

A Picture Book of Eleanor Roosevelt

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ABOUT THE STORY

When she was just a little girl, Eleanor Roosevelt learned about the importance of helping others. After marrying Franklin Delano Roosevelt and becoming the First Lady in 1905, she had several opportunities to help other people. She helped the hungry during the Great Depression and worked to gain rights for women and minorities. After her husband's death, she worked for the United Nations and was chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights. This book reads like a storybook, yet factually outlines the major accomplishments in Eleanor's life.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born and raised in New York City, David A. Adler attended Queens College and received his B.A. in 1968 and his business degree in 1971. He has worked as a math teacher, written for a financial newsletter, and served as a senior book editor of books for young readers at a publishing house. He is best known for his "Cam Jansen" series of books and his "A Picture Book of" biography series.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Born in Jersey City, NJ, Robert Casilla studied at the School of Visual Arts in New York City and received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree there. He has illustrated several multicultural children's books, as well as a number of biographies for children. He works from his studio at his home in Yonkers, New York where he lives with his wife and children.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Explain that Eleanor Roosevelt was the wife of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and although she didn't have a very happy childhood, she overcame her difficulties and went on to become a strong advocate for women and minorities. She spent much of her life helping others.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- Why Did Eleanor have to live with her grandmother?
- What important lesson did Eleanor learn at Allenswood?
- What did Eleanor do when she joined the Junior League?
- Why didn't Eleanor's wedding guests pay attention to the bride and groom?
- How did Eleanor help singer Marian Anderson?
- What role did Eleanor play after the war to ensure peace?

Vocabulary

Be sure students have an understanding of the following terms. Depending on age, simply discuss the terms, or have children look them up in a dictionary.

boarding school	campaign	political	devotion
Minorities	headmistress	elected	governor
homeless	mourned	motto	United Nations
representative	Lincoln Memorial	Commission on Human Rights	

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Social Studies: A Bit of History

During the Depression and World War II, President Roosevelt broadcast radio shows every week to the people of the United States. Ask your local library to help you locate a recording of one of these "fireside" chats. Assemble children in a circle and replicate an evening at home while playing the recording for the children. Ask for reactions, discuss.

Social Studies: Fostering Tolerant Children

Define and discuss discrimination and prejudice. Ask children to think about singer Marian Anderson. Why wouldn't she be allowed to sing for the Daughters of the American Revolution? Does it make a difference what color skin she has? Have children do role-playing skits where they take turns playing a minority figure not allowed to sing, ride the bus, use the water fountain, etc. Discuss their feelings.

Music Appreciation: Marian Anderson Sings

Play a recording of Marian Anderson singing. Remind the children that Eleanor defended Marian when she was told she couldn't sing for the Daughters of the American Revolution because she had black skin, and arranged for her to sing in front of thousands on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Have children critique Marian Anderson's style of singing. Examine and discuss lyrics. Replicate general rhythms by clapping hands or humming in time.

Math: A Timeline to Remember

Use the "Important Dates" section in the back of the book to create a time line. Ask children to answer word problems based on the time line (Example: If Eleanor was born in 1884 and got married in 1905, how old was she when she got married?), or give children blank time lines and have them fill in important dates.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Using "Eleanor Roosevelt" as the keyword, have children locate various pieces of biographical information about her (picture of her, picture of White House, information on her role with the United Nations, etc.) Assemble printed information into a class book or bulletin board display. Other keywords to search for extension activities could include *United Nations*, *Daughters of the American Revolution*, *president*, or *first ladies*.