



Unit: Women

Lesson 3.7: *The Ballot Box Battle* by Emily Arnold McCully (Alfred A. Knopf, 1996)

Aim: To practice note taking skills, learn about the life of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and write a persuasive letter.

Objective: Students listen to the picture book biography of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, practice note taking, and incorporate new knowledge into a persuasive letter.

Materials:

1. *The Ballot Box Battle* by Emily Arnold McCully (Alfred A. Knopf, 1996)
2. Optional: Portrait of Elizabeth Cady Stanton
<http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/civilwar/cwdoc097.html>

Procedure:

1. Show class the cover of the book and ask: What do you think the title means? What is a ballot? A ballot box?
2. Tell the group that you will read the book twice. The first time, they should just listen and look at the pictures.
3. Read the book a second time without sharing the pictures. Instruct students to take notes about anything they think is important.
4. Ask students to answer two of the three questions below in short paragraphs:
 - a) Compare and contrast the characters of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Cordelia.
 - b) What events in Stanton's early life might explain her determination to show the world that women are equal to men?
 - c) What arguments does Stanton give to show she has just as much right to vote as any man?
5. Ask students to use the information from the biography to write a letter to Congress in Stanton's voice to convince them to pass a law for women to vote.