

In this unit, students will learn about several ordinary people who stood up for what they believed in and who fought for a cause, even when faced with immeasurable odds.

### What's the story?

Students will learn about some key historical figures who fought for various causes, such as the **abolition of slavery**, the **right for women to vote**, and the **welfare of migrant workers**. They helped change many laws, and they all practiced **nonviolence**.

### What will my student learn?

Students will learn how historical figures, including **Cesar Chavez**, **Eleanor Roosevelt**, and **Jackie Robinson**, impacted the ability of others in the United States to exercise their **individual rights**. They will also learn the terms **civil rights** and **human rights** and what they mean. Students will explore the connection between ideas and actions, and how **ordinary people can do extraordinary things**.

In this domain, students will have the chance to **write free verse poetry** to express their thoughts and opinions. They will also **revise, edit, and publish** one of their poems.

### Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. What are some of the civil rights we are guaranteed by the United States?  
**Follow up:** Why were certain groups of people excluded from some of these rights throughout American history? What do you think it means to fight for what you believe in?
2. Who was Susan B. Anthony? (also Eleanor Roosevelt, Martin Luther King Jr., Jackie Robinson, Mary McLeod Bethune, Rosa Parks, and Cesar Chavez)  
**Follow up:** How did he/she help people? What causes did he/she fight for? What did he/she accomplish? What do you admire about him/her?
3. In what ways was Jackie Robinson similar to Susan B. Anthony, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Mary McLeod Bethune?  
**Follow up:** How was the way Jackie Robinson fought for civil rights different from the way the others did?
4. Can you think of or share a time you had to fight for something that you believed in?  
**Follow up:** Tell me about it. How did it feel? What did you accomplish?