



I Could Do That!: Esther Morris Gets Women the Vote

Written by Linda Arms White
Illustrated by Nancy Carpenter

Book Description

Grades 3-8 | Biography

This picture book biography chronicles the life of Esther Morris, hatmaker, business owner, mother, wife, and suffragist, who was instrumental in getting women the right to vote in Wyoming Territory. “I could do that!” was Esther’s battle cry when people told her she wasn’t allowed to do certain things. A story about a woman with bold determination, this picture book makes a great read-aloud with its cheery dialogue and colorful, humorous illustrations.

Discussion Questions

- What kinds of things did Esther learn by example in her own family growing up?
- How did Esther handle challenges in do something?
- Why did Esther want to vote?
- What personal characteristics did Esther have that you also have? How did these characteristics help Esther accomplish her goals? How might they help you?
- What things would you like to do or change today? What’s the first step you can take to start working on them?

Utah Connection

Wyoming Territory was the first to grant women voting rights, in December 1869. Utah Territory granted women the vote several weeks later, on February 12, 1870. Women in Salt Lake City voted two days after that, making them the first women to vote in the modern nation. Many women in Utah were like Esther Morris, fighting for their rights, running for and serving in political offices, and involving themselves in their local communities.



This mural depiction of women first voting in Utah, by painter David Koch, hangs in the Utah Capitol Building. Seraph Young, the first woman to vote in Utah and the modern nation, is center wearing the yellow dress.