

# Better Days 2020 Reading Club

## WEEK 5

### FROM MANNISH RADICALS TO FEMINIST HEROES: SUFFRAGISTS IN POPULAR CULTURE

For the reading club this week, we're jumping back in time and looking at the entire span of women's suffrage history through pictures. This article is by Allison K. Lange, and she creates an incredible timeline of how the depiction of American suffragists had changed throughout the movement. She explains how anti-suffrage images reflected how many Americans perceived female activists. The main tactic used against suffragists was to paint them as women without femininity, who were against life in the home and too hysterical to have a place in politics.

Because of this, suffrage organizations began to depict and photograph and their leaders as loving mothers and competent voters. As the suffrage movement grew more popular, suffragists built nationwide visual campaigns to establish their platform. They showed themselves as fashionable, respectable, and rational, changing the way Americans thought of political women.

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- How did anti-suffrage imagery depict suffragists?
- How did suffragists react to the imagery created to mock them? What images did they create?
- What groups were often marginalized by suffragists' efforts to gain favor with the American public?