



A DISCUSSION GUIDE AND ACTIVITIES FOR

THE WALK

A Stroll to the Poll

by award-winning creators **WINSOME BINGHAM** and **E. B. LEWIS**

ABOUT THE BOOK

From award-winning creators Winsome Bingham and E.B. Lewis, *The Walk (A Stroll to the Poll)* is a powerful, full-color picture book story celebrating a journey crucial to our democracy: the walk to vote. A perfect read-aloud.

Granny and her granddaughter are going on a walk. But this is not just any walk. It's a walk that must not be missed; one that is more important than ever but has been made increasingly difficult for many to participate in. It's a walk that joins together a community, that lifts voices, that allows us to speak up, stand up, and say what's on our minds. It's a walk for hope.

Where are all these treasured souls going? Just WALK ON and find out.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

WINSOME BINGHAM is a soul food connoisseur, master cook, US Army war and disabled veteran, and the author of one of the *New York Times* Best Books of the Year, *Soul Food Sunday*. She received both bachelor's and master's degrees in education and has more than 15 years of teaching experience. You can find her cooking up soul food or taking THE WALK to the polls with friends and family. She lives in Connecticut.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

E. B. LEWIS is the award-winning illustrator of numerous books for children, including *Coming on Home Soon* (a Caldecott Honor Book), *Talkin' About Bessie* (a Coretta Scott King Award winner), and *The Bat Boy and His Violin* (a Coretta Scott King Honor book). In 2003, the Kerlan Collection at the University of Minnesota purchased a collection of original watercolors from Lewis's first 50 children's books. Today, his works are displayed in museums, owned by private collectors, and sold by art galleries throughout the United States and Europe. He lives in New Jersey.

Praise for *THE WALK*

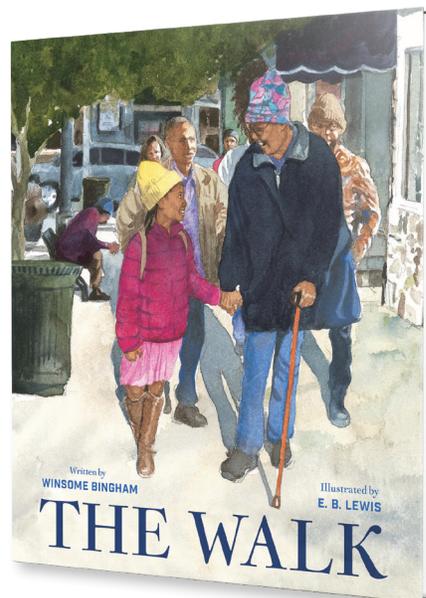
★ "An engrossing read...

This lovely introduction to an essential topic will be a new classic."

—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★ "An excellent read-aloud choice for classroom units on democracy, civil rights, and voting."

—*Booklist*, starred review



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Discussion Questions for *THE WALK*

K-W-L Chart: A Pre-Reading Learning Strategy

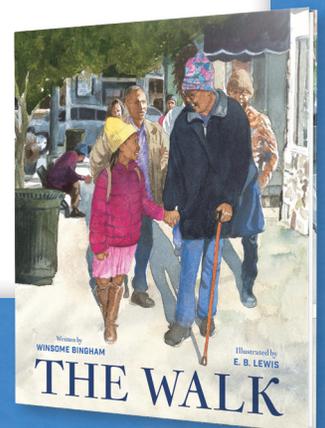
K	W	L
<p>KNOW What do you know about VOTING?</p>	<p>WANT TO KNOW What do you want to know about VOTING?</p>	<p>LEARN What did you learn about VOTING after reading?</p>

READING QUESTIONS

1. Where do you think the girl and her granny are walking to?
2. What do you think Granny means when she says "Because leaders are not born. They're made through molding and modeling?"
3. Who are the treasured souls that Granny collects along the walk?
4. What is a community and who makes up your community?
5. Granny says, "Today the lesson is for the community." What do you think she means?

POST-READING QUESTIONS

1. Where did the girl and her granny walk and why are they there?
2. Why did they stop to gather neighbors as they walked?
3. What is voting and why is it important?
4. What is something you're excited to vote for when you turn 18?
How can you speak up and use your voice even if you can't vote yet?
5. Will your family vote in the next election and do you have a voting plan?
6. How can you encourage your community to vote?



OUR FAMILY VOTING PLAN

Ask the people who love you—family, friends, and neighbors: **Are they ready to take the walk to the polls? Ask them to make their voting plan together! Share what you know and have learned with them. Voting is a family and community event!**

Prepare to make your voice heard and write down these important dates and details for easy reference. Find your state's voting deadlines and more voting resources at vote411.org, ACLU.org, or your state's Board of Elections website.

ELECTION DAY DATE: _____

MY POLLING LOCATION ADDRESS: _____

DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE: _____

PRIMARY ELECTION DATE: _____

DEADLINE TO REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT: _____

DEADLINE TO MAIL MY ABSENTEE BALLOT: _____

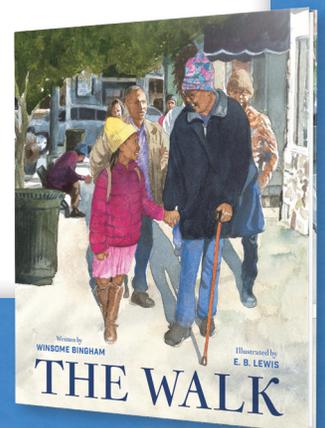
EARLY VOTING DATES: _____

DOES MY STATE OFFER SAME-DAY VOTER REGISTRATION? YES / NO

DOES MY STATE REQUIRE ME TO PRESENT A FORM OF ID AT THE POLLS? YES / NO

FORM OF ID NEEDED AT THE POLLS (IF APPLICABLE): _____

**DOES MY STATE COUNT
PROVISIONAL BALLOTS?
DOES NOT COUNT /
CONDUCTS FULL COUNT /
CONDUCTS PARTIAL COUNT**



JOURNEY TO THE POLLS

Where is your polling location?

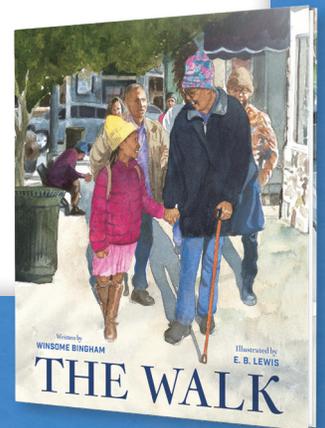
Can you draw a map from your home to your polling location?

How will your family travel to your polling location on Election Day?

Can you coordinate your trip with neighbors to encourage your community to vote?

DRAW A MAP TO YOUR POLLING LOCATION:

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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS ON ELECTION DAY

Share your knowledge with the people you love:
parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, neighbors, the lady up the street.
Tell them: Protect your right to vote by knowing what to expect at the polls.

- If the polls close while they're still in line, stay in line—they have the right to vote.
- If they make a mistake on their ballot, ask for a new one.
- If the machines are down at their polling place, ask for a paper ballot.
- If a poll worker says their name is not on the list of registered voters:
 - Ask if there is a supplemental list of voters.
 - Confirm that they are at the correct polling place.
 - If the poll worker has access to the statewide system, ask them to confirm your polling location.
 - Encourage them to also call 1-866-OUR-VOTE and ask for help verifying your proper polling place.
 - If they are registered at a different location, in most instances they will be required to travel to that location to cast a regular ballot.
 - If the poll worker still cannot find their name or if they cannot travel to the correct polling place, ask for a provisional ballot.
 - Voters are entitled to provisional ballots, even if they aren't in the poll book.
- Under federal law, voters who have difficulty reading or writing English may receive in-person assistance at the polls from the individual of their choice. This person cannot be the voter's employer, an agent of the voter's employer, or an agent or officer of the voter's union.
- Under federal law, all polling places for federal elections must be fully accessible to older adults and voters with disabilities. Every polling place must have at least one voting system that allows voters with disabilities to vote privately and independently.
- It's a federal crime to "intimidate, threaten, [or] coerce ... any other person for the purpose of interfering with the right of [that] other person to vote or to vote as he may choose."
For examples of voter intimidation, visit [ACLU.org](https://www.aclu.org).

If they run into any problems or have questions on Election Day, call the Election Protection Hotline:

- English: **866-OUR-VOTE / 866-687-8683**
- Spanish: **888-VE-Y-VOTA / 888-839-8682**
- Arabic: **844-YALLA-US / 844-925-5287**
- For Bengali, Cantonese, Hindi, Urdu, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog, or Vietnamese: Call Asian & Pacific Islander Vote at **888-API-VOTE / 888-274-8683**

Visit [ACLU.org](https://www.aclu.org) to learn more about your voting rights.

