

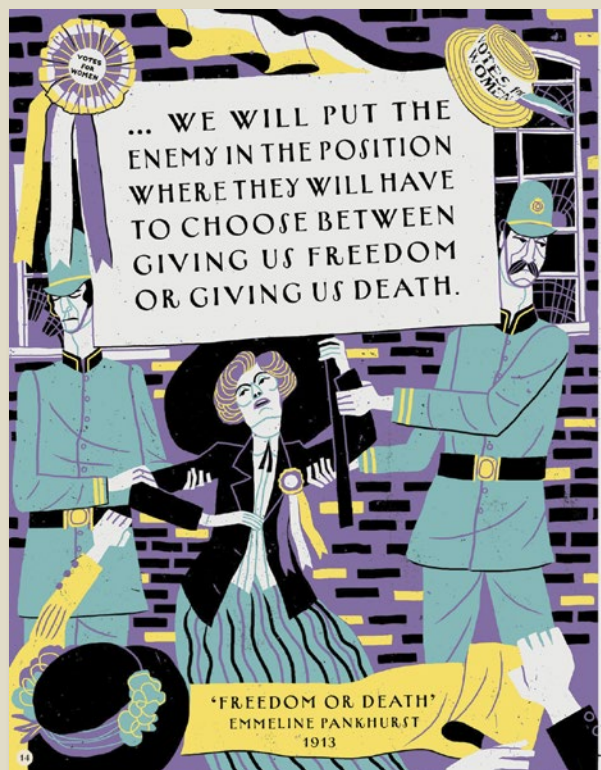
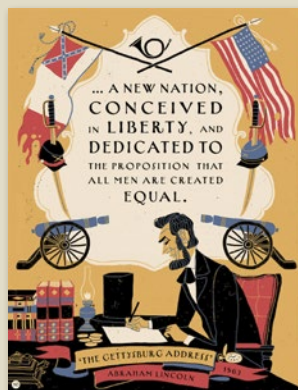
Talking History



150 years of world-changing speeches

- An accessible look at political and social history, and issues that remain pertinent today
- Contemporary design and illustrations from André Ducci accompany engaging text
- Authors are experienced children's writers and academics with expert knowledge on the topics discussed. In 2021, Joan Haig was selected as one of prestigious Scottish Book Trust's authors in residence, working with a school in Aberdeen
- Sample contents: Abraham Lincoln, 'The Gettysburg Address', 1863; Jawaharlal Nehru, 'A Tryst with Destiny', 1947; Nelson Mandela, 'Speech from the Dock', 1964; Harvey Milk, 'The Hope Speech', 1978; Angela Merkel, 'Address to 68th Session of the WHO', 2015 and Severn Cullis-Suzuki, 'Listen to the Children', 1992,

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In 1903, in the city of Manchester, UK, Emmeline Pankhurst and her eldest daughter Christabel founded the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU). The organisation campaigned fearlessly for women's right to vote.

THE SUFFRAGETTE MOVEMENT
This wasn't the first time that women in Britain had fought for the vote. Since the mid-nineteenth century, female campaigners called 'suffragists' had tried to win rights for women in society through peaceful petitions and, later on, by refusing to pay their taxes.

But this campaign was slow with few results. After years of unsuccessful peaceful protest by the suffragists, the WSPU decided that it was time for action – 'Deeds Not Words', as their motto said. Members of the WSPU took part in 'civil disobedience' to literally fight for their cause. They chained themselves to pillars, hacked politicians' plants, bonked in empty buildings, and smashed windows in public places, constantly clashing with the authorities. They were so determined to achieve their political aims that they deliberately took part in violence and vandalism to influence the public and the government.

Newspapers began referring to militant WSPU campaigners as 'suffragettes'. By 1909, the WSPU had branches all over the country.

THE CAT AND MOUSE ACT
Around 1,000 suffragettes were imprisoned for their 'substance' behaviour. While in jail, some continued to fight by going on hunger strikes, refusing to eat or drink. At first, they were released to prevent them from starving, but, by 1910, prison wardens began to force feed them. Women were badly hurt, prompting public outrage at what was seen as government torture.

The government responded by passing the 1913 'Prisoners' Temporary Discharge for Ill Health' Act. Under this new law, when women on hunger strike became critically weak, they were sent home. As soon as they recovered, they were promptly returned to continue their sentence. It was dubbed the 'Cat and Mouse Act' because to the way a cat plays with its prey repeatedly letting it escape before catching it again.

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