March: Book One

AUTHORS: John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, Nate Powell
PUBLISHER: Top Shelf Productions
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GENRE: Graphic Novel, Biography
SETTING: The settings are Washington, D.C. and the state of Alabama before and during the Civil Rights Movement.

SUMMARY: Representative John Lewis (GA-5) reflects on his long road from his father’s small farm in Pike County, Alabama to his rise to the House of Representatives in this autobiographical graphic novel. His journey includes his memory of the arrest of Rosa Parks, enduring non-violence training in preparation for the lunch counter sit-ins, meeting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the escalation of the Civil Rights Movement. March: Book One is a story of peace over violence and perseverance over limitations.

BOOK TALK: March: Book One is a biographical graphic novel that follows the life of U.S. Representative John Lewis from his humble beginnings as the son of a sharecropper to his career as one of the most influential leaders of our Democratic Party today. Growing up as a black man in the south during the 1960s, Lewis took part in lunch counter sit-ins and the Freedom Rides before becoming a United States Congressman. This story alternates between Lewis’ younger years and the day Barack Obama was inaugurated as President of the United States.

BOOK TRAILERS:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPVlbcKkk9E (Unofficial by JD Smith)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Me_vev1Kyo (Unofficial by Laurel Johnson)

AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:
AUTHOR'S NAME: Representative John Lewis
Author’s Website: https://johnlewis.house.gov

Other books written by the author:
March: Book Two (March #2)
Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement
Across That Bridge: Life Lessons and a Vision for Change

Other information: John Lewis was born on February 21, 1940 near Troy, Alabama. Inspired by the acts of Rosa Parks and the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., Lewis became an integral part of the Civil Rights Movement, organizing lunch counter sit-in in Nashville, Tennessee and taking part in the Freedom Rides of the 1960s. While he endured numerous arrests, threats, and violent attacks, Lewis remained committed to the idea of change through nonviolent means. His political life
began in 1981, when he was elected to the Atlanta City Council. Just five years later, he became
the U.S. Representative of Georgia’s Fifth Congressional Districts, where he continues his
service to this day.

SIMILAR BOOKS/BOOKS WITH A SIMILAR THEME:
Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement by Ann Bausum
March: Book Two by John Lewis (graphic novel)
Martin Luther King, Jr.: Great Civil Rights Leader by Jennifer Fandel (graphic novel)
Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott by Connie Colwell Miller (graphic novel)
Who Was Martin Luther King, Jr.? by Bonnie Bader

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
1. Prior to the initiation of the lunch counter sit-ins, John Lewis and the other participants
   endure intense training in non-violent responses. Why?
2. John Lewis mentions several historical figures as inspiration for his involvement in the Civil
   Rights Movement. Who are these people and what role did they play in Lewis’ development as
   an activist? Who are some people who inspire you?
3. March: Book One alternates between 2009 and Lewis’ younger life. Why do you think the
   author chose to present his story in this manner?
4. How did going to college influence Lewis and his belief in the importance of the Civil Rights
   Movement?

ACTIVITIES WITH STANDARDS:

Language Arts

- Research John Lewis
  Research the impact John Lewis had on the evolution of the U.S. political landscape in
  the post-Civil Rights Movement era.

Conduct short research assignments and tasks to build knowledge about the research process and the topic under study.
- Formulate a research question (e.g., In what ways did Madame Walker influence Indiana’s society?).
- Gather relevant information from multiple sources, and annotate sources.
- Assess the credibility of each source.
- Quote or paraphrase the information and conclusions of others.
- Avoid plagiarism and provide basic bibliographic information for sources.
- Present information, choosing from a variety of formats.
Timeline Comparisons
Create three timelines comparing the lives of John Lewis, Martin Luther King, Jr., and a third person who was active in the civil rights movement.

Standard 6.1.18
Create and compare timelines that identify major people, events, and developments in the history of individual civilizations and/or countries that comprise Europe and the Americas.

Challenging Words
inauguration (p. 17)
congregation (p. 28)
segregation (p. 54)
desegregation (p. 70)
humanity (p. 82)
humiliating (p. 83)
legitimate (p. 84)
establishment (p. 101)
intimidate (p. 116)