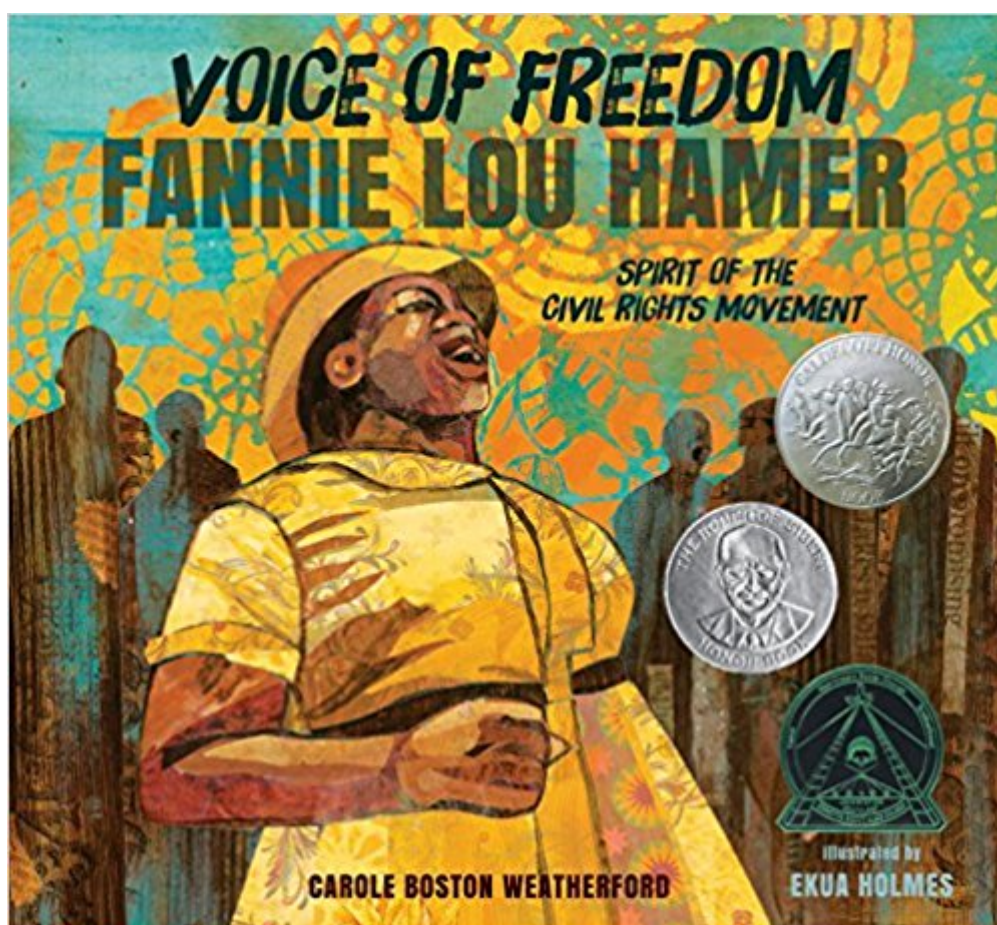


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# Voice Of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer: The Spirit Of The Civil Rights Movement (Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor (Awards))



## Synopsis

A 2016 Caldecott Honor Book A 2016 Robert F. Sibert Honor Book A 2016 John Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Award Winner Stirring poems and stunning collage illustrations combine to celebrate the life of Fannie Lou Hamer, a champion of equal voting rights. "I am sick and tired of being sick and tired." Despite fierce prejudice and abuse, even being beaten to within an inch of her life, Fannie Lou Hamer was a champion of civil rights from the 1950s until her death in 1977. Integral to the Freedom Summer of 1964, Ms. Hamer gave a speech at the Democratic National Convention that, despite President Johnson's interference, aired on national TV news and spurred the nation to support the Freedom Democrats. Featuring vibrant mixed-media art full of intricate detail, *Voice of Freedom* celebrates Fannie Lou Hamer's life and legacy with a message of hope, determination, and strength.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 820 (What's this?)

Series: Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor (Awards)

Hardcover: 56 pages

Publisher: Candlewick (August 4, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763665312

ISBN-13: 978-0763665319

Product Dimensions: 11.3 x 0.4 x 10.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #50,292 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Social Activists #77 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism #103 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 6 Up • This welcome biography brings to light one of the civil rights movement's most inspiring leaders. The youngest of 20 children, Fannie Lou Hamer grew up in a family of sharecroppers in the Mississippi Delta. Forced to leave school after sixth grade, she joined the rest

of her family in the fields picking cotton. Still hungry for knowledge, she found strength in the love of her family and through her Christian faith. Weatherford describes the hardships that Hamer endured. For instance, in 1961, while she was having a small tumor removed, a doctor performed a hysterectomy without her consent; at that time, Mississippi law allowed poor women to be sterilized without their knowledge. Hamer was in her 40s when young activists spoke at her church; until that point, she hadn't known that she could vote, and she volunteered to register. Though she faced threats and in 1963 was brutally beaten, she spent the rest of her life rallying others. Told in the first person from Hamer's own perspective, this lyrical text in verse emphasizes the activist's perseverance and courage, as she let her booming voice be heard. Holmes's beautiful, vibrant collage illustrations add detail and nuance, often depicting Hamer wearing yellow, which reflects her Sunflower County roots and her signature song, "This Little Light of Mine." Pair this title with Don Mitchell's *The Freedom Summer Murders* (Scholastic, 2014), which features a short chapter on Hamer, for a well-rounded look at this tumultuous, turbulent era. VERDICT Hamer's heroic life story should be widely known, and this well-crafted work should find a place in most libraries.

•Marilyn Taniguchi, Beverly Hills Public Library, CA

A welcome addition to civil rights literature for children ... Hamer's determination, perseverance, and unwavering resolve come through on every page. Holmes' quiltlike collage illustrations emphasize the importance Hamer placed on community among African-Americans. Young readers who open this book with just a vague notion of who Fannie Lou Hamer was will wonder no more after absorbing this striking portrait of the singer and activist. Bold, honest, informative, and unforgettable.

•Kirkus Reviews (starred review) Caldecott Honor winner *Weatherford (Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom, 2006)* has rendered Hamer's voice so precisely that it is like sitting at her knee as she tells her story. Holmes' multimedia collages perfectly capture the essence of each poem. Like Hamer's life, the illustrations are filled with light, texture, movement, and darkness. They are both abstract and realistic, brilliantly juxtaposing gentle floral motifs with protest placards and Fannie Lou Hamer's face in bold relief. Ultimately, though this is Hamer's story, it includes the collaborative struggles of others with whom she worked and fought for a different America. Bold, unapologetic, and beautiful.

•Booklist (starred review) Told in the first person from Hamer's own perspective, this lyrical text in verse emphasizes the activist's perseverance and courage, as she let her booming voice be heard. Holmes's beautiful, vibrant collage illustrations add detail and nuance, often depicting Hamer wearing yellow, which reflects her Sunflower County

roots...Hamer's heroic life story should be widely known, and this well-crafted work should find a place in most libraries. •School Library Journal (starred review) Artist Holmes, in her children's literature debut, elevates an already excellent narrative with richly colored collage illustrations that layer meaning upon meaning with scraps of historical photos, newsprint, maps, musical scores, and more...This majestic biography offers a detailed, intelligible overview of Hamer's life while never losing the thread of her motivations, fears, and heroic triumphs, and places the civil rights movement in personal, local, national, and international contexts. •The Horn Book (starred review) In a series of poems in this biography, Weatherford traces the life of Fannie Lou Hamer from her childhood as the youngest of 20 children of sharecroppers in Mississippi to her social and political activism...The poems feature particular events in Hamer's life and their implications, which provide readers with memorable, heart-wrenching details. •Literacy Daily Consider this not only as an accessible biography but also as a piece for solo or duet performance. •Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books The combination of history, poetry, and brilliant watercolor illustrations makes this a picture book on the Civil Rights Movement that should not be missed. •School Library Connection

I bought this book back in Nov., so this review is long overdue. It is a beautiful book, and in the capable hands of Carole Boston Weatherford readers are transported back through the life and achievements of Fannie Lou Hamer. Her words are both whimsical and striking. And the illustrations by Ekua Holmes are a perfect compliment to the images Weatherford's words create. The illustrations are stirring and vibrant and demand to be recognized. It is no wonder that Holmes was awarded a Caldecott honor and the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe award for New talent for this debut work. It is well deserved. And this picture book biography is a wonderful addition to any bookshelf.

Strong story written about a heroine of the Civil Rights Movement in a way that youngsters can enjoy and learn from. Sprightly illustrated. Sure to become a classic!

I've always admired Fannie and it's wonderful to see this book and to be able to share her life with my students.

Beautiful book shares a great story. Inspiration to children and adults!

This is one of the best nonfiction picture books I've ever read. I love the way the author has told Fannie Lou Hamer's story through free verse poetry. She also has done a remarkable job of conveying these poems in the voice of Ms Hamer. It's a beautifully told tale of an important figure in civil rights, someone more people should know about. Highly recommended for all ages.

This book eloquently details the life of Fannie Lou Hamer. It's illustrated with such rich and beautiful colors.

This was an excellent book to add to my bookshelf. The illustrations were great and Fannie Lou Hamer's words are powerful, yet plain enough for its intended audience. I bought a friend of mine this book as a gift !

Fantastic biography of Fannie Lou Hamer with beautiful artwork! This should be in every single classroom.

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