# March: Book Three Study Guide

## March: Book Three by Andrew Aydin, John Lewis, and Nate Powell

# Contents

# Summary

The following version of this book was used to create this study guide: Lewis, John; Aydin, Andrew. March, Book One; Top Shelf Productions, Marietta, Georgia, 2015. Kindle AZW file.

John Lewis is a major force in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, working closely with other notable historic figures such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., John F. Kennedy, and Robert Kennedy. Lewis presents his biography as a graphic novel. He is a congressman by the time Barack Obama is sworn in as America's first black president. Obama's first inauguration is the backdrop for the story of the Civil Rights Movement during the 1960s, told from Lewis's perspective. The book is the third of a three-part series but can be read as a stand-alone book.

The book opens with scenes from a church bombing in Mississippi. The bombing is a protest against the blacks who are calling for equal rights, including the right to vote without fear of reprisal. On the day of the bombing, the church is hosting a youth rally and four little girls are killed in the blast. That event is just one of many violent attacks that happen in the South over the mid-1960s.

As black leaders focus on the right to vote, volunteers join the effort. There are some black leaders who believe bringing white volunteers into the mix is a bad idea, but others believe that a massive influx of volunteers – both white and black – is the logical next step. That train of thought wins out and hundreds arrive in specified regions. Almost immediately, three volunteers fail to arrive at their assigned location. The media and federal government reach heightened levels of interest as the public becomes aware that two of the three missing men are white. The government sends military and FBI agents to search for the men, and their bodies are found weeks later.

Meanwhile, officials decline to provide protection for black protestors. Even while federal officials are searching for the missing volunteers, they do not offer to curb the violence against those insisting on equality for blacks.

Blacks are routinely beaten and intimidated as they continue to protest. Few are swayed by the violence, and most continue to work toward the cause regardless of the threats. Lewis is beaten and hospitalized, and others face similar situations. A woman named Fannie Hamer registers to vote but her family is evicted from their home and the landowner they work for fires them. She is even attacked, which leaves her with a permanent limp. Hamer never stops speaking out, and she is among those who talk at the Democratic Party Convention as blacks seek equal representation for seats on the delegation and candidates. With each new attack, more volunteers arrive. Various groups join the protests, including teachers.

The political and social climates impact the protestors and the individual members. With the death of President John F. Kennedy, many worry whether his successor – President Johnson – will follow through with Civil Rights reforms.

As the movement advances, there are rifts among the protestors and organizations face the challenges of operating on limited budgets while bringing people together for common goals. Sometime, leaders clash as their different ideas and policies are put into play. Ultimately, Lewis and others continue to work, each in his own way, leading like-minded people who are seeking change.

# Pages 1-35

## Summary

The opening page of the book, page three, is starkly white with a station wagon driving across the bottom of the page. Page four opens on September 15, 1963. A woman walks into the ladies' restroom. On page five, the woman interrupts several young girls, including a girl named Denise, telling them it is almost time to for the morning worship service to begin. In the first five frames of page six, the woman returns to a classroom. The woman tells Denise's mother she just saw Denise in the restroom. In the bottom frame of page six, those in the classroom hear a loud “boom.” In the first four frames of page seven, the two women rush from the classroom, one yelling for Denise. Frame five covers two-thirds of the page, showing a staircase and billowing, black smock from below. There is an inset showing the faces of the two women as one says they have to take another route.

There is a large image on page eight, showing a child appearing out of the smoke, calling for help. An inset frame shows the burned body of a child collapsing. On page nine, a girl is shouting for Denise. The scene is chaotic, with smoke darkening each frame. In the final two frames, the girl addresses her father, saying she cannot find Denise. The father holds up a shoe and says Denise has died. The girl yells “no” repeatedly, each time increasing in volume. Page 10 is a full-page frame. The scene is darkness, smoke, and the interior of a destroyed building. Two people are kneeling on the floor. One, perhaps Denise's father, says he wants to “blow the whole town up” (10).

Page 11 changes to Pike County, Alabama. Several people, including John Lewis, are listening to music when a newscaster interrupts the radio program with information about the bombing. The phone rings and someone tells Lewis that he has to go immediately to Birmingham. Page 12 reverts to Birmingham where tensions are high. A young white boy shoots a black child, Virgil Lamar, on a bicycle. The final frame shows a man leaning over the boy's body. The shooters were teenager who were Eagle Scouts who had been at a meeting of the Ku Klux Klan. Pages 13 and 14 show whites chanting as they celebrate the deaths of the four girls at the Birmingham church. Some black teens throw rocks and one of them, Johnny Robinson, is shot dead by a police officer who is exonerated of blame in the death.

On page 15, Lewis arrives in Birmingham. Page 16 is a full-page frame showing Lewis and another man arriving at the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. The church has been the gathering place for Civil Rights events, but the Sunday of the bombing was youth day. Four girls were killed in the bombing and 21 other children are hurt. The four victims are Addie Mae Collins, Carole Robertson, Cynthia Wesley, and Denise McNair.

Page 17 picks up on September 18, 1963, three days after the bombing. There are many people gathered for the funerals of the four victims of the bombing. Dr. Martin

Luther King, Jr., is speaking from the pulpit, saying the girls are “martyred heroines of a holy crusade for freedom and dignity” (17). On page 18, King goes on to question the “philosophy” of the society that “produced the murderers” (18). Just a few weeks before the bombing, Alabama Governor George Wallace had publicly stated that some people should die in order to ensure his goal of continued segregation. The key, Lewis says, is to give black people a say in elections to get corrupt, bigoted politicians out of office.

On page 19, Lewis and Diane Nash, an official with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, present a plan to march on the Alabama Capitol building. The plan is to cut off transportation and communication “until the state government was completely shut down.” The ultimate goal is to increase black voter registrations and to get Wallace out of office. Nash points out that people feel the need to do something, and that this provides an organized outlet. On page 20, King agrees that they need to act, but refuses to support Nash's plan. Lewis understands that King is dealing with other issues but knows that he has to take some action. His group decides to focus on voter registration in Dallas County, Alabama. A young black man named Bernard Lafayette is already working there.

A banner stretches across the bottom of page 20, with some of the words of the Star Spangled Banner. Page 21 reverts to January 20, 2009, with a group of military singers singing at Obama's inauguration. Pages 22 and 23 show Obama waving to the crowd and greeting John Lewis as Lewis prepares to head back inside after the ceremony. Page 25 is the title page, showing Lewis going indoors with throngs of people in the background.

Page 26 picks up the story again in Alabama. The page is a full-page image of a police officer with several others gathered around him, including some on horseback. The main focus is on Jim Clark, the Dallas County Sheriff. The other men are those he deputized to meet the protestors. Lewis describes him as “mean and easily provoked.” Clark and more than 200 volunteers from Dallas County had answered the call from Eugene “Bull” Connor when violence broke out in Birmingham. Lewis expects there will be violence in Selma, Dallas County, when the voter registration efforts get underway.

On pages 27 through 29, Lewis recounts events in Selma, Alabama, in the days after the church bombing. Protestors are arrested and beaten, prompting pickets and more arrests. Lewis arrives in Selma to find police lined up in front of the church where a meeting is underway. Lewis and another man make their way through the line and into the church. On page 30, a man introduces Lewis in his role as chairman of the SNCC. Lewis takes the pulpit and pledges that his group will remain in Selma until every black person is allowed to register and vote.

Pages 31 and 32 show the difficulties facing anyone who tries to register to vote. The registrar has the authority to require a literacy test that most people cannot pass. The registrar has many options for denying the registration. If a person does get through the process, his name is printed in the newspaper. White employers sometimes fire a person for registering to vote. The KKK can exact violence on the newly-registered voters. Page 33 takes place on September 24, 1963. Protestors gather at the

courthouse and 20 are arrested, prompting a larger group of protestors, including Lewis. On page 34, police react violently and Lewis is among those arrested. On page 35, Lewis and other protestors are taken to the Selma Prison Farm where they are treated horribly for weeks until their release.

## Analysis

As expected, the images on the pages depicting the church bombing are brutally dark. There are pillars of black smoke and frantic adults. The most intense image of the page shows a child emerging from the flames and, in the next frame, the charred body collapses. That is a horrific image of the event, and is more graphic than most events depicted in the book. This may be the author's effort to make the reader fully aware of the impact of the bombing. Merely saying that some people died does not have the same effect as showing the burning body of a child, and then the collapse of that child.

The artist uses many techniques to show action and to make events clearer. For example, the words from a person who is talking loudly are emphasized with dark letters that are often larger than usual and sometimes underlined. The opposite is also true. Quietly spoken words are presented in very small writing, sometimes with irregularly-shaped speech bubbles. The child who yells for help from the fire at the Birmingham church has very small letters, indicating she was probably near death already. The artist uses another interesting graphic technique in that scene. The speech bubbles are small and seem to be smudged with smoke or soot. This gives another indication about the child's situation, hinting that she might have literally been breathing out the smoke inhaled during the fire.

It is significant that Lewis chooses to include so many names of people who die during the Civil Rights Movement. Some are protestors but some are simply innocent bystanders. His point is obviously to ensure that they are all remembered, at least to the readers of this series of books. Using their names carries a greater impact than simply telling the number of people who died.

Diane Nash makes an important point when she is talking to King. She says that people need a constructive outlet for the anger and fear they feel, especially after the Birmingham bombing. The man in the Birmingham church building says that he would like to blow up the entire city. That is his anger talking, and that anger could drive him to take violent action. Nash, Lewis, and other organizers know they can take advantage of the momentum to gain ground with the Civil Rights Movement, but they also know that people feel the need to take action.

There are some changing attitudes among the blacks in some areas of the South. In the decades preceding the Civil Rights Movement, many blacks were afraid to fight for their rights. They did not want trouble and likely felt they could not exact change. Some criticized the protestors, as seen in the relationship between Lewis and his parents. But things have begun to change by 1963. That is seen clearly in an event in Selma. Protestors marched against Jim Clark, who had ruled with fear and threats up to that

point. The fact that some protestors were willing to face him down is a sign of changing attitudes among the blacks who are becoming determined to stand up for their rights.

The police force in Selma are a ragtag group of men deputized on the spot by Dallas County Sheriff Jim Clark. The image of them on page 26 shows them for what they are. Their uniforms do not match, indicating that they are not official. The men have mean looks on their faces, indicating their penchant for violence. The entire scene is from the perspective of John Lewis and the others that Clark is terrorizing, and the graphics make that image very clear. This is one of many instances in which the perspective is important. These men are so racially prejudiced, that they probably believe they are in the right. From their perspectives, they likely see the protestors as a frightening violent force. This racial prejudice is a theme that runs through the entire series of books and the perspective is vital to understanding the truth of the situation.

Lewis spends weeks in jail in various places, all because of his protests. The reader has to remember that Lewis is literally being charged with crimes and put in jail for days or weeks at a time, meaning he is missing out on the things that go on while he is jailed. He is treated poorly while in jail and is running the risk of having these offenses on his record. This is a sign of his dedication to the Civil Rights Movement, which is one of the book's themes.

While some people were refused the right to register to vote because they could not pass literacy tests, there were even more arbitrary methods in place. For example, Lewis talks about a registrar who decides whether a person can register by whether they can guess the number of jelly beans in a jar, or “the number of bubbles in a bar of soap” (31). The registrars could choose to administer some test or to just approve the registration, meaning he could fail every single black while granting every white. This is evidence of the complete unfairness of the system.

## Vocabulary

publicans, indicted, terminal, quest, dignity, sanctuary, nobly, perpetrated, martyred, crusade, philosophy, recruit, significant, picket, literacy

# Pages 36-64

## Summary

Page 36 is set on October 7, 1963. There is a long line of people in front of the Dallas County Courthouse. Lewis is still in jail as people line up, trying to register to vote. Voters can only register two days a month. Pages 37 through 39 describe the hardships faced by those gathered to register. Police refused to let anyone get back in line if they left for any reason, and refused to let anyone bring food or drinks to those waiting, despite the hours-long wait. Two people plead with Clark to let them provide water for those waiting in line. Clark says he will arrest anyone who brings water, and charge them with “molesting people trying to vote” (39). On page 40, two SNCC members take water and cups toward the line, but police beat them and a photographer who catches the attack on film. But no one left their place in line.

On page 41, the sun is beating down on those waiting in line. Then an officer shouts that it is 4:30, meaning the courthouse is closing for the day. People walk by where volunteers are handing out cups of water. Lewis notes that the day was a success, mainly because there was not a “mass arrest” and at least a few people registered to vote (41).

On page 42, Lewis is released from prison and makes trips all over the country to promote the SNCC's ideas and to raise money. While there are parent organizations handing out money, the SNCC is not equally funded with other organizations. The SNCC members accept that, mainly because that money comes with strict rules that they sometimes do not want to obey.

Page 43 is a full-page frame talking about Bob Moses, a Harvard graduate who has been working on voter registration in Mississippi for three years. Moses is low-key, partly because being in the spotlight is dangerous. On page 44, Moses and others create a mock election to show blacks how it feels to vote and to “dramatize the exclusion of African-Americans from the electoral process” (44). The mock election is dubbed Freedom Vote. On page 45, Lewis arrives in Mississippi to help. On pages 45 and 46, Lewis arrives in town, uses one of the two men's restrooms that are no longer designated by race, and leaves the bus station to get in a car, all under the watchful eye of a policeman.

Page 47 is a full-page image of a black woman, Fannie Lou Hamer, who had been fired and beaten after registering to vote in Indianola, Mississippi. She becomes a dedicated activist. On page 48, Lewis arrives at Hamer's house. She has been repeatedly threatened, arrested, and beaten, and she warns Lewis that it will take time and work to make a difference in Mississippi. During that first mock election, 90,000 blacks vote. They are being excluded from voting strictly on the basis of their race.

Page 49 is set on November 22, 1963. Lewis has returned to Nashville for a court appearance when he hears that President John Kennedy has been shot. On page 50, Lewis and others hear that Kennedy is dead. Page 51 is completely black with white outlines and words. Lewis arrives back in Atlanta in time to watch television coverage of Kennedy's funeral. He thinks about others who have recently been murdered and he cries, feeling very much alone. On page 52, members of the SNCC worry about the changes that will happen with Lyndon Johnson taking over as president. Though Johnson publicly announces his support for equal rights, there is no way to know how committed he is to the cause.

On page 53, Bob Moses listens as blacks argue against having whites participate in the Civil Rights Movement. Blacks say the whites try to take over the actions. Moses is surprised and says he never thought blacks would become racially motivated.

Page 54 is a full-page image of President Johnson. Lewis says Johnson wants blacks to stop demonstrating to give the new presidential regime time to make the Civil Rights changes. Lewis admits to being skeptical of Johnson, who had made racially-motivated decisions while serving as a congressman, but feels he has to give Johnson a chance.

Page 55 takes place on December 22, 1963. Members of the SNCC stage a sit-in at the Toddle House restaurant in Atlanta, despite Johnson's pleas to stop the demonstrations. Several blacks own shares in the Toddle House parent company, but are refused service. On page 56, demonstrators are arrested that day, but the company ends segregation a few months later.

Pages 57 through 59 are set on December 31, 1963. Lewis is released from jail again, just in time for an SNCC meeting. There is lengthy discussion about what actions to take in Mississippi the following summer. Some fear that bringing too many white volunteers into the state could cause problems while others point out the publicity that will naturally follow those volunteers. The organizations are divided on what actions to take but the SNCC ultimately votes to do whatever they can “to obtain the right for all citizens of Mississippi to vote, using as many people as necessary to obtain that end” (59).

On page 60, Lewis and others convene at the American Society of Newspaper Editors meeting in Washington, D.C., on April 16, 1964. On pages 60 and 61, Lewis speaks, pointing out a federal law prohibiting anyone from interfering with a person's right to vote, but saying the law has never been enforced. Lewis announces that the umbrella organization called the Council of Federated Organizations will oversee about 1,000 volunteers in Mississippi. On page 62, he outlines the plan, including a massive drive for voter registration. There are four black Congressional candidates who plan to “challenge the right of white Mississipppians to choose who shall represent the state,” if they lose the election (62). He says that having only whites in Congress is not full representation. On page 63, Lewis goes on to say the federal government has to choose whether to enforce the right to vote or agree that America is not truly democratic.

On page 64, Mississippi Governor Paul Johnson calls in an extra force of state patrolmen and Jackson Mayor Allen Thompson deputized dozens of white men, arming them and declaring that he is “not bluffing” with his preparations (64). Lewis says the whites see the demonstrations as an “attack on their way of life.”

## Analysis

There is an interesting graphic element on page 40 as a police officer attacks a photographer who takes photos as police attack the men trying to provide water for those waiting in line to register. The photographer is white and the officer strikes the man with a baton. The artist shows the motion of the baton with broad, sweeping line following the point of impact with the photographer's face all the way to the farthermost reach of the officer's arm. There is a statement written inside that sweeping line. It reads, “The line held and no one left” (40). The placement of the words make it clear that people are watching the violence around them, and that it is an incredible feat for them to remain in line anyway.

Lewis is a strong man who shows determination and seems to never falter in his decision to work on the Civil Rights Movement, but the scene of him alone after Kennedy's funeral is evidence that he is a human with human failings. He is sad and talks about the darkness, and admits that he has kept his own feelings hidden from others. This is one aspect of the leaders' role in the movement, which is a theme seen throughout the series.

On page 63, Lewis is wrapping up his speech regarding the plan to get blacks registered to vote in Mississippi. The Confederate flag appears across the bottom of the page, along with Lewis's words that the federal government is going to see “the lynching of democracy” unless blacks are allowed to vote (63). At the time this book is released, there is extensive controversy about the Confederate flag and what it represents. The image is seen again in another scene in Mississippi. The use of the word “lynching” is significant, referencing the number of blacks who have been lynched over the years. The entire scene is fraught with fear and threats, but also has an undercurrent of determination.

The graphics of the book are all in black and white. This could be considered symbolic of the racial issues at the heart of the Civil Rights Movement. The lack of color makes many of the graphics more intense, especially when there is smoke, prisons, an other darkness covering a great deal of the page.

## Vocabulary

mobilization, registrar, substantial, fraction, radical, distrust, federated, coalition, mock, dramatize, electoral, accomplish, systematically, excluded, motorcade

# Pages 65-96

## Summary

Page 65 is a full-page graphic of an auditorium with a banner reading “Freedom Democratic Party.” Organizers formally create the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party as a basis for challenging the Democratic Convention's policy of “whites only.” By going through all the normal aspects of the election process, the group would have “legal grounds to challenge the party's claim to its seats at the National Convention” (65). Frame one of page 66 shows a group of Ku Klux Klansmen burning a cross, and Lewis says similar scenes were acted out in about two-thirds of the counties in Mississippi.

The final frame of page 66 shows some 300 young volunteers gathered for training on June 13, 1964, in Oxford, Ohio. The speaker warns that they will be hated for their participation. On page 67, Bob Moses reminds the volunteers that they should participate only if they realize they are fighting for equality for everyone, regardless of race. One volunteer asks about federal protection, but Moses warns again of the danger, saying there will be no federal protection. On page 68, Moses says the local police have all the power.

The first frame of page 68 is June 21, 1964, in Neshoba County, Mississippi. The first volunteers arrive in town and police stop them. On page 69, Lewis answers the telephone and learns that the first volunteers have not arrived at their destination. Lewis is shocked that the problems have begun so quickly. Page 70 is a full-page frame of a missing flyer on a light pole. The paper has the names and pictures of the three missing volunteers: Mickey Schwerner, Andy Goodman, and James Chaney. Schwerner and Goodman are white. Chaney is black. The mixed races in a car might have been the thing that drew attention to them.

On pages 72 and 73, Moses addresses other volunteers still in training, warning again about the danger and saying that, from the moment of their disappearance, he knew Schwerner, Goodman, and Chaney were dead. Moses warns again of the danger as one volunteer stands and begins singing about the “constant struggle” of freedom (73). On pages 74 and 75, cars are lined up on the highway entering Philadelphia, Mississippi, on June 24, 1964. A police officer stops them and one black man says they are searching for missing volunteers. The officer says he will meet with a four-person delegation of the searchers. On page 76, Lewis recounts what they know about the missing men. They had been looking into a burned church when they were arrested for speeding. Neshoba County Deputy Sheriff Cecil Price confirms the arrest but says the men were released and ordered out of the area. Their car is later found, burned and dumped in a creek, but the men are not inside. Page 77 reverts to the meeting between searchers and police. The police refuse to let the men see the church, saying it is private property, or the car, saying it could contain evidence. On page 78, police make

all sorts of excuses to keep the searchers away. Lewis is certain the police know what happened to the three men.

On page 79, Lewis and others begin their search after dark, knowing the danger. Page 80 is a single frame, completely black except for a small area lit by a flashlight and Lewis's faint silhouette as he admits that he has not found anything.

On page 80, Lewis notes that press coverage increase once there are white volunteers missing. He calls on Johnson and Robert Kennedy. The government sends sailors and FBI agents, but only to search for the missing men. There is still no federal protection for the volunteers. On pages 81 and 82, Lewis talks about the escalating violence and the fact that the FBI is keeping files on Civil Rights leaders. On pages 83 and 84, sailors and agents continue to search and find a body.

On page 85, Johnson is seated at a desk, signing the Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law. Important pros of the law are the ban on segregation in public businesses, schools, and libraries. The major negative is the lack of addressing voting rights. Lewis is invited to witness the signing, but remains in the South.

On pages 86 and 87, Lewis joins protestors at Selma where the sheriff accuses him of being an “outside agitator.” Lewis counters, saying he was raised less than 100 miles away. An Alabama Circuit Judge had issued an injunction against the gathering of more than three people in Selma, and all the police make arrests, effectively stopping the protest in Selma.

On pages 88 and 89, two young white volunteers approach black workers in a field in an effort to get them registered to vote but the white landowner threatens to shoot them for trespassing.

The first two frames of page 90 show one of the Freedom Schools, established to teach literacy to anyone who cared to attend. The teachers had few supplies but many blacks turned out to learn. Meanwhile, other Civil Rights leaders demand that Lewis call a halt to demonstrations. On page 91, Lewis refuses, citing his belief that demonstrations are vital for change. The volunteers who work in Mississippi that summer return with symptoms of “battle fatigue.” On pages 92 and 93, Lewis says that many of the volunteers were young, and there was some time for fun. A record is playing music as young people dance. Lewis describes dancing with Shirley McClaine, and says he passed out after having two beers.

Page 94 is set on August 4, 1964, in Neshoba County. Workers are digging with heavy equipment as two men look into a hole. One says a smell is increasing in intensity. On page 95, the digging continues and a telephone rings. Page 96 is set in the White House. Johnson answers a phone call. A man tells him that the FBI has found three bodies just six miles from where the three volunteers went missing. The bodies have not been positively identified, but the FBI believes it is the three missing men and they plan to make the announcement public within minutes of notifying Johnson. Lewis says the

problems in Southeast Asia were intensifying, and would become an issue for years to come.

## Analysis

The image on page 80 is very dark. Lewis is standing by himself as he and others search for the missing volunteers. The fact that they are searching in the woods is an indication that they are looking for bodies rather than expecting the volunteers to be alive somewhere, as police keep saying. The image on that page is completely black except a small area lit up by Lewis's flashlight, showing only a small patch of ground and some tall weeds. Lewis's image is faintly visible in the glows of the light. The speech bubble above his head is rounded with the word “no” in small letters in the center. The bubble is smudged around the edges, as if oil has seeped into the bubble and stained it. The speech bubble symbolizes Lewis's mood. He is bound to be experiencing deep pain, fear, anger, and other emotions, but he is keeping them all carefully in check.

The perspective changes for a dramatic impact as the FBI agents search for the three missing volunteers. Two of the frames are seen from inside the hole. The edges of the frames are dark with a bright spot at the center, as if the reader is looking up from inside the hole. That would be the perspective of the three slain volunteers.

## Vocabulary

delegation, precinct, conventions, insurgent, despised, notably, distraught, respond, frequently, approximately, defense, discrimination, enforcement, agitator

# Pages 97-138

## Summary

Page 97 is set on August 6, 1964, in Jackson, Mississippi. The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, or MFDP, holds a meeting with the white attorney Joe Rauh giving instruction. Lewis says they want to ensure they do everything correctly on the local level so they will have the legal right to make their challenge at the Democratic Convention. On page 98, Lewis explains the platform and goals. (See analysis for more information.) Lewis and others speak out on pages 98 and 99, reminding everyone that they have paid for their rights. Fannie Lou Hamer is among the 68 delegates elected.

On pages 100 and 101, Lewis and others attend James Chaney's funeral, and place the blame for his death on the racists in Mississippi and on federal officials who refuse to take action. The speaker who delivers the eulogy calls on everyone to demand their right to vote in honor of the three slain men.

Page 102 takes place in Daly City, California, on July 14, 1964, at the Republican National Convention where New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller warns against allowing blacks to become involved in the party. On page 103, Barry Goldwater accepts the Republication Nomination, spouting similar racists ideals.

Pages 104 and 105 take place on August 14, 1964, with Johnson worrying that he will lose votes in the South because of the continued black demonstrations. The third frame on page 105 switches to August 21 in Atlantic City as Lewis, King, and the delegates arrive at the Democratic Convention. On pages 106 through 113, Joe Rauh works through issues to bring Mississippi's delegation to the credentials committee. Fannie Lou Hamer is the star witness. She talks about being arrested and being thrown out of their sharecropper's home because she registered to vote. She recounts brutality and beatings, all because she wanted to exercise her right to vote. Johnson sees Hamer's testimony on television and rushes to call a press conference of his own, ending the television coverage of the committee hearing. On pages 114 through 117, Rauh interviews others, including King, who says that the Democratic Party has to recognize the Mississippi delegation “in the true spirit of democracy” (115).

On pages 118 and 119, the television stations that stopped their coverage of Hamer's testimony in order to cover Johnson's press conference, picked up their story about Hamer on the evening news. Johnson is furious and continues to fight using all his resources, including illegal wiretaps. On page 120, Huber Humphrey meets with delegates, hoping for a compromise. The delegates know Humphrey is a supporter of Civil Rights, but Hamer says that he is “afraid to do what you know is right” (120) and pledges to pray for him. On page 121, Johnson uses his power to force a compromise. The proposal is for the Mississippi delegation to take two “at-large seats” and that there would be a ban on segregation of future delegations. Lewis and other officials state their points of view, then let the delegates make the decision, and they vote to reject the

offer. On pages 122 and 123, delegates face opposition and stage a sit-in, but are dragged away. A huge scene covers pages 124 and 125, showing the convention. The Mississippi delegation arrives to find their chairs have been removed. Johnson wins the nomination but loses the South, despite all his efforts to gain white support.

On pages 126 through 128, Lewis describes feeling burned out as tempers flare and people deal with their disappointment. Harry Belafonte decides to offer help to the flailing SNCC. On page 129, he takes a group, including Lewis and Hamer, to South Africa where they talk about the freedom fights in the American South and learn about the struggles in Africa. On pages 130 and 131, Lewis sees blacks in position of authority, including police officers and pilots. On pages 132 and 133, Lewis and his close friend, Don Harris, arrange to remain in Africa when the others return to America. They visit with other revolutionaries and learn that most are more radical than the SNCC. Many support Malcolm X. On page 134, Lewis and Harris have a chance encounter with Malcolm X, who has distanced himself from the Nation of Islam. On pages 135 through 136, the three men talk about their views. Malcolm believes the blacks of Africa and the blacks of America have to identify with each other, but he also sees that it is an issue facing poor people more than an issue of race. He hopes to bring the combined issues to the United Nations. Malcolm assures Lewis that people are noticing Lewis's efforts, though he predicts a long road ahead. The final frame of page 137 shows the men together. Lewis says he had no idea this was their last meeting before Malcolm's assassination. On page 138, Lewis and Harris take some time to see the sights and are still in Africa when they learn Johnson has won the presidential election.

## Analysis

The issue related to the voting program is complex, and Lewis pares it down so that some readers may not have a full understanding of the situation. Lewis explains that there will be a 108-member credential committee that meets on the first day of the Democratic Convention. The party's rules “allowed seating disputes to be taken to the convention floor if as few as 11 committee members voted for it” (98.) Lewis goes on to say that eight or more states must request a “floor votes for a full roll call vote of the convention” (98). If they can reach that point, they expect to win the representation they seek.

While there are likely other candidates hoping to become president in the 1964 election, the only real contenders are Johnson and Goldwater. The blacks know what Johnson says what he will do, and they know what he has done up to this point. They also know that Goldwater has pledged that he will obstruct the Civil Rights Movement and has publicly put himself out as a defender of whites. There are problems with the upcoming election including that the white voters greatly outnumber black voters, and that whites who are against the Civil Rights Movement will likely get behind Goldwater. With that in mind, Johnson wants the blacks to stop their demonstrations in the hope that he can salvage some of the votes from Southern voters. When Johnson sees Hamer's interview on television, he is furious and interrupts the coverage by calling a press

conference of his own. The strategy can be seen as racially-motivated, but it is also politically motivated.

One of the book's themes is the willingness to fight for beliefs, and that theme is seen as people are beaten and intimidated. Many do hide, hoping to save themselves and their families from attacks, but many step up their efforts in response to the persecution. That reaction is a human effort to make a better life, but it is important to realize that there had to be a catalyst in order for that effort to gain momentum and to force change.

Many of the people grow and change their opinions over the course of the story, which is human nature. In a previous book, Robert Kennedy confides in Lewis that the actions of the SNCC had changed him. In this book, Malcolm X is seen as a changed person. He was very radical in the earlier days of the Civil Rights Movement, but has mellowed, at least to some degree, over the years of work. He may have seemed incredibly focused on race during the earlier years, but now sees that poverty is a bigger problem than race. He also sees that the American blacks and the African blacks have a lot in common, and believes he can make a case for the United Nations to become involved.

If this was a fictional book, there would be an area of foreshadowing in the scene involving Malcolm's meeting with Lewis and Harris in Africa. He is fully aware that Americans are in danger in Africa, just as protestors are in danger in the American South. He insists that they sit with their backs to the wall when they are in public, so that no one can sneak up on them. They go to his room where they can talk more safely. Lewis and Harris are aware of the danger, but Malcolm's precautions are brought into stark focus when Lewis says he never sees Malcolm again.

The perspective is an important aspect of the book, as seen in the scenes following the failure of the Mississippi Freedom delegation. Lewis and others feel an acute sense of disappointment, and might be on the verge of giving up. They are very close to the action and very focused on immediate problems and results. Other people, such as Malcom X, see the longer-term effects of the Civil Rights Movement. He assures Lewis that there are people taking notice of the work toward equal rights, and that at least some people are changing their attitudes. This is important to Lewis, who is simply too close to see their victories because of the bitter defeats.

## Vocabulary

colleagues, landslide, representation, influence, conservative, extremists, minority, accommodates, principles, tyrannies, moderation, enlist, rallies, credentials, morals

# Pages 139-173

## Summary

On page 139, Lewis returns home after 72 days away. The SNCC is seriously struggling. In previous years, the group had depended on coming to agreement on plans and projects, but the ranks have swelled after the summer's conflict and there are vastly different people with differing ideas now involved. On page 140, Lewis recounts a retreat for SNCC leadership. One of the main issues addressed there is the role of women. Gender equality is becoming a problem within the SNCC. On page 141, Lewis presents information about his travels to other members of the SNCC and gives press interviews about the commonality of the people struggling around the world against racial inequality. In the fourth and fifth frames of the page, several police officers are arrested in connection with the Mississippi murders. On page 142, a racist judge, Harold Cox, dismisses the charges. Lewis says that King is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize that same day. While Lewis is happy for King, many resent King, and Lewis can feel that same resentment aimed at him. On pages 143 and 144, Lewis continues to address issues within the SNCC, including funding. He then sets out to visit the various chapters.

Page 145 is a full-page frame. Lewis has returned to Selma where there are only a few registered black voters. King has met with Johnson who says he does not have Congressional support for a voters' rights bill, and basically urges King to force the government's hand on the issue. On page 146, King outlines a plan to ignore the injunction against more than three people gathering in Selma. A newly-elected mayor, Joe Smitherman, appoints a new chief of police, Wilson Baker, who pledges that he will not enforce the injunction. Sheriff Jim Clark is still a problem, but he is out of town.

On page 147, the Brown Chapel AME church agrees to host a meeting on January 2, 1965. The church is filled to capacity. In pages 148 through 150, protests pick up again. Some members of the SNCC feel King's group, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, is “swooping in” to get the media coverage after the SNCC had done years of work. (148) While Sheriff Clark forces protestors stand in an alley and no one is allowed in the courthouse, no one is arrested and the protestors wait for hours. On page 151, King tries to check into a whites only hotel and a white man hits him, starting a fight that continues on pages 152 and 153.

On page 154, the protestors march again the following day but this time they refuse to go into the alley to enter the courthouse by a side door and police begin making arrests. On pages 155 and 156, a respected black businesswoman, Amelia Boynton, is beaten and arrested, as is Margaret Moore, a third grade teacher, and one of her students. The NAACP's attorneys and NAACP's legal defense fund ensure they are all released later in the day. The next day, January 20, the protestors march again while Johnson is sworn in as president. They are ordered to move the alley, refuse, and police make more arrests.

The first frame on page 159 shows two teachers discussing the protests. One fears being fired but another says they cannot be fired if they all join together. Page 160 is a full-page image of teachers joining the protest. Many are carrying their toothbrushes, their way of indicating they are willing to spend time in jail. On page 161, Sheriff Clark threatens arrests but the mayor points out the number of teachers involved. On page 162, he says that all their students will be marching on the courthouse the following Monday, if there are no teachers at school. Clark ignores the warning and beats several protestors. The teacher involvement prompts media attention.

In the coming days, more volunteers arrive, spurred by the teachers. Many members of the SNCC do not participate, seeing the event a Southern Christian Leadership Conference event. On page 164, Lewis does join the protestors. A woman named Annie Lee Cooper is attacked by police. She fights back and is brutally beaten. On page 165, officers continue the attack as a photographer takes pictures. The final frame of the page shows an officer striking Cooper and Lewis says newspapers ran her photo.

The top four frames of page 166 shows Lewis joining the protestors, being arrested, released, joining again, and being arrested again. Meanwhile, business people in Atlanta were preparing to honor King for his Nobel Peace Prize. When many announce plans to boycott the event because King is black, Robert Woodruff counters the plan. As chairman of Coca-Cola, his word carries weight. Meanwhile, the efforts in Selma continue but only 60 people are allowed in the courthouse to register, and none of them is granted a registration.

On page 167, King is arrested in Selma in an effort to increase pressure and Malcolm X visits Selma. Malcolm speaks out on pages 167 and 168, saying the people who do not want to listen to King's message should consider that other groups will be spreading the same demands but with different tactics. In the first frames of page 169, Malcolm visits King's wife, saying he had wanted to visit King but knows he will not be granted permission. King is released and Lewis returns to Selma from a fundraising trip. Meanwhile, some Congressmen arrive in Selma to see the situation, first-hand.

Sheriff Clark appears in the first frame of page 170. His face is contorted in fury and Lewis says he is suffering from the pressure. He and other police make arrests, this time forcing the prisoners to run to the jail. Three days later, Clark collapses. The second frame of page 171 shows children holding signs that are get well cards for Clark. In the bottom frame, a nurse helps Clark into a car. In the top frame of page 172, Clark is wearing a new button with the word “never” as he returns to his duties. The remaining frames on page 172 show Clark arguing with a protestor and on page 173, the confrontation again turns physical.

## Analysis

On page 151, King tries to check into a hotel and is denied. When someone recognizes King and says his name, a white man hits King. There seems to be no warning and these are not street thugs. The man who strikes first is wearing a tie. This is an

indication that racial prejudice is not limited to any specific kind of person, but covers many kinds of people. An important part of that scene is Lewis's reaction. He is obviously furious and admits that he almost struck back. He says this is an indication to him that he has a limit, and that he has almost reached it. That is a strictly human reaction to continuing issues that drive the protestors. While Lewis always preaches – and practices – nonviolence, even he can be pushed to the point of wanting to retaliate.

There is a powerful statement seen on page 171. Blacks who would normally be protesting are seen carrying picket signs, but these signs indicate their prayers that Clark recovers from his recent illness. They are meeting the violence with prayers and nonviolent attitudes, which is in keeping with the SNCC's policies.

Malcolm X is known for his violent approach to the Civil Rights issues, especially during his early years of involvement. By 1965, his attitudes and actions have changed, but those early images are still following him. Everyone expects violence from Malcolm and his group. Though he has changed his personal feelings and seems to be recognizing the necessity for nonviolence, he uses that stereotype during his visit in Selma, hoping to spur the people in power into listening to reason. He points out that blacks are going to demand change, and that they are right to do so. He then says that if people choose not to listen to the messages of the nonviolent protestors, like King, that someone else will take up the banner, and that blacks will take some other action if they do not see changes. He is literally trying to scare people into accepting King's message of nonviolence. It seems to be a reasonable tactic, but it is not likely to work. Just as blacks meet violence with renewed determination, the whites are probably going to react negatively to Malcolm's threat.

## Vocabulary

adjourned, prone, vicious, isolated, coup, ruse, significant, provision, conscience, appeal, establishment, remarkable, mockery, council, despite, compel

# Pages 174-224

## Summary

Page 174 is very dark. It is set in Marion, Alabama on February 18. Marion is near Selma. A group of protestors gather after dark to hear a speaker decrying the imprisonment of a fellow protestor. The group plans to march to city hall but “dozens of Alabama State Troopers” stop them. On pages 175 and 176, the scene erupts in violence. On page 177, a 26-year-old Army Veteran, Jimmie Lee Jackson, is beaten. Jackson is black, and is left to bleed for a half hour before police take him for medical attention. On page 178, Lewis learns that Jackson's injuries are critical, but he is alive. Lewis fears retaliation if Jackson dies. Two days pass. Lewis is listening to the radio in his car when he learns that Malcolm X has been assassinated.

On pages 179 and 180, Lewis and others gather for the funeral. Actor Ossie Davis speaks about Malcolm's work and the energy wasted “fighting each other” (179). He presents the idea that Malcolm's body is no longer Malcolm, but is now a “seed” (180). Lewis learns just before the funeral that Jackson has died. On pages 181 and 182, Lewis and others attend Jackson's funeral.

Page 183 begins to show information about the SNCC as a body and as part of the larger movement. Lewis is the only member of the SNCC board who believes the organization should march from Selma to Montgomery with King's group. Other board members believe King will take control of the event. On page 184, Lewis talks about the SNCC's letter to King, stating that they did not support the march because of the danger. Lewis signs the letter because the majority supports it, but he does not feel it is the right choice. On page 185, he tries to convince other members to join him, but no one does. On pages 186 and 187, Lewis and others convene for the march and get ready to participate.

Page 188 reverts to January 20, 2009. Obama walks into a room filled with people and greets Lewis. On page 189, the two men hug, Lewis wipes his eyes, and Obama writes on a card. On page 190, the card reads, “Because of you, John,” and bears Obama's signature.

Page 191 reverts to March 7, 1965, in Selma, Alabama. The page is a full-page frame of Lewis walking down the road. He seems very determined. On page 192, Lewis joins others. On page 193, another activist, James Bevel, has learned that King is not going to attend, citing the need to preach at his home church. One of King's aides is present and talks to King by telephone. When it becomes evident that the people are already gathered and ready to march, King names several men who should take leadership roles in the march. On page 194, they flip a coin to determine positions. Hosea Williams takes the lead with Lewis. Pages 195 through 197 show the protestors marching, beginning with prayer and going to the bridge near Selma, called the Altus Bridge. When they are on the bridge and see that police have the road blocked ahead, Lewis

and Williams discuss whether they might be forced to jump into the water. Part of this scene was shown on the opening pages of the first book of the series, indicating the significance. On page 198, the protestors meet police. A man with a bullhorn insists that they stop the march. On page 199, the protestors kneel and pray again.

On page 200, the police attack with force. Pages 201 through 205 show the attack. Lewis is struck on the head so hard that he fears he will die. The protestors run and, in the bottom frame of page 205, scatter into the town. On page 206, protestors gather in a church later identified as Brown Chapel. A woman who seems to be a nurse urges Lewis to the hospital. On page 207, Lewis speaks from the pulpit. Without prepared notes or time to think, he speaks “from my gut” (207). He says they cannot stop, and could even be forced to march all the way to Washington, D.C. He then agrees to go to the hospital. The violent confrontation becomes known as Bloody Sunday.

On page 208, Lewis is in the hospital. On pages 208 and 209, he talks about the media coverage of police attacking protestors. King visits Lewis, talking about the next tactics. On page 210, King pledges that the march will take place. Page 211 is totally black except white line drawings and words. Lewis is in the hospital bed. He says he is in pain and is afraid of being attacked while he is in the hospital.

On page 212, 2,000 protestors gather, including members of the SNCC. Willie Ricks of the SNCC speaks, calling on protestors to follow through with the march, even if they meet resistance from police, the NAACP, or King. On pages 213 and 214, King leads the march. In the middle of the bridge, they are ordered to stop. On page 215, King turns the group around and marches back into Selma. The event becomes known as Turnaround Tuesday. Lewis says that King had asked for an injunction against the State of Alabama, prohibiting officials from interfering with the march. Instead, the court issued an injunction prohibiting the protestors from marching. Jim Farmer, a member of the SNCC, is furious and declares that the SNCC will stage their own event, a “student siege on the state capitol” (215).

On page 216, Lewis is released from the hospital. He realizes that King's action was justified. On page 217, reporters confront Lewis, asking about problems within the SNCC. There is a rally in support of the protestors. On page 218, three Unitarian ministers get lost and encounter members of the KKK. The Klansmen beat the three ministers, saying they can now understand “what it's like to be a real nigger” (218). One of the ministers dies. On page 219, Lewis is a witness during a court hearing about the attack on the Selma bridge. On page 220, Lewis and Hamer are among the speakers at “sympathy rallies” held around the country.

On page 221, Alabama Governor George Wallace meets with President Johnson, asking Johnson to prevent another march from Selma. Instead, Johnson publicly decries the racism that keeps blacks from voting. Pages 222 through 224 show more of Johnson's speech. He says everyone should be upset at the prejudice blacks face, and that the entire nation is suffering from the “crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice” (224).

## Analysis

Page 177 includes scenes from the riot in Marion, Alabama. The entire page is very dark with only a few outlined images and words in white. There is a main frame that covers the majority of the page, with three smaller images taking up roughly the top half of the page. The first frame shows a man running on a staircase. The man is in the distance and the reader cannot discern details about his appearance. In the second frame, the man is on the floor and the wording identifies him as Jimmie Lee Jackson. The third frame is a closeup of Jackson's face, his eyes wide with either fear or pain. The interesting aspect of the graphics on this page is the placement of the second and third frames. In the second frame, Jackson is very small and is reaching out for help. In the third frame, Jackson's head is above the top of the frame and the top of his head is not distinct. It appears that the smaller image of Jackson is reaching out of Jackson's head in a cry for help. This is symbolic of the black struggles for equality and their effort to be heard. Many feel the need to step out of themselves in order to be seen, heard, and treated fairly. Their inner voices are crying out for help, but – just like Jackson – their cries go unheeded.

The final frame of page 177 shows an oval of light. A trail of blood leads from the left side of the frame to Jackson's feet. The blood is a reminder that the protestors continue to fight for rights, even when they pay the ultimate price.

The graphic on page 180 is a background for Ossie Davis's words at Malcolm's funeral. Davis says that Malcolm is no longer in his body, but the body lowered in the ground is a “seed.” The graphic at the bottom of the page is a limb of a tree with a few dead leaves clinging to them. It is raining on the tree. The image is symbolic of the ongoing quest for equal rights, even when the protestors are enduring harsh conditions. The dead leaves on the tree are reminders of those who have died as part of the Civil Rights Movement.

There are continued struggles within the leadership of the SNCC and between the SNCC and other groups. Some of this can be attributed to differences of opinion. But some of the SNCC leaders seem to simply hate sharing the spotlight. That is understandable and believable, though Lewis continues to put himself above all those issues. Some readers may question his perspective because he consistently seems to be doing and saying the right things, seldom making any mistakes.

## Vocabulary

outcry, provoke, restore, infirmary, assassinated, extinguished, dimension, discontent, constituents, drafted, assembly, impromptu, injunction, interfering, prohibiting, siege, procedures, engage

# Pages 225-247

## Summary

Page 225 is a full-page frame. The page is solid black except an image of Lewis standing in front of a mirror, removing the bandage from his head. A bathroom sink with several toothbrushes in a cup is below the mirror.

Page 226 picks up on March 16, 1965, at Beulah Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama where a rally is taking place. One leader screams out his message, including profanity and a call for revenge. Lewis feels the SNCC is going a new direction, and that he cannot support it. On page 227, King is also present and he learns that the court has issued an injunction against the State of Alabama that will allow the protest march from Selma to Montgomery. They set the date for March 21.

Page 228 is a full-page image of a street filled with people. Television cameras line one side of the street, Lewis says, as if “everyone was there” (229) He identifies several members of the group, including Hosea Williams, King, A. Phillip Randolph, Jim Forman, Ralph and Juanita Abernathy, Dick Gregory, and Coretta Young. Some have been only briefly mentioned in previous scenes, but others have played an important role in Lewis's life and actions. In the bottom two frames of the page, men are standing, arm-in-arm, as one of them says, “Wallace, it's all over now” (229).

The first frame on page 230 shows a close-up of feet walking. The second frame shows photographers in the back of a pickup, taking pictures of the marchers. The third frame shows a long view of the marchers, stretched along several blocks of a street. The bottom of the page is a side-view of the bridge. This time they are just marching without confrontation. The march continues on page 231, showing the bridge and various people. They walk seven miles that first day.

Page 232 shows more of the details of the march. It takes several days to walk the 54-mile route. One day, it rains but the marchers continue. Because of his recent head injury, Lewis spends each night at Selma to be near doctors if he has problems, but he walks with the protestors each day. On page 233, the protestors camp the final night just outside Montgomery. Entertainers show up and the evening is like an impromptu festival.

Page 234 is set on March 25 in Montgomery and shows Wallace looking out of his window as the protestors gather and begin to speak out. On pages 235 through 238, various people take the stage to speak. One is an activist named Amelia Boynton, who reads a petition calling for Wallace to enforce the right for blacks to vote. Lewis and King have a turn at the podium, as does Rosa Parks. Lewis talks about the “revolution” that the Civil Rights Movement has become, while Parks talks about hope and faith.

Despite the success of the march, the violence continues on page 239. A volunteer named Viola Liuzzo is taking protestors back to Selma in her car. During one of her trips back to Montgomery, someone shoots and kills her.

On page 240, the Voting Rights Act becomes law. On page 241, Lewis is invited to a private meeting with Johnson, who urges Lewis to continue his work. On page 242, Lewis believes that there has been a major change as he listens to Johnson's speech as he signs a law that ensures blacks have the right to vote. Lewis writes that day “was the last day of the movement as I knew it” (243).

Page 244 reverts to January 20, 2009. It is late in the evening as Lewis arrives home. He is accompanied by two men and they plan to eat out after Lewis takes care of a couple of items. He goes inside and sits on the bed. On page 245, Lewis sees that he has multiple messages on his telephone. One of them is from Ted Kennedy. He says that he has been thinking about all those who died during the Civil Rights Era, including John F. Kennedy.

On page 246, Lewis is entering his office with his aide and co-author, Andrew Aydin. Lewis says he has decided it is time to get started on the comic-book biography they have discussed. Aydin warns that it will not be easy, but Lewis is not deterred nor is he surprised. He is closing the door as the telephone rings. The book comes to a close at that point except a final graphic of a cell phone ringing.

## Analysis

The image of Lewis removing the bandage from his head could be seen as a symbol of his emerging maturity. Lewis has remained steadfast and dedicated throughout the series of books, but he has lost some of his youthful exuberance as he endured beatings, slander, and jail time. He is emerging into the man who will become a political leader in his own right, which is a sign of healing – just as his head is healing from the wound. The scene is also symbolic of Lewis's determination. In a previous scene in the hospital, he admits to being afraid for his life. Though he may continue to experience fear, he will not be deterred from his goals.

Page 228 is the beginning of the march from Selma. The entire page is a single image. The page is white, which hints that the situation is brighter this time than the previous marches, which were shown largely in dark images with black backgrounds. The entire series of books is in black and white, but the artist uses the black and white to set the tone in an effort to help the reader fully understand the mood of the scenes.

The man who says, “Wallace, it's all over now” (229) is apparently talking to Governor George Wallace, who had publicly declared that the state would never integrate. At this point, the courts have upheld the right of blacks to hold a demonstration that will culminate at the Alabama State Capitol. The words could be taken as a threat, but this is actually an indication that the Civil Rights Movement has taken a turn in the correct direction. The author chose to use the events at Selma to begin the series, and fully

explains the event at the end of the series, indicating the importance. There are other important events that occur in the months and years after this protest, but the author begins to wrap up the action at this point, which is further evidence of the importance of the event.

When Lewis meets privately with President Johnson, he is apparently surprised at Johnson's comments. Johnson urges Lewis to continue the work, but he uses a crude analogy, saying that Lewis has to “get those boys by the balls … and squeeze 'em till they hurt” (241). The artist uses an interesting image as Lewis leaves the meeting. Lewis has a swirled line above his head, indicating that he is confused or even dizzy from the meeting.

## Vocabulary

endurance, miserable, segregationists, spectacle, salute, brutality, revolution, mobilized, confront, perpetrated, frustrating, shuttling, journey, dominated, injustice, eligible

# Important People

## John Robert Lewis

Lewis is a Congressman from Georgia when Barack Obama is sworn in as a United States President, and he remembers his activities in the Civil Rights Movement during Obama's inauguration. Obama credits the actions of Civil Rights activists as a main step in reaching the highest office in the nation – that of president. He knows the significance of their sacrifices and sees Lewis as a representative of that sacrifice, because of Lewis's actions.

As a Civil Rights activist, Lewis is firmly committed to a policy of nonviolence as a means of gaining support. He believes that voting is vital to achieving true equality and has an attitude of tolerance. Over the course of his career, he puts his work for the Civil Rights Movement ahead of everything. For example, his parents are disappointed that he is arrested multiple times and he spends far less time with his family. He is arrested multiple times, and beaten repeatedly during various protests. He is in jail on his 21st birthday and the day he is supposed to give his senior sermon. Despite the violence and sacrifices, he remains firmly devoted to the quest for equal rights.

Lewis's attitudes and actions exemplify his philosophy of persistence, honor, and nonviolence, though he discovers that even he can be driven to a point where he almost resorts to a violent confrontation. When others are fighting or fighting back, he continues to insist that acting with honor in a nonviolent manner is the main way to reach the ultimate goals. He believes that human dignity is the most important thing in life. He sees the prejudicial treatment exacted on blacks as a direct attack on human dignity.

## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

King is a well-known historical figure involved in the Civil Rights Movement during the 1950s and 1960s. He is seen in all three books of this series. In this book, King is a speaker at the funeral for the girls killed in the Birmingham church bombing.

King has an attitude of nonviolence, similar to that of Lewis, but he has other ideas that are different from Lewis'. For example, he sometimes urges caution in the face of potential arrest and violence. When political leaders ask protestors to call a temporary halt to staged events, King often urges the protestors to comply when Lewis believes that stopping the protests would be a mistake. When protestors gather to march on Selma, King steps in but takes protestors only as far as the bridge, turning the protestors back instead of facing the likelihood of violence if they cross the bridge. Some activists are furious with that action, though Lewis – in this case – understands why King makes the decision.

King is still alive at the end of this book, which is the last of the three-part series. The reader who knows he is assassinated soon after the events of this book may see his actions in a different light than King's contemporaries.

## Jim Clark

Jim Clark is the sheriff of Dallas County, Alabama. Like some other politicians of the time, he is corrupt and prejudiced. Clark is determined not to let people vote in his county, which prompts him to make up all sorts of rules that do not even exist in his effort to keep blacks from registering. For example, he refuses to let people return to the voter registration line, even if they just leave for a few minutes to use the restroom or get a drink. Despite the heat, he also refuses to let other people bring drinks to those who are waiting in line. Clark collapses from the stress of his work and several blacks gather with picket signs wishing him a speedy recovery. Despite that show of kindness and concern, Clark takes an even harder stand when he is released from the hospital.

## Alabama Governor George Wallace

Wallace is a racist white man who is the Alabama Governor during the early 1960s. When sworn into office, he proclaimed his support for continued segregation and made public comments that urged violence against black protestors. Some of Wallace's statements occur just before the bombing of the church in Birmingham.

## Diane Nash

Nash is a young black woman who is part of the protestors fighting for equal rights for blacks. She holds a position of authority in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Nash is married by the time of the events of this book, and is often among those urging additional action.

## Barack Obama

Obama is the first black man elected president, which is the highest office in the American political system. Obama recognizes the role of Civil Rights activists, including Lewis, who made his election possible. Obama's inauguration serves as one series of events while the Civil Rights events are a second set of events that occur during this book.

## Bob Moses

Moses is a Harvard graduate who focuses his attention on getting blacks registered to vote in Mississippi. Moses is seen in two important events during this book. He is introduced along with a synopsis of his work in Mississippi and he is one of the

speakers addressing young people who are volunteering to join him in that effort. He warns about the danger they are facing and urges them to only volunteer if they are looking for equality for all people, not just as a means of helping blacks.

## Fannie Lou Hamer

Hamer is a black woman who is an activist for Civil Rights. She was born and raised in the South, and continues to fight for equality even after being attacked. She registered to vote and was then evicted from her home. Despite a violent attack that leaves her limping for the rest of her life, she continues to speak out and refuses to be intimidated. She speaks at the Democratic Convention.

## Malcolm X

Malcolm X is a Civil Rights activist. By the mid-1960s, Malcolm's attitudes have changed so that he is feels that nonviolence is a better way to achieve equality. He uses his reputation as a person who would resort to violence in an effort to get officials in Selma to listen to King's message. Though Lewis's beliefs are different from Malcolm's, Lewis is heartbroken when he learns that Malcolm is assassinated.

## President Lyndon Johnson

Johnson is sworn in as president shortly after John F. Kennedy's assassination, and he wins the next election for a full term as president. Lewis and others are worried about Johnson's commitment to the Civil Rights Movement, but he makes passionate speeches and urges Lewis to continue the fight. Johnson signs a bill into law that calls for an end to the policies that prohibited blacks from voting, and Lewis sees that as a major turning point in the Civil Rights Movement.

# Objects/Places

## Barack Obama's Inauguration

In the book, Obama's Inauguration serves as a counter event for Lewis's work in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. The inauguration takes place on January 20, 2009, in Washington, D.C., and events that happen during the inauguration and immediately after serve as catalysts for Lewis's memories of the Civil Rights Movement.

## The 16th Street Church

This is the church in Birmingham, Alabama, that is bombed at the opening of this book. The bombing is meant to be an attack on blacks because of recent protests, but the church is having a youth rally on the day of the attack and the bomb kills four little girls, wounding several other children.

## The Student Nonviolence Coordinating Committe/SNCC

Lewis and several others are involved in this group during the 1960s. The committee seeks to change social, business, and political actions and attitudes, especially attitudes regarding race.

## Birmingham, Alabama

Birmingham is in the South where racial issues often come to violence. This is the city where someone bombs the 16th Street Baptist Church, killing four little girls and wounding more than 20 other children. The city is the site of other killings and protests, many that lead to arrests and retaliatory violence.

## Marion, Alabama

Marion is where a group of people are protesting the imprisonment of a fellow protestor when Alabama State Troops meet them with violent force. Jimmie Lee Jackson is attacked and injured, and it takes a half hour for officials to take him for medical attention. He dies a few days later, jut before the funeral for Malcolm X.

## The Ku Klux Klan

This is an organization of white men who fight against the blacks' quest for equal rights. They retaliate against people who stand up for themselves and who speak out against inequality. Their power is fear and they use violence often and freely.

## Neshoba County, Mississippi

This is where three volunteers go missing during the very early days of a summer program to get blacks registered to vote. Lewis and others are certain that police are responsible for the disappearance and are not really surprised when their bodies are found.

## Selma, Alabama

This is the starting point for a series of marches organized by Civil Rights activists, including King. The first effort turns violent and Lewis is severely injured so that he spends days in the hospital. The second attempt ends when King leads the protestors as far as the Altus Bridge, then turning around. The third attempt is successful and the protestors march for days to reach their destination, the Alabama State Capitol.

## Bloody Monday and Turnaround Tuesday

These are the nicknames given to two days of attempted marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. The first attempt becomes a violent confrontation between protestors and police, prompting the term "bloody." On the second attempt, King comes to an agreement with officials and leads the protestors only as far as the bridge before turning back toward Selma.

## Democratic Party Convention

This is an event that takes place every election cycle as Democrats gather to choose the party's candidates. Members of the Civil Rights Movement put forth their own slate of delegates and demand to be recognized. While they end the convention without any real representation for that election season, party officials agree to end the discriminatory policies that keep blacks out of the delegation.

# Themes

## The Right to Vote

While modern-day American readers may take the right to vote as a given, Americans of the 1960s were locked in a battle over that right. The registrars had total control of who would be allowed to vote, and blacks were denied the right for trivial and illegal reasons. Activists of the time put their time, energy, and lives on the line to fight that injustice because blacks would otherwise remain a segment of the population without political representation.

Up until the federal government steps in with a law on the issue, the registrars of each county was given full say in granting registrations. There is a literacy test that the registrar can choose to administer, but as a rule, only blacks are subjected to the test. The test itself is designed for failure and the answers are subjective, meaning the registrar can still choose to fail a person who gives an acceptable answer. Some registrars ask arbitrary questions that are sometimes impossible to answer. A registrar might ask how many jelly beans are in a large jar as a “test” to decide if the person can register to vote. As another example, Lewis says the registrar might ask how many bubbles are in a bar of soap.

When blacks are allowed to register, they face the potential for intimidation. Lists of registered voters are published in the newspaper, making them targets for whites who are against equal rights. Fannie Lou Hamer is evicted from her home and beaten after she registers to vote, and she is not the only one to face this kind of treatment.

Various groups set up programs and plans to get blacks registered to vote. Dozens of volunteers flood into Mississippi over the course of a summer, offering free literacy classes and helping organize efforts to get voters registered. These volunteers face the same intimidation visited upon the blacks who register to vote. Three men are killed by police who intercept them on the highway.

Lewis and other activists spearhead an effort to become part of the Democratic Party delegation. Up to that point, the party has not allowed black delegates but the group's work forces the party officials to agree to change that policy.

American blacks are not the only people locked in this battle. Lewis and others travel to Africa where they see similar efforts. The people of Africa has adopted the motto, “One man, one vote,” and American activists adopt the motto to apply to the local issues.

Ultimately, Lewis and other black activists realize that blacks will never be fully equal without the right to vote. Leaders elected by whites – including whites who are pro-segregation in the South – will never support legislation that supports black rights.

# Changing Attitudes

Change is a natural part of life, and the people and organizations of this book are no exception. Malcolm X and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee are main examples of this theme, but John Lewis also goes through some changes.

Lewis is heavily involved with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, called the SNCC. He becomes the organization's chairman, which forces him to spend time organizing and raising money for the group. This takes him away from the work going on in the field, though he still makes time to participate in activities he believes are important. While Lewis has been involved in many of the SNCC's decisions over the years, he finds that he sometimes does not agree with other members. When the group is discussing whether to join with King's march from Selma, other members of the SNCC refuse to participate. Lewis signs the letter stating the SNCC's official position because the majority of the leaders vote not to participate, but he personally joins the march because he feels it is the right thing to do.

The SNCC has other issues as the group's membership expands and their focus shifts to include more than forcing public service businesses to serve blacks. During the early days of their existence, the group mainly stages peaceful protests at lunch counters and similar businesses. Later, they begin to look at broader social and legal issues, prompting the Freedom Rides and the mass effort at registering blacks to vote. With those expanding efforts and more people offering their ideas, there are differing opinions. In some cases, the differences are resolved with little effort, but Lewis admits that he often feels that others resent him or that he is the only person who feels out of step with the other members.

The SNCC's attitudes are also changing by the mid-1960s. A generation earlier, many blacks feared to speak out and they carefully kept themselves out of the limelight for fear of reprisal. But some people – especially the younger activists – are willing to face down their fears in the quest for equal rights. As more of these young people join the SNCC and similar organizations, they often spread that new attitude among the members. They are often willing to put themselves in danger but they are also willing to become violent in their defense of their rights.

Malcolm X is one of those young people who is willing to use violence as a means to an end. Lewis does not agree with all of Malcolm's philosophies, but he does respect Malcolm. Lewis recognizes that Malcolm's ideas catch the interest of young people who might not otherwise be drawn into the Civil Rights Movement. But by the mid-1960s, Malcolm has become fearful for his life. His fears are justified and he is assassinated a short time later.

Malcolm's fear is probably not what prompts his changing attitude, but he splits off from the radical Islamic group and begins to talk about the need to address equality across race boundaries. He sees that poor people around the world face the same issues as many blacks, and believes that he can shed light on the issue by addressing the United Nations.

# Lewis's Dedication to the Civil Rights Movement

John Lewis spends years of his life working on the quest for equality for blacks, and that dedication does take a toll. Despite arrests, brutality, and personal sacrifices, he never stops working in the Civil Rights Movement. However, Lewis does feel the strain of his duties. These moments of worry are not a weakness, but make it clear that he is human.

Over the course of the three-part series, Lewis describes his childhood, early years as an adult, and the event that he calls a turning point in the Civil Rights Movement. It is important to realize that not everyone supports the work these activists do. Lewis's parents are upset and embarrassed as Lewis is repeatedly arrested on an array of faked charges. Typical for the times, the family is tight-knit when Lewis is young, but their disapproval puts a wedge in that relationship. Lewis does not describe his attitude toward his parents, but he does stop going home as often. There are other activists that describe similar situations.

Lewis spends days at a time working on protests. While describing the scene in which blacks are standing in line in an attempt to register to vote, Lewis explains that people do not often think about the monotony of those protests. The activists sit at lunch counters, stand in lines, and wait for something to happen, often for hours or even days at a time. More importantly, they know that they will likely be turned away without being served. That is seen as they stage protests at segregated movie theaters. They stand in line, in bitter weather, only to be refused a ticket. Then they move back to the end of the line and wait for another chance to ask, knowing they will be refused again. These hours of waiting are difficult, often in difficult conditions such as extreme hot or cold weather.

While the waiting is monotonous, the confrontations are frightening and dangerous. Police do not protect the protestors, but are often involved in the attacks. The activists are sometimes beaten or even killed, and they go into the protests knowing that is a possibility. The number of people Lewis describes as dying during the protests are evidence of the danger. Lewis is beaten in the attack on the Altus Bridge near Selma, and spends time in the hospital because of a serious head injury. It is not the only time he is injured, and he is not the only activist to face that kind of brutality.

Protestors are also in danger of being arrested on faked charges. The police are often brutal during the arrests and the conditions in jails and prisons are horrible. Lewis spends his 21st birthday in jail, and he misses his senior sermon because he is in jail. The prisoners are sometimes denied basic rights, such as access to a toothbrush or the right to sing.

The work also takes an emotional toll on Lewis. He is seen alone after Kennedy's funeral, obviously in emotional pain because of Kennedy's murder. When there are problems within the leadership of the SNCC, Lewis feels very much alone and he often has to stand up for what he believes, even when he is standing alone.

## Fear and Intimidation

Many people, including the Ku Klux Klan, police, and even some activists, believe that fear is the only way to achieve their goals. In some cases, people who are afraid of change meet the activists with violence, hoping that fear will stop their actions.

The Ku Klux Klan is a prime example of this theme. The members hide themselves under robes and burn crosses. They have a history of violence and people are rightly afraid of them. They could attack any black at almost any time, and often attacked whites that they considered traitors to their race. They kill a minister who had attended a Civil Rights rally. Their actions spur others to violence. They use the burning crosses as a means of intimidation. Just prior to a major Civil Rights event, members of the KKK burn crosses in counties all across Mississippi.

While no one is held accountable, the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church is another example of this theme. The church is used by Civil Rights activists as they plan events and hold meetings, and someone sets off a bomb in an effort to stop that action. They only succeed in killing four little girls and wounding other children, but their message is clearly aimed at scaring activists into stopping.

Another example of this theme is seen in the police response to many of the events. Even when protestors are within the law and holding peaceful demonstrations, police and other officials demand that they disband. Sometimes, the protestors are met with immediate violence and sometimes they are merely threatened. It is a statement of their determination that they do not give in to those threats.

In an interesting turn on this theme, some people meet their fears by taking an even firmer stand. Fannie Lou Hamer is one example of this. She is evicted and beaten after she registers to vote, but she refuses to back down. Even when she and her family face additional threats, she continues to insist that voting is a right. There are many other historical examples of this aspect of the theme. Rosa Parks makes a brief appearance as a guest speaker at an event. She had refused to give up her seat to a white man, and she stood her ground despite the fact that others tried to intimidate her into giving in.

The opposite side of this theme is seen in the philosophies of some Civil Rights activists. While Lewis, King, and many others insist on nonviolence, others believe that they should be able to fight back and another faction is not opposed to the outright use of violence, apparently hoping to frighten the whites into giving in to the demands of the black protestors. Malcolm X is one of those. While Lewis does not agree with Malcolm's philosophies, he does see why so many young people are willing to follow Malcolm.

## Integration

By this point in the three-part series of books, many changes have been made. More often, there are few bathrooms designed by race and there are more restaurants willing

to serve black customers. The efforts of Civil Rights activists have brought the issues to the forefront of public awareness, but there are still people who support segregation and who pledge to fight against integration. Some of these people are in positions of authority, such as Alabama Governor George Wallace. Wallace, during his inauguration speech, pledges that he will never support integration because segregation is a vital part of life for the people of the South. Wallace and others like him are shut down by the federal government but not before they brutally attack activists in an effort to maintain a segregated lifestyle.

On this opposite side of this issue are the blacks who have fought for equality and now find themselves in new territory. Some believe that the Civil Rights Movement should be segregated, and that whites should not be allowed to participate. Bob Moses, a Harvard graduate who spends years in Mississippi working to get blacks registered to vote, is disappointed at the attitude. He says he believed that the blacks would be above the race issue. Some blacks believe that the white involvement will have a negative affect on the Civil Rights Movement, but there is an incredible amount of news coverage when two white men are murdered along with a black man, all three volunteering to help increase voter registration among blacks in Mississippi. It is clear that the murder of two white men is taken more seriously than the blacks who have been systematically murdered during the Civil Rights Movement. While it is not a correct attitude, it is a social attitude of the time.

The book is set in two distinct eras. The earlier is the 1960s during the height of the Civil Rights Movement when the nation was divided on the issue of integration. The later event is the inauguration of President Barack Obama, the first black to be elected to the office. The two events provide a level of comparison related to the issue of integration. While restaurant owners of the 1960s are reluctant to let a black person take a seat at a lunch counter, the voters of 2008 elect a black man to the nation's highest office.

# Styles

## Structure

The book is presented as a graphic biography. While it can stand alone, the reader who has read the previous books of the series will have a better understanding of Lewis and the events. The reader with at least a basic understanding of the events of the Civil Rights era will also have a better understanding of many scenes, themes, and issues described in the book. The authors and artists depend on words and images to tell the story, and the reader has to pay attention to the graphics as well as the words.

The book opens slightly differently from the previous books of the series. In the first two books, there are a few scenes in the opening pages prior to the title page. These scenes lead the reader into the events that will take place in that book. In the third book of the series, the title page does not appear until page 24. The title page shows John Lewis walking away from Obama's inauguration. The image on the book's cover shows protestors marching on a street blocked by uniformed, armed men. That image is meant to convey the conflict between protestors and police.

In the second book of the series, the final images showed a church being bombed during a youth rally. The opening of this book picks up that story, showing the movements of people inside the church leading up to the moment of the bombing. The second page of the book contains the same dedication as the first two books. It reads, “To the past and future children of the movement.” That is meant to serve as a reminder that the fight for equality continues to include the modern-day reader. The dedication is especially poignant considering that the opening pages cover the deaths of several children and teenagers in Birmingham.

## Perspective

The story is presented in first person, often from the perspective of John Lewis, but there is an omniscient aspect as well. Lewis tells of events that he did not personally witness, such as what happens in the Birmingham church just before and immediately after the bombing. He knows these details only because others reported them. That does not lessen the importance of the events and it is important that the reader remember how deeply these events impact Lewis.

In some cases, the graphic perspective is changed to put the reader more fully into the events. For example, there are three volunteers who disappear before they reach their assigned locations. They are to spend the summer helping register blacks to vote, but police intercept them before they reach their destination. Their bodies are found later when government officials dig up the remains. In that scene, the artist shows a dark frame with an oval of light in the center, as if the reader is in the hole where the bodies have been discovered. This shift means the reader is seeing the scene from the

perspective of the murdered volunteers. These changes of perspective are meant to make the reader more aware of the situations faced by the activists.

The perspective also means that the reader can move between the events of the 1960s during the height of the Civil Rights Movement to Barack Obama's inauguration in 2009. Lewis sees and hears things during the inauguration that prompt his memories of the 1960s.

## Tone

The overall tone of the book is one of hope and promise, though that tone may be affected somewhat by the fact that modern readers know the outcome of the Civil Rights Movement. The people who are living and working toward equal rights are often afraid and sometimes feel they are not making a difference. These moments of fear and discouragement are typically short lived, and are second to the feelings of hope and purpose.

Some modern-day readers may not fully recognize the courage it takes for the Civil Rights activists to continue their work. They sacrifice their time and energy, which is seen through the number of times protestors spend entire days standing in line when they know their requests will not be granted. They spend days or even months in jail, facing false charges aimed only at making them stop working toward their ultimate goals. More important than their time and energy, these people put their lives in danger on a daily basis. The three volunteers who were murdered by police are just one example.

The entire book is in black and white, which is symbolic of the problems between the two races throughout the 1950s and 1960s. The author uses stark whites and deep blacks to set tones. For example, the pages that show scenes from Obama's inauguration are mainly white with images and words in black. The scenes show light, which is symbolic of hope. The scenes that involve danger and oppression are mainly in dark colors. Many are black backgrounds with the images and words in white. This darkness is symbolic of the mood, which includes fear, hate, and sadness.

# Quotes

Once the smoke cleared, twenty-one children lay injured. Four young girls – Addie Mae Collins, Carole Robertson, Cynthia Wesley, and Denise McNair – were dead.
-- John Lewis (chapter 1 paragraph Frame 1)

**Importance**: This information is revealed as Lewis arrives at the church in Birmingham where the bombing occurred. The fact that Lewis lists the names of the four victims is significant, and a trend that occurs throughout the book. He is making certain that these victims are not forgotten.

We are going to stay here in Selma until every person of color can register and vote."
-- John Lewis (chapter 1 paragraph Frame four)

**Importance**: Lewis is making the commitment to not only work toward ensuring that every black person can vote, but to continue the work until that goal is achieved.

I always thought the one thing we can do for this country that no one else can do is be above the race issue."
-- John Lewis (chapter 1 paragraph Frame 5)

**Importance**: Moses is reacting to those who argue against letting whites be part of the Civil Rights Movement. This is not a new idea and other blacks have been reluctant to let whites participate, but this is a new level of objections. One argument is that whites seem to take over when they are involved, but at least some of the blacks of this era lack the leadership skills to enforce the ideas that can lead to change. However, many of the blacks are reacting to years of oppression, and their reactions are understandably human.

I justify myself because I'm taking risks myself, and I'm not asking people to do things I'm not willing to do. And the other thing is, people were being killed already – the Negroes of Mississippi – and I feel, anyway, responsible for their deaths."
-- Bob Moses (chapter 1 paragraph Frame three)

**Importance**: Moses is talking to a large group of volunteers preparing to work in Mississippi on the program to register black voters. Moses's words are an indication of the danger he faces on a regular basis as he works on the project, but he also expresses his feeling of responsibility that pushes him to continue the work. That responsibility is not because he has personally done anything to perpetuate the violence, but because he has not done enough to stop it.

President Johnson responded by ordering Defense Secretary McNamara to send 200 active duty Navy Sailors. Attorney General Kennedy ordered the FBI to send 150 agents – But the sailors and FBI agents were only sent to Mississippi to search for the missing Civil Rights workers, not to protect us."
-- John Lewis (chapter 1 paragraph Frame four)

**Importance**: Lewis is talking about the response to the missing volunteers. The three men are making headlines, possibly because two of them are white. The significance is that the government responds to the missing volunteers but does not do anything to try to stop the violence against the Civil Rights activists.

Lingering feelings of cynicism, mistrust of government, and deep resentment of 'white liberals' would cast shadows over southern politics for decades to come.
-- John Lewis (chapter 1 paragraph Frame one)

**Importance**: Lewis is talking about the situation after the Democratic Party Convention when blacks were basically told to go home without any real difference in the current year's politics, but were promised that the party would end segregation in future years. Some see the situation as a victory but Lewis says he feels “devastated” and “naive.”

Malcolm talked about the need to shift our focus from race to class, both among one another and between ourselves and the white community. He said he believed that was the root of our problems, not just in America, but all over the world.”
-- John Lewis (chapter 1 paragraph Frame six)

**Importance**: Lewis is talking with Malcolm X in Africa after a chance meeting. Malcolm has changed his attitude recently, and is now thinking that poverty is a more important issue than just race.

Never before had school teachers gathered to march. Some had joined us here and there, but this was something to behold. Margaret Moore's participation earlier in the week served as inspiration – nearly every black school teacher in Selma turned out.”
-- John Lewis (chapter 1 paragraph Frame one)

**Importance**: The image on this page is a single, full-page frame. There are school teachers gathered to march, and they are carrying their toothbrushes as a sign that they are not afraid to go to jail. The move captures interest and, when the sheriff threatens to arrest them all, the mayor argues that they cannot put every single black teacher in jail because then students would have no one to teach them.

He was murdered by the cowardice of every Negro who passively accepts the evils of segregation, and who stands on the sidelines in the struggle for justice."
-- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (chapter 1 paragraph Frame five)

**Importance**: King is speaking at the funeral for Jimmie Lee Jackson, an activist killed during a protest that turned violent. King's words are a call to every person who is not participating in the Civil Rights Movement.

I even started imagining someone slipping into my room to finish me off."
-- John Lewis (chapter 1 paragraph Frame one)

**Importance**: Lewis is in the hospital following the battle on the bridge near Selma. He is

alone and is feeling pain, anger, and confusion, but he is also feeling defeated and overwhelmed. This serves as one of the few examples of Lewis's feelings and of his worry that he might not reach the goals he has set.

There is no Negro problem. There is no southern problem. There is no northern problem. There is only an American problem."
-- President Lyndon Johnson (chapter 1 paragraph Frame two)

**Importance**: Johnson is making a televised address and is talking about his plans for the next step in the Civil Rights Movement. He is planning to sign a bill into law that puts an end to the prejudicial treatment against blacks who want to register and vote. Lewis is moved by Johnson's speech but others feel the president is merely saying what the blacks want to hear, and they do not really expect any immediate action.

The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because thy are different from other men."
-- President Lyndon Johnson (chapter 1 paragraph Frame eight)

**Importance**: Johnson is making a public address as he signs a bill into law that forces an end to prejudicial treatment against blacks who want to vote. Lewis calls the event a major shift in the Civil Rights Movement.

# Topics for Discussion

## Describe John Lewis's attitude about equal rights.

The reader should talk about Lewis's personal attitudes, including that protests prompt change and that nonviolence is the only way to enact positive change. Lewis's actions and personal involvement in the Civil Rights Movement is another aspect of this topic.

## Who is Malcolm X and how does he change over the course of the Civil Right Movement?

Malcolm X is a Civil Rights leader who initially believes in using any method to force change, including threats and violence. His attitude changes so that he is more in line with the attitudes of King and Lewis, but he continues to use his image in an effort to prompt change. The reader can also talk about Malcolm's realization that his life is in danger, and that he believes poverty is a big factor in inequality.

## What is the attitude of Civil Rights leaders when President John Kennedy is killed?

The reader should talk about the fear that Kennedy's replacement, Lyndon Johnson, will not follow up on Kennedy's plans regarding Civil Rights. The leaders had a good idea of what to expect from Kennedy, but know that Johnson is not obligated to follow through on Kennedy's plans. The reader can also talk about the differing ideas on what would be the best move for the Civil Rights leaders in the days and weeks following Kennedy's death.

## Describe the events that happen on the Selma bridge.

The reader should discuss the scene, including the riot and Lewis's injury. This answer should also point out King's involvement and the different reactions to King's decision. Ultimately, the answer should include information about the violence between officials and protestors, and the attention the conflict creates.

## Who is Jim Clark? What is he like and what are some of his actions during the Civil Rights Movement?

Clark is the sheriff of Dallas County, Alabama. He is prejudiced and a racial bigot. His actions include violent responses to protests and efforts to make certain that blacks do not get their rights. The reader should talk about his hospitalization and the pin with the

word "never" that he wore after his release, indicating his continued determination to deny blacks their Constitutional rights.

## What is the reaction after the three volunteers go missing? Why is the reaction so intense?

The reader should talk about the volunteers who try to help in the search and the police who refuse to allow anyone in the area. The federal government shows up with agents who are supposed to search for the missing men. The reader should also discuss the racial makeup of the missing group - one black and two white - and to talk about the probability that the public and government reacts because two of the men are white.

## What are some of the sacrifices protestors make in an effort to gain equal rights?

This answer should include specific information about protestors, such as Lewis's arrest what resulted in jail time on his birthday and the day of his senior sermon. Others face arrest and violence, from those who are angry at the protestors and from police. Some also face anger from their own friends and family who do not support their protests.

## Why do many of the protestors believe that the vote is so important for blacks to have equal rights?

Voters choose who will hold political offices, and those politicians enact laws and enforce rules that govern all people. If blacks are not allowed to vote, they can never elect people who truly represent the black people, meaning the elected officials can never fully understand the Civil Rights Movement and may never fully support equality. The reader should also talk about how this is an issue around the world, evidenced by Lewis's trip to Africa.

## What are some of the issues the SNCC faces?

The reader can talk about the protests, the quest for equality, and the social issues of the time and place. In addition, the SNCC receives limited funding, meaning Lewis and others have to find funding sources. The SNCC also fights among its ranks, arguing about policies, actions, and who should be working for the group. There are also arguments within the group about how and where to share the limelight, and what to do when others push into SNCC protests.

## Discuss the event that is happening in 2009 and what that event has to do with the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

Barack Obama's presidential inauguration is happening in 2009, and that event is set as a modern-day event against the background of the Civil Rights Movement. The fact that Obama is the first black person elected president makes it clear that the Civil Rights Movement has succeeded in bring equal rights to a new level. The reader can make a comparison between the rights being sought in the 1960s, including the right to vote, the first black elected to the nation's highest office.