



TeachersFirst **READING TREKS**

March, Book One

[TeachersFirst Reading Treks Link](#)

Synopsis of Book

This award-winning graphic nonfiction book, part of a trilogy, is the autobiography of U. S. House of Representatives Congressman John Lewis. Told in flashbacks from the early days of his life in the 1930s to the 1960s, the book opens on the day of the first inaugural of Barack Obama. Lewis' life begins as a poor Alabama chicken farmer keenly aware of the inequities of the segregated South. The story continues through his college days in Nashville where he learns about non-violence through his introduction to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Lewis becomes involved in the early civil rights movement by participating in the lunch counter sit-ins and joining the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

Using a Reading Trek to Explore This Book

Reading Treks are a way of creating a virtual field trip of resources about a piece of literature or text. To motivate and enrich student reading, teachers and students can reference this visual collection of web resources and images as they relate to a book.

TeachersFirst has done the hard work for you! Use the activities in this Instructional Strategy Handout and the accompanying Reading Trek Map as you and your students explore this book. And, if you feel inspired, you (or your students) can create your own Reading Trek about this or another book!

Grade Level & Content Areas

Grades 7-12, English Language Arts, English, reading, social studies, history, and geography.
RL = 4.6, Lexile = 760

Common Core State Standards for MS/HS

Reading

- **Informational Text** (key ideas and details and craft and structure)
- **Literature** (key ideas and details and craft and structure)

Writing

- **Text Types and purposes**
- **Research** (to build and present knowledge)

National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

Key Themes

- **Time, Continuity, and Change**
- **Civic Ideals and Practices**
- **Individual Development and Identity**

ISTE: Student Standards

(1) Empowered Learner: Students leverage technology to take an active role in choosing, achieving and demonstrating competency in their learning goals, informed by the learning sciences.

(3) Knowledge Constructor: Students critically curate a variety of resources using digital tools to construct knowledge, produce creative artifacts and make meaningful learning experiences for themselves and others.

(6) Creative Communicator: Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using the platforms, tools, styles, formats and digital media appropriate to their goals.

Using the Reading Trek in Class

This graphic novel provides a powerful, visual way to entice students to read and think about important issues in American history that reverberate today.

1. Using the Reading Trek, explore the time periods of the 1930s and 1960s. In large or small groups, have students work through the Alabama, Tennessee, and the rest of the layers, which are generally chronological. Compare that time period to today.
2. Using the directions from Pike County to Buffalo, have students explore locales along the way and plan a trip.
3. Use the links to learn more about the events in the book that were so pivotal in the life of John Lewis and their social and civic ramifications for today.
4. Extend the information on the map and in the book by having students, individually or in groups, create storyboards, mindmaps, and character maps.

Additional Activities

1. Introduce the book to the whole class using an interactive whiteboard.
2. Have students research more about the book using the Reading Trek as a web quest.
3. Use the Reading Trek for stimulating discussion, asking questions, or for writing prompts.
4. As an assignment or a resource for the class, have individuals or small groups create their Reading Treks of the book or a particular incident or topic in the book or other related historical events or issues.

5. Using an [animation app](#) reviewed in TeachersFirst have students create graphics, cartoons, or animations about an event in their life.

Helpful Resources

- [A Teacher's Guide to March, Book One.](#)
- [Using Graphic Novels In Education, March, Book One](#)
- [NCTE Using Graphic Novels in the Classroom](#)
- [TeachersFirst Martin Luther King - An Integrated Lesson Unit for Primary Classrooms](#)
- [PBS Newshour Black History Month Resources for the Classroom](#)
- [TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: Mapping Across Content Areas with Google](#)
- [Ok2Ask: Seeing is Believing: Make Literature Come Alive with Google Lit Trips](#)