

March's

Book of the Month

Big Idea of the Text:

This book draws readers into the lives of thirteen American women who, through grace, grit, optimism, and courage, persisted through obstacles that held them, and other women, back. Students may recognize some of the women such as Harriet Tubman, Helen Keller, and Oprah Winfrey, and they will become familiar with new heroines such as Clara Lemlich, Nellie Bly, and Claudette Colvin. The through-line of each of these women's stories is their determination to change the world, not just for themselves, but for girls and women everywhere. This book will spark students' interests into lesser-known, but not less important, pivotal people and events in American history, and will inspire all viewers to persist in the following of their own hopes and dreams.

Questions for Discussion or Reflective Writing:

Define and discuss persistence with students.

Follow up on the discussion of stereotypes.

Guiding questions:

- What were some stereotypes about women that you heard in the book?
- How did the different women in the book help to disprove those stereotypes?
- What other stereotypes did you hear about in the book? How did some of the women fight against those?
- How have people's ideas about women changed?
- What stereotypes about girls and women exist today? What about stereotypes about boys and men? What actions can you take to dispel those stereotypes?

Keep striving for your dreams and to speak up!

