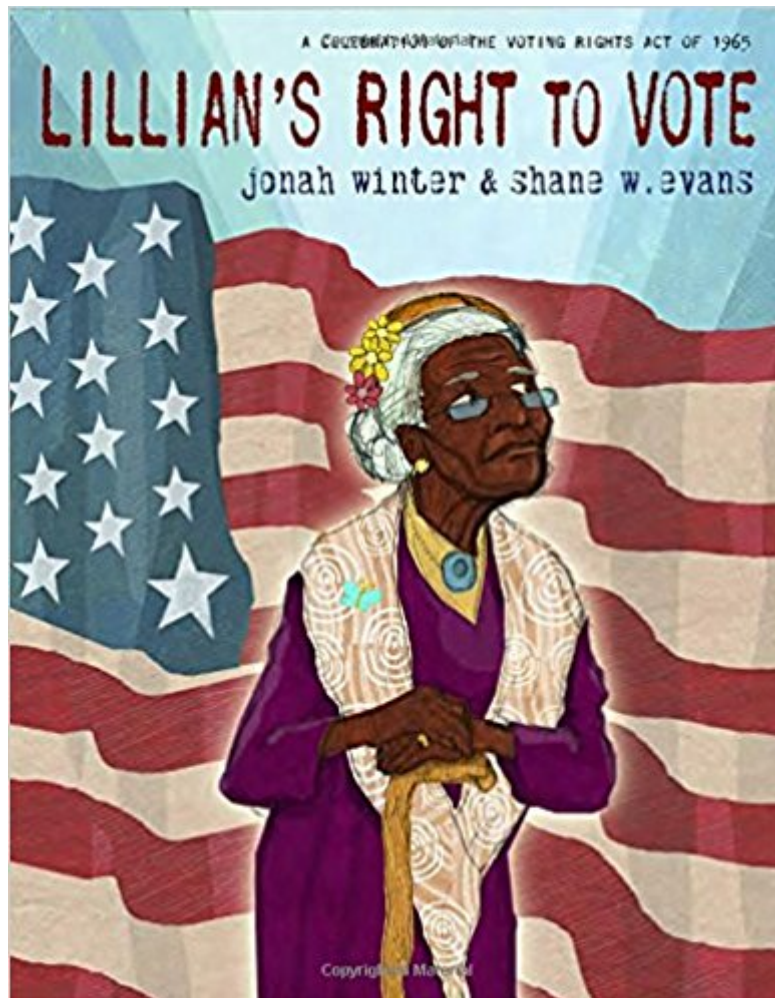




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# Lillian's Right To Vote: A Celebration Of The Voting Rights Act Of 1965



## Synopsis

An elderly African American woman, en route to vote, remembers her family's tumultuous voting history in this picture book publishing in time for the fiftieth anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. As Lillian, a one-hundred-year-old African American woman, makes a long haul up a steep hill to her polling place, she sees more than trees and sky—she sees her family's history. She sees the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment and her great-grandfather voting for the first time. She sees her parents trying to register to vote. And she sees herself marching in a protest from Selma to Montgomery. Veteran bestselling picture-book author Jonah Winter and Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award winner Shane W. Evans vividly recall America's battle for civil rights in this lyrical, poignant account of one woman's fierce determination to make it up the hill and make her voice heard. "Moving.... Stirs up a potent mixture of grief, anger, and pride at the history of black people's fight for access to the ballot box." *The New York Times* "A much-needed picture book that will enlighten a new generation about battles won and a timely call to uphold these victories in the present." *Kirkus Reviews*, Starred "A valuable introduction to and overview of the civil rights movement." *Publishers Weekly*, Starred "An important book that will give you goose bumps." *Booklist*, Starred

## Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #66,680 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #113 in Books > Children's

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in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School

Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect

Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

## Customer Reviews

Gr 1—Lillian may be old, but it's Voting Day, and she's going to vote. As she climbs the hill (both metaphorical and literal) to the courthouse, she sees her family's history and the history of the fight for voting rights unfold before her, from her great-great-grandparents being sold as slaves to the three marches across Selma's famous bridge. Winter writes in a well-pitched, oral language style ("my, but that hill is steep"), and the vocabulary, sentence structure, and font make the book well-suited both for independent reading and for sharing aloud. The illustrations, though, are what truly distinguish this offering. Lillian is portrayed in resolute left-to-right motion, and her present-day, bright red dress contrasts with the faded greens, blues, and grays of the past, sometimes in a direct overlay. A bright yellow sun, which readers may recognize from Evans's illustrations in Charles R. Smith Jr.'s *28 Days: Moments in Black History That Changed the World* (Roaring Brook, 2015), symbolizes hope as it travels across the sky. The story concludes on an emphatic note, with a close-up of Lillian's hand on the ballot lever. An author's note provides historical context, including information about the woman who inspired Lillian (Lillian Allen, who in 2008 at age 100 voted for Barack Obama), and ends by reminding readers that protecting voting rights is still an ongoing issue. VERDICT A powerful historical picture book. —Jill Ratzan, I. L. Peretz Community Jewish School, Somerset, NJ

"Moving.... Stirs up a potent mixture of grief, anger, and pride at the history of black people's fight for access to the ballot box." —The New York Times —A much-needed picture book that will enlighten a new generation about battles won and a timely call to uphold these victories in the present. —Kirkus Reviews, ★ starred review —"The illustrations are what truly distinguish this offering. A powerful historical picture book. —★ —School Library Journal, starred review —"Simple yet powerful, Lillian's narrative transforms a complex topic into an affecting story suitable for a younger audience, making it a perfect introduction to voting and civil rights. An important book that will give you goose bumps. —★ —Booklist, ★ starred review —"Winter's prose has a lofty, oratorical quality...skillfully blending Lillian's individual path to the voting booth with the historical context that made it possible...A valuable introduction to and overview of the civil rights movement. —★ —Publishers Weekly, ★ starred review

Powerfully moving story that shares visually and in text, the long journey experienced by African Americans to obtain the right to vote. Author's notes add to the story telling about the woman who inspired it. I could easily picture her walking up the hills of Pittsburgh to encourage individuals to vote for the first black president. It is an excellent supporting picture book to use with Deborah Wiles' docu-novel 'Revolution.'

Must Read for children.

This is an addition to our library - I am sure that it will not be on the shelf very long

Excellent

This was a powerful book that really places the history of the United States in the limelight and allows young readers to gain a context for the inequality that was pervasive within the country before the passing of this bill. It also shows the long road that Lillian and others had to follow to finally receive the right to vote and become full-fledged Americans. The book is filled with great detail and does not hold back in describing some of the hardships and challenges that people had to overcome to surpass these barriers. The book is honest and open, yet is still appropriate for your readers and it opens up a dialogue for parents to talk with their kids about this part of the United States' history.\*I received this for review - all opinions are my own\*

An especially important book as we approach the 2016 presidential elections, when many people will find themselves again denied the right to vote through artificial means, as this book informs us at the end. We learn a bit about the history of slavery and Jim Crow laws, but the focus is on poll taxes, reading tests, and citizenship quizzes, which were rigged to prevent non-Whites from exercising their rights. The framing device is the titular Lillian, a 100-year-old woman who reminisces on the importance and power of the vote, and on the fights she has seen for civil rights. It's a rather true-to-life story, and is in fact inspired by a 100-year-old woman who was interviewed during the 2008 presidential election. This is a perfect book in the coming months, both in your classroom and at home. It won't be quite so topical immediately following, though, so perhaps this is best as a library borrow, and not a purchase, unless your child has shown a great interest in politics.

Lillian's Right to Vote by Jonah Winter Age Range: 5 - 9 years Grade Level: Kindergarten -

4 Hardcover: 40 pages Publisher: Schwartz & Wade (July 14, 2015) My Review~This is such a

beautifully illustrated book for Kindergarten - 4th grade and even older kids. It is Voting Day and Lillian is an old African American woman who has been alive for a hundred years. She is walking up hill to the Voting building. Along the way she sees her ancestors and the hardships they endured to have voting rights in America. From slavery to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Lillian will take you through the ages with her ancestors and herself to finally be able to vote at the hall. The hardships they endured are remarkable as a race and people. This book will illustrate the hardships yet have a childhood innocence that won't bother children to read. My children and I will re-read this book as a celebration and a piece of history that they will understand the hardships and what a privilege it is to vote in America. I love this book and can't describe how remarkable this book is. Book

Description~~An elderly African American woman, en route to vote, remembers her family's tumultuous voting history in this picture book publishing in time for the fiftieth anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. As Lillian, a one-hundred-year-old African American woman, makes a "long haul up a steep hill" to her polling place, she sees more than trees and sky—she sees her family's history. She sees the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment and her great-grandfather voting for the first time. She sees her parents trying to register to vote. And she sees herself marching in a protest from Selma to Montgomery. Veteran bestselling picture-book author Jonah Winter and Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award winner Shane W. Evans vividly recall America's battle for civil rights in this lyrical, poignant account of one woman's fierce determination to make it up the hill and make her voice heard. "A much-needed picture book that will enlighten a new generation about battles won and a timely call to uphold these victories in the present."

•Kirkus Reviews, Starred

Lillian Allen's great-great-grandparents were sold as slaves. Her family and families like hers, have been marching uphill for decades: to earn freedom, equality, and the right to vote. Miss Lillian voted for the first black president in 2008. To her that was a culmination of her family's journey. I loved the rhythm of the text, the very personal point of view it represents, and the engaging, honest voice. I loved the way this story honors older citizens. The illustrations were masterfully done, supporting the theme of Lillian's physical struggle to reach the voting booth with civil rights struggles. The back matter included context and personal details. I'm not sure I loved the way the story ended, that the youngest readers will understand you vote for someone based on their ideas or character, not on

their physical characteristics, but if this book is thoughtfully used, I think it can be a stirring reminder of our nation's historical heritage and a powerful motivation to get it right going forward.

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