977. An author's note, timeline, and bibliography are included. 56 pages; grades 5-8. Pros: A powerful story about a poor, uneducated woman who was able to make a difference on a national level. The poetic text perfectly captures Hamer's voice, and is complemented by the large, colorful illustrations. Cons: There's a lot of information here, and even older students may need some historical context to understand all of Hamer's contributions.

A great introduction to an incredible spirit in the civil rights movement. Fannie Lou Hamer has such an amazing story - it's hard to believe the kind of adversity she faced. This picture book gives an overview of her amazing life, complete with some fantastic artwork.

I give Voice of Freedom Fannie Lou Hamer 4.5 out of 5 Stars. This really is a fantastic biography book written in poetry verse. The text is beautiful, though at times a bit confusing hence the .5 rating subtraction, and the pictures are stunning. I love the simple yet complex and full of depth paper collage illustrations. They fit the poetry verse text so perfectly. All in all, I really enjoyed this informational picture book. I loved learning about a new aspect of the civil rights movement. I loved having the first person perspective; this perspective allowed me to really connect with what Fannie was feeling and experiencing. I loved how the picture book covers Fannie's life from 6 years old to a year before her death so that I could really see the whole picture. I'm amazed Fannie's mother had 20 kids. I can't even imagine being pregnant that many times. ;) I really enjoyed this book, and I think the colors and pictures are well deserving of the Caldecott award. I did mention that the text was a tad confusing at times. I feel that the lowest grade level I would go with this book is 5th grade b/c of the text, but I really only say 5th grade b/c they study US History. Therefore, a class or parent

read aloud or study of this book would be best for 5th graders. I do think 6th grade through 9th grade would benefit the most from this book, and it is a perfect book for a class study during Black History Month or during a Martin Luther King Day celebration. Though, I also think it's a great book for any month or day recognizing amazing women and the many things they accomplished. Fannie was amazing; she is tough and smart. Fannie's determination, persistence, courage, and dedication were truly inspiring. Go check this great non-fiction book out! For more book reviews: [...]

This incredible book has helped me teach my white daughter about the horror of Jim Crow, the resiliency of the human spirit and how the bravery of one person can help change the world. Fanny Lou Hamer's life story is told in short, very touching vignettes that perfectly show what it was like to live in poverty as a share cropper and blaze trails in the civil rights movement. Each story is illustrated with beauty and emotion. Whether or not you have ever heard of Fanny Lou Hamer, buy this book for yourself, a child, a teacher, a parent. As a parent and teacher myself, this book is the new standard for teaching history, empathy, and social activism.

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