

Welcome!

Grade 2, Unit 10

Fighting for a Cause

Dear Family Member,

In this unit, students will learn about several people who stood up for what they believed in and who fought for a cause, even when faced with immeasurable odds.

What's the story?

Students will learn about some key historical figures who fought for three causes: freedom of **religion**, freedom from **slavery**, and **equal protection** under the law. They helped change many laws, and they all practice **nonviolence**. The lesson will close by learning about some young people who have worked hard to achieve something they think is important.

What will my student learn?

In the first half of the unit, students will learn about key figures who fought for religious freedom and the abolition of slavery. These figures include Queen Esther, William Penn, and William Wilberforce. These lessons provide important background knowledge for students useful in later studies of history and literature, and also showcase people who helped others even at great personal risk to themselves.

In the second half of the unit, students will learn about key figures who fought for civil rights and equal rights under the law for all Americans. These figures include Jackie Robinson, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, and Dr. Hector P. Garcia. Through these lessons, students will explore the connection between ideas and actions and how **ordinary people can do extraordinary things**.

In this unit, students will have the chance to **write free verse poetry** to express their thoughts and opinions and **revise, edit, and publish** one of their poems. They will also **write about an invention** to describe how it helps people and **create a community action plan** to solve a problem.

Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. Who was Queen Esther?
Follow up: How did she help people? What cause did she fight for? What did she accomplish? What do you admire about her?
2. In what ways was Jackie Robinson similar to Rosa Parks?
Follow up: How was the way Jackie Robinson fought for civil rights different from the way others did?
3. Can you think of or share a time you had to fight for something that you believed in?
Follow up: Tell me about it. How did it feel? What did you accomplish?