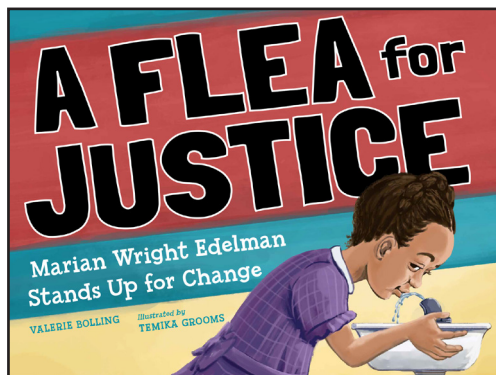


# A FLEA<sup>for</sup> JUSTICE

## ACTIVITY KIT

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978-1-62354-582-6 HC  
by Valerie Bolling, illustrated by TeMika Grooms  
e-book available

### About the Book

Growing up under segregation, Marian Wright Edelman knows it's not fair that Black kids like her have to drink from different fountains—so she switches the signs whenever she can. Just like her hero, Sojourner Truth, Marian pushes for change even when it's uncomfortable. She makes people itch, just like a flea. She becomes the first Black woman lawyer in Mississippi and creates the Children's Defense Fund, which continues to be a voice for poor children, children of color, and children with disabilities today. Her story reminds readers of all ages that there are many ways, big and small, to make a difference.

### About the Author

Valerie Bolling is an award-winning educator with more than thirty years of experience and the author of many books for children. Her picture books include *I See Color*; *Let's Dance!*; *Together We Ride*; *Together We Swim* (a Kirkus Prize finalist); *Ride, Roll, Run: Time for Fun!*; and *Bing, Bop, Bam: Time to Jam!* Valerie is also the author of the early-reader series *Rainbow Days*. Valerie lives in Connecticut with her husband.



### About the Illustrator

TeMika Grooms is a writer and illustrator passionate about creating stories for young readers. She grew up in a military family rooted in the southern United States. She now lives near Atlanta, Georgia, a city with civil rights justice woven into its fabric.



# A FLEA<sup>for</sup> JUSTICE

## ACTIVITY KIT

## Discussion Questions

Use these conversation starters to get kids thinking and learning.

### Before Reading

1. After looking at the cover of the book and reading the title and subtitle, ask kids what they think *A Flea for Justice* is about. Write their responses on chart paper.
2. The girl on the cover of this book is drinking from a water fountain. What do kids think this image means? Does it remind them of other images they've seen? What does the girl's expression convey?
3. What does the image on the back of this book show? Have kids ever participated in an event like the one shown here?

### During and After Reading

1. Revisit the predictions kids made before reading. What predictions (if any) were correct? Did *A Flea for Justice* surprise them?
2. Where did the title of this book come from? Who inspired Marian to stand up for change?
3. Marian grew up during segregation—a system of laws that separated Black people and white people. How did segregation negatively impact Marian and other Black people in her community?
4. How did Marian and others fight against segregation? Do you see people using similar tactics today to fight for change in their communities?
5. What is the Children's Defense Fund? Take a look at their website [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org) and discuss the work this organization does. Why did Marian Wright Edelman prioritize children in her work?
6. What are Freedom Schools? Do kids attend Freedom Schools or know someone who does? How does education help to change the world for the better?
7. Marian's own words appear throughout this book in blue. Why did the author include Marian's voice in this way? Invite kids to choose a favorite quote from Marian and share why it is meaningful to them in small groups.

# A FLEA for JUSTICE

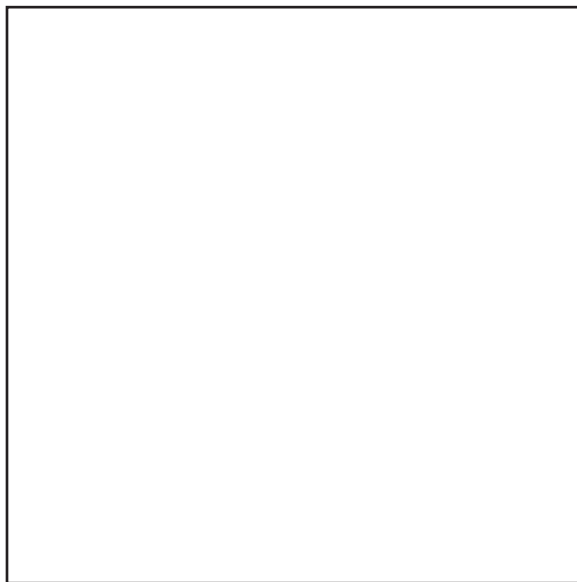
## ACTIVITY KIT

### Who Inspires You?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Marian Wright Edelman was inspired by Sojourner Truth. Who inspires you? Draw their portrait in the space below and write about why this person inspires you.



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# A FLEA for JUSTICE

## ACTIVITY KIT

### A Book Every Week

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

At Freedom Schools, students receive a new book every week. What books do you want to read? Use the space below to build a summer reading wish list—and when you're done, see if you can find the books at your local library!

## MY SUMMER READING LIST

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

# A FLEA for JUSTICE

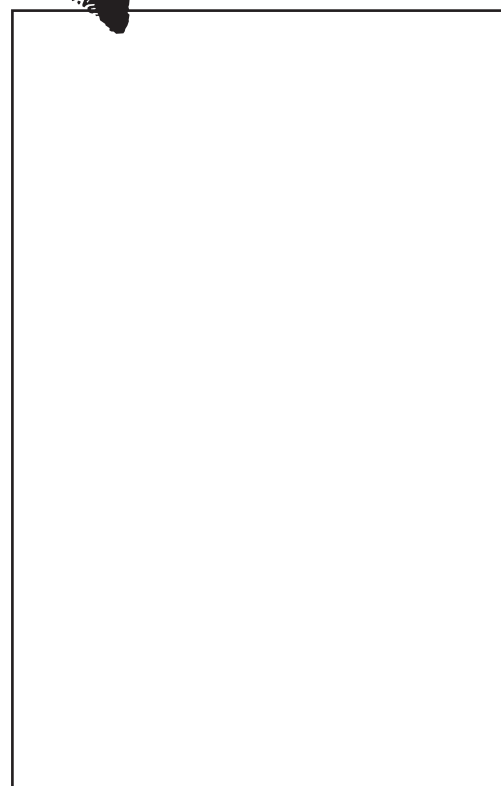
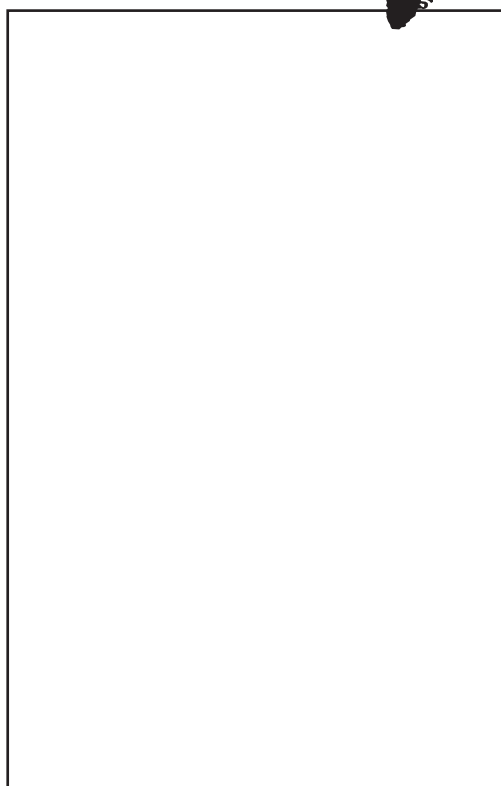
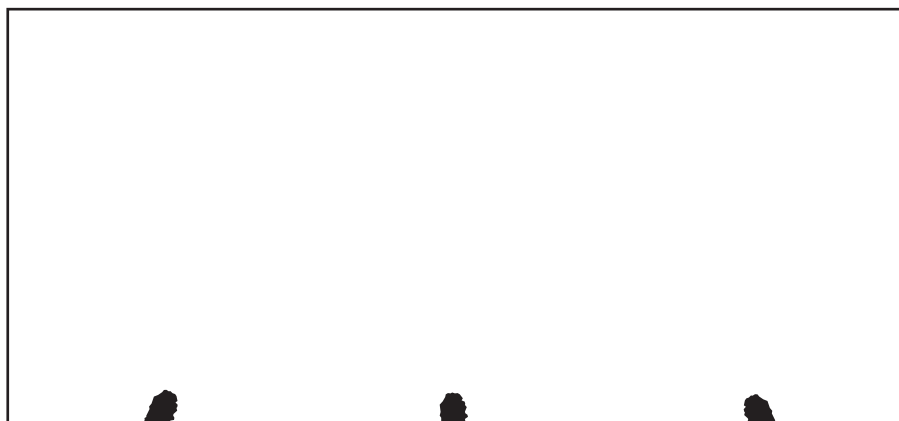
## ACTIVITY KIT

### Being a Flea

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

In the first box, write a cause you care about, such as the environment or voting rights. Use the spaces below to write about three ways you can be a flea for justice to advance that cause.



# A FLEA for JUSTICE

## ACTIVITY KIT

### Who Marched with Marian?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the profiles below with information about the people who, like Marian Wright Edelman, were activists in the Civil Rights Movement.

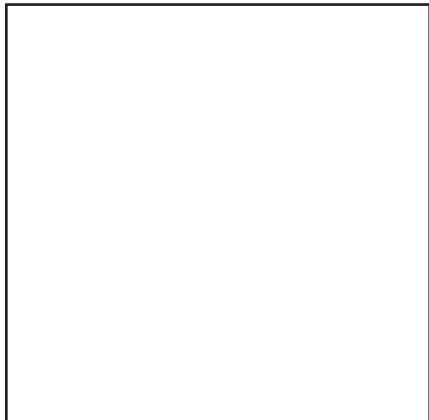


Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 1929-1968

A Black church leader who led protest

marches for desegregation and the right to

vote. First president of the SCLC.

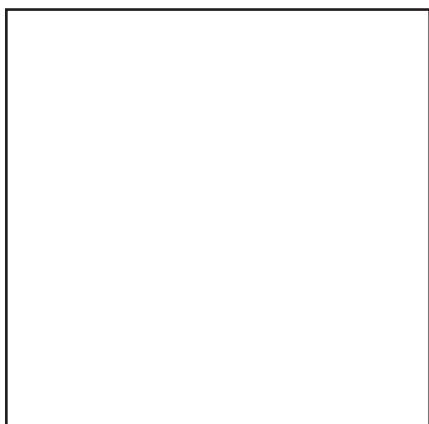


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# **A FLEA<sup>for</sup> JUSTICE**

## **ACTIVITY KIT**

### **A Sign for Change**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

In the space below, create a protest sign for a cause you care about. You can use words, pictures, or both to share your message.

# A FLEA for JUSTICE

## ACTIVITY KIT

## Further Reading

Make connections and enrich the learning experience with these additional resources!

### About Marian Wright Edelman

Edelman, Marian Wright, and Barry Moser. *I Can Make a Difference: A Treasury to Inspire Our Children*. HarperCollins, 2005.

Edelman, Marian Wright, and Adrienne Yorinks. *Stand for Children*. Little, Brown, 1998.

### About the Civil Rights Movement

Avery, Jaha Nailah, and Steffi Walthall. *I Heard: An American Journey*. Charlesbridge, 2024.

Wittenstein, Barry, and London Ladd. *Waiting for Pumpsie*. Charlesbridge, 2017.

Littlestugar, Amy, and Floyd Cooper. *Freedom School, Yes!* Philomel, 2025.

Shelton, Paula Young, and Raul Colón. *Child of the Civil Rights Movement*. Schwartz & Wade, 2010.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis, and Brian Pinkney. *Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down*. Little, Brown, 2010.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis, and Stephen Alcorn. *Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters*. Clarion, 2013.

Respress-Churchwell, Gloria, and Laura Freeman. *Follow Chester! A College Football Team Fights Racism and Makes History*. Charlesbridge, 2019.

Rhuday-Perkovich, Olugbemisola, and Jade Johnson. *Someday Is Now: Clara Luper and the 1958 Oklahoma City Sit-Ins*. Seagrass, 2018.

Rippon, Jo. *Rise Up! The Art of Protest*. Charlesbridge, 2020.

Evans, Shane W. *We March*. Square Fish, 2016.

Wallace, Sandra Neil, Rich Wallace, and Charly Palmer. *The Teachers March! How Selma's Teachers Changed History*. Astra, 2020.

Weatherford, Carole Boston, and Ekua Holmes. *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement*. Candlewick, 2015.

### About Modern Activism

Bryon, Nathan, and Dapo Adeola. *Rocket Says Speak Up!* Random House, 2023.

Clinton, Chelsea. *Start Now! You Can Make a Difference*. Puffin, 2020.

Gorman, Amanda, and Loren Long. *Change Sings: A Children's Anthem*. Viking, 2021.

Joyner, Andrew. *Stand Up! Speak Up!* Schwartz & Wade, 2020.

Metcalf, Lindsay H., Keila V. Dawson, and Jeanette Bradley. *No Voice Too Small: Fourteen Young Americans Making History*. Charlesbridge, 2020.

Metcalf, Lindsay H., Keila V. Dawson, and Jeanette Bradley. *No World Too Big: Young People Fighting Global Climate Change*. Charlesbridge, 2023.

Nagara, Innosanto. *A Is for Activist*. Triangle Square, 2016.

Sorell, Traci, and Frané Lessac. *We Are Still Here! Native American Truths Everyone Should Know*. Charlesbridge, 2021.

Zimmerman, Virginia, and Mary Newell DePalma. *Pink: A Women's March Story*. Running Press Kids, 2022.