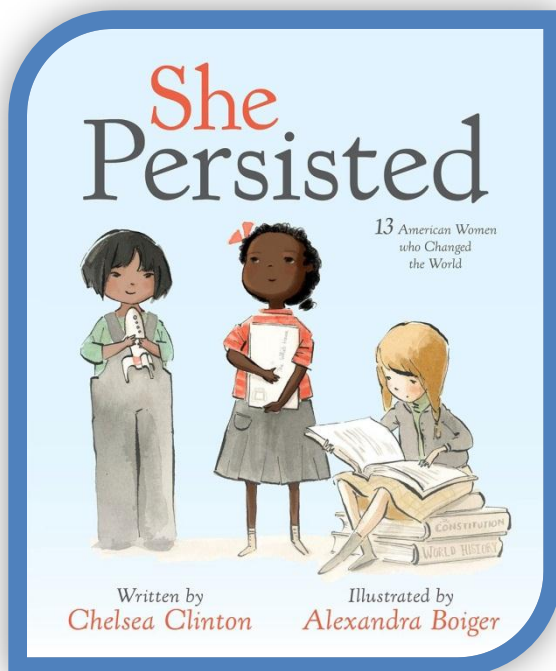




Book of the Month

Presented by ADL's Education Division

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.



She Persisted

Chelsea Clinton (Author), Alexandra Boiger (Illustrator)

ISBN: 978-1524741723

Publisher: Philomel Books

Year Published: 2017

Age Range: 4–8

Book Themes

Persistence, Notable women, Social justice

About the Book

Throughout U.S. history, there have always been women who have spoken out for what's right, even when they have to fight to be heard. In early 2017, Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren's refusal to be silenced in the U.S. Senate inspired a spontaneous celebration of women who persevered in the face of adversity. This book celebrates thirteen U.S. women who helped shape our country through their tenacity, sometimes through speaking out, sometimes by staying seated, sometimes by captivating an audience. They all certainly persisted. This book features: Harriet Tubman, Helen Keller, Clara Lemlich, Nellie Bly, Virginia Apgar, Maria Tallchief, Claudette Colvin, Ruby Bridges, Margaret Chase Smith, Sally Ride, Florence Griffith Joyner, Oprah Winfrey and Sonia Sotomayor.

Conversation Starters

[**Note:** You can explain the origin of the title of the book by first reading the front page: “Inspired by Elizabeth Warren and in celebration of all women who persist every day.” Explain that Elizabeth Warren is a U.S. Senator from Massachusetts who, in 2017, was giving a speech about how she did not support Senator Jeff Sessions who was a nominee for Attorney General in President Trump’s administration. Other Senators tried to stop Senator Warren from speaking by saying her speech was too long. Kentucky Senator Mitch McConnell and then Senate Majority Leader said, “She was warned. She was given an explanation. Nevertheless, she persisted.” After she was stopped from continuing, Senator Warren went outside the Senate chamber and continued to speak, which included her reading aloud a 1986 letter written by Coretta Scott King, the wife of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. The term “she persisted” went viral on social media as a way of highlighting how women have to persist when others try to silence them. Depending on the age of your children, you can determine how much of this to share and also simplify your language for younger children.]

Whether you read the book aloud or children read 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?
- What do all of the women have in common and how are they different?
- What does persistence mean to you? Who do you know who is persistent, and how do you know? (If necessary, explain what persistence is by using the definition in the first talking point below.)
- Have you ever had to be persistent about something? What happened?
- Had you heard of any of the women before reading the book? What new information did you learn?
- Is there one woman who you especially related to and if so, why?
- Do any of the quotes or words the women said stand out for you? If so, which one and why?
- Why do you think the book is called *She Persisted*?
- What do you think was the message of the book?

Talking Points

Below are some important considerations to highlight in order to make this a learning opportunity for your child and your family.

1. Persistence

Begin the conversation by asking children why they think the book is called, *She Persisted*. Talk about what persistence is and define it in your own words or use this definition: “continuing to do something or to try to do something even though it is difficult or other people may want you to stop.” Talk about the ways in which each of the women in the book use persistence and how that helped them achieve or do something important. Ask children if they can think of any situations or examples when they were persistent, which could be something small or large, and share your own experiences with persistence. Also, explore situations in which it may have been difficult to be persistent and why that was.

2. Women's History Month

Explain to your children that the month of March is Women's History Month—an annual celebration of the history, achievements and contributions of women in the U.S. Tell them the reason a month is dedicated to honoring women's history is because sometimes women are not included when we discuss and teach history due to sexism and exclusion. This is also true for other themed months such as Black History and National Hispanic Heritage Month. You can also add that several of the women in this book were the “first woman” to do something in their field (e.g. Margaret Chase Smith, Sally Ride) or the women were told they couldn't do something because they were a woman. You can learn more about women who have broken barriers by doing online research or reading books (including those from the lists below) together. One modern day example is Hillary Clinton, who was the first woman ever to run for President on a major party ticket. Share that the book's author is Clinton's daughter. Talk with your child about the importance of overcoming obstacles and how difficult they can be because of sexism and stereotypes (the false idea that all members of a group are the same and think and behave in the same way) people have about women. Discuss why stereotypes are unfair and explain that it is important we work to challenge stereotypes and encourage all people to express themselves, explore their interests, and follow their dreams regardless of sexism and stereotypes.

3. Social Justice

Several of the women highlighted in the book (e.g. Harriet Tubman, Clara Lemlich and Sonia Sotomayor) took on social justice causes and, as a result, changed the world. Talk with your child about the importance of being aware of unfairness and injustice in the world and that we can all make a difference in bringing about social progress and change. You can also say that several of these women were activists. If they don't know what an activist is, explain that an activist is someone who gets involved in activities that are meant to achieve political or social change. Talk together about the ways some of the women in the book were activists. Convey the idea that throughout history, activism has brought about social change in a variety of ways; and activism also provides an opportunity for people to feel like they can do something and are not powerless in the face of injustice. You can also discuss what issues in their world concern them and identify ways they can do something about those issues.

Other Books You May Like

I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark by Debbie Levy, www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/i-dissent-ruth-bader-ginsburg-makes-her-mark

Malala Yousafzai: Warrior with Words by Karen Leggett Abouraya, www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/malala-yousafzai-warrior-with-words

Rad American Women A-Z: Rebels, Trailblazers, and Other Visionaries Who Shaped Our History...and Our Future by Kate Schatz, www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/rad-american-women-a-z-rebels-trailblazers-and

Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx by Jonah Winter, www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/sonia-sotomayor-a-judge-grows-in-the-bronx

ADL Additional Resources

The following are curriculum and resources on gender, women's history and social activism.

Curriculum Resources

7 Ideas for Teaching Women's History Month, www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/lesson-plans/7-ideas-for-teaching-womens-history-month

Mo'Ne Davis and Gender Stereotypes, www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/lesson-plans/mone-davis-and-gender-stereotypes

Websites

10 Ways Youth Can Engage in Activism

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.

Definitions Related to Bias, Injustice and Bullying

www.adl.org/education/resources/glossary-terms/definitions-related-to-bias-injustice-and-bullying

A listing of terms and definitions relating to bias, diversity, bullying and social justice concepts written for elementary-age children.

Parent, Family and Caregiver Resources

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

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. Specifically, see "How Can I Prevent Gender Bias in Young Children?" at www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/question-corner/bullying-among-young-children

Table Talk: Family Conversations about Current Events

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.

Women's History Month Resources

www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/womens-history-month-resources

A list of PreK-12 curriculum and other educational resources to bring Women's History Month to classrooms and schools.

Children's Books

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

Gender & Sexism, [www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?tid\[171\]=171&tid\[175\]=175](http://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?tid[171]=171&tid[175]=175)

Social Justice: Women's Rights, [www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?subsocial=womens-rights&tid\[230\]=230&tid\[237\]=237](http://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?subsocial=womens-rights&tid[230]=230&tid[237]=237)