STUDY GUIDE
SEASON FOUR

By MAT SMART
Directed by KENYATTA ROGERS

MOSAIC THEATER COMPANY
Introduction

“Theatre is a form of knowledge; it should and can also be a means of transforming society. Theatre can help us build our future, rather than just waiting for it.”—Augusto Boal

The purpose and goal of Mosaic’s education department is simple. Our program aims to further and cultivate students’ knowledge and passion for theatre and theatre education. We strive for complete and exciting arts engagement for educators, artists, our community, and all learners in the classroom. Mosaic’s education program yearns to be a conduit for open discussion and connection to help students understand how theatre can make a profound impact in their lives, in society, and in their communities.

Mosaic Theater Company of DC is thrilled to have your interest and support!

Catherine Chmura
Arts Education Apprentice—Mosaic Theater Company of DC

Written by Catherine Chmura, Shirley Serotsky, and Timothy Thompson
PRESENTS

THE AGITATORS

By Mat Smart
Director KenYatta Rogers

Set Designer Jonathan Dahm Robertson
Lighting Designer Alberto Segarra
Costume Designer Amy MacDonald
Sound Designer David Lamont Wilson
Sound Engineer Robert Garner
Projections Designer James Morrison
Assistant Projections Designer Alec Sparks
Movement Coordinator Elena Velasco
Properties Designer Emily Boisseau
Resident Dramaturg Shirley Serotsky

Production Stage Manager Laurel VanLandingham

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About the Artists

**Mat Smart (Playwright)** Mat Smart writes plays about his hometown (Naperville, a suburb of Chicago) and his travels (he’s been to all 50 states and all of the continents). He received the 2015 Equity Jeff Award for Best New Work in Chicago for *The Royal Society of Antarctica* (Gift Theatre), which was developed at the Playwrights’ Center in PlayLabs 2013 and inspired by his three-month stint working as a janitor at McMurdo Station in Antarctica. Mat’s newest plays include *Midwinter* (commission from the Denver Center Theatre Company, workshop at the 2016 Colorado New Play Summit) and *Eden Prairie, 1971*, inspired by his three years living in Minneapolis from 2008 to 2011. He recently returned from South America where he spent time volunteering on an organic farm outside Mendoza, Argentina. Other plays include *Naperville* (Slant Theatre Project, upcoming at Theatre Wit), *Tinker to Evers to Chance* (Geva, Merrimack Rep), *Samuel J. and K.* (Williamstown Theatre Festival, Steppenwolf), *The Hopper Collection* (Magic Theatre, Huntington), *The 13th of Paris* (City Theatre, Seattle Public Theatre), and *The Debate over Courtneyn O’Connell of Columbus, Nebraska* (Slant, Chalk Rep, Bryant Lake Bowl, and Theatre 502). Awards & Fellowships 2014 Otis Guernsey New Voices Award from the William Inge Center for the Arts, Edgerton Foundation New Play Award, two Jerome Fellowships and a McKnight Advancement Grant. Commissions South Coast Rep, Huntington, Denver Center, and Geva. He is an alumus of the Writer/Director Lab at Soho Rep, Play Group at Ars Nova, the Dorothy Strelsin New American Writers Group at Primary Stages, and The Working Farm at SPACE on Ryder Farm. He is a co-Artistic Director of NYC’s Slant Theatre Project. Undergrad University of Evansville. MFA UCSD.

**KenYatta Rogers (Director)** is a director and actor with over 50 professional productions of theatre experience. Directing credits include productions with Mosaic Theatre, African Continuum Theatre Company, The IN Series, Theatre J, University of Pittsburgh, Point Park College, South Carolina State University, and Howard University. Acting credits include productions with the Kennedy Center, Round House Theatre, Arena Stage, Forum Theatre, Everyman Theatre, Woolly Mammoth, Ford’s Theatre, Olney Theatre, Folger Theatre, Trustus Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, Washington Shakespeare Company, and African Continuum Theatre Company. KenYatta received his MFA from the University of Pittsburgh and is currently Theatre Coordinator for Montgomery College’s Performing Arts Department.
Activities Before the Play

EDUCATORS: To best prepare your students for your trip to Mosaic Theater Company of DC, consider these Pre Show Activities that you can do together in class.

MUSIC LISTENING: Take a listen to our generated YouTube playlist to help set the tone and the mood for the play (warning—explicit content): https://bit.ly/2NKwg7h

OPEN DISCUSSIONS:

• Discuss the oppression of both women and individuals of color in the 1800's. Women weren’t allowed to vote, own property, have their own money, etc. People of color were not allowed to vote, they were subjected to racism and segregation, they could not be seen having dialogue with white individuals, etc.

• What are the obstacles that these particular demographics faced in society in the 1800's and even in today's time?

• As the women's suffrage movement gained steam, African-American women's suffrage was increasingly marginalized due to not only sexism, but racism amongst white suffragists. Discuss why, if the fight was for all women, it didn’t include African-American women in the 19th century?

Curriculum Connections

DC PUBLIC SCHOOLS Taken from the DCPS Scope and Sequence Matrix for the 2018-2019 School Year

• Grade Level 9 (UNIT 1): Honorable Actions and Honorable Words

• Grade Level 10 (UNIT 2): Honoring The Past

• Grade Level 11 (UNIT 2): American Dream Revisited: An Examination of Race, Modernism, and Mayhem

• Grade Level 12 (UNIT 1): (Wo)Man
Synopsis

This brilliant play examines the 45-year friendship and occasional rivalry between two great, rebellious, and flawed American icons Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass. Young abolitionists when they met in Rochester in the 1840s, they were full of hopes, dreams and a common purpose. As they grew to become the cultural icons we know today, their movements collided and their friendship was severely tested. This is the story of that 45-year friendship - from its beginning in Rochester, through a Civil War and to the highest halls of government. They agitated the nation, they agitated each other and, in doing so, they helped shape the Constitution and the course of American history. A loving and faithful portrait of two historical figures, Mat Smart’s story also brims with modern urgency and relevance.
Characters

RO BODDIE as
Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass was a writer, publisher, lecturer, civil servant, civil rights activist, abolitionist, and suffragist who was born into slavery in 1818. He would escape and teach himself how to read and write. Encouraged by abolitionists to speak of his experience, he would draw large crowds to his lecture across the nation and in Great Britain and Ireland. After the American Civil War, he would lead the fight to secure the right for recently freed slaves, which resulted in the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment. From then on, he would work the rest of his life for African American civil rights and woman suffrage. Frederick Douglass’ journey from being born into slavery to the first Presidentially-appointed African American civil servant is covered in great detail in his autobiography The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass.

MARNI PENNING as
Susan B. Anthony

Susan B. Anthony was a lecturer, civil rights activist, abolitionist, and suffragist who is credited as one of the key figures who secured women’s right to vote, though she would never live to see the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. Born to a Quaker with family in Massachusetts, Anthony was immediately immersed in Quaker activist traditions and joined the Daughters of Temperance. In 1852, she met Cady B. Stanton and dedicated her life to woman suffrage after being denied the opportunity to speak at a temperance conference. Throughout her life and up until her death, she lectured and canvassed the nation hoping to secure the right to vote for women. Her efforts are covered in great detail in A History of Woman’s Suffrage Vol.I-III and The Life and Work of Susan B. Anthony.

The Ensemble played by ADANNA PAUL and JOSH ADAMS

The ensemble members represent our shadow selves and, in our production, these “shadows” morph. Sometimes they are characters in the play. Sometimes they back Susan and sometimes they back Frederick. Sometimes they represent gender, sometimes race. And other times they represent the past, the present, and the future. Like any chorus, they are representatives of the society in which we live, providing a reflection of the best and worst in all of us.
ROCHESTER, NY, is an incredibly significant American city located in Monroe County (in the northwest of New York state), and has been at the forefront of American progress in civil rights, manufacturing, and education for centuries. The Genesee River that feeds into Lake Ontario made the land a naturally fertile place desirable to the Seneca tribe of Native Americans and later to colonial settlers who would establish flour mills. With the city’s connection to the Erie Canal in 1823, the city quickly became a manufacturing hub, which would lead Rochester to become America's first ‘boomtown.’ Rochester was also the sight of the country’s most important Protestant revivalist movements, which would drive Rochester to become the nerve center for civil rights activists and movements. After escaping slavery and touring Great Britain, Frederick Douglass would move to Rochester and begin publishing The North Star, a seminal abolitionist newspaper. Susan B. Anthony would become involved in socially progressive movements such as abolition, temperance, and women’s rights after her Quaker family relocated to Rochester. Manufacturing extended beyond the flour trade: Rochester would be the headquarters of heavy-hitting companies such as the Ragu pasta sauce company, Xerox (founded in 1906 as the The Haloid Company) and Kodak. Rochester is also a significant educational center: The University of Rochester is a highly regarded institution to this today. The college’s Departments of Political Science and Economics have impacted social sciences since the 1960s, the Eastman School of Music consistently ranks as the number one music school in the nation, and the college's Institute of Optics (founded by Eastman Kodak and Bausch and Lomb) is responsible for granting half of all optics degrees awarded in the United States (and is still regarded as the premier optics programs in the country).
The significance of Anacostia, Washington, DC

ANACOSTIA is located at the intersection of Good Hope Road and Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue in the Southeast quadrant of Washington DC, located east of the Anacostia River. Now a historic district, Anacostia was one of the first suburbs to be incorporated in the District of Columbia in 1854. Originally referred to as 'Uniontown,' the neighborhood was initially designed to be an accessible suburban neighborhood for working class families in a time when the suburbs were largely developed for the upper-middle class families retreating from urban living environments. On January 27, 1886, the House of Representatives Committee on the District of Columbia approved changing Uniontown's name to Anacostia. The word 'Anacostia' is the anglicized version of 'Nacotchtank,' which, prior to the European settlement of the Washington DC area, was the name given to the area by the Necostan Native Americans who inhabited the area. Frederick Douglass' Cedar Hill House is located in Anacostia.

CEDAR HILL Frederick Douglass' Cedar Hill House is located in the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site in Anacostia, District of Columbia. The property is overseen by the National Park Service which is a bureau of the Department of the Interior. Originally built between 1855 and 1859 by architect John Van Hook, Douglass purchased the property and 9 ¾ acres of land from the Freemen's Savings and Trust Company in 1877 for $6,700. He additionally purchased an adjacent 5¾ acres of land to add to his estate. After a year of renovations he moved in with his wife, Anna, in the fall of 1878. Throughout the years many improvements were made to the house. The original kitchen was converted into a dining room and a new kitchen was built in the south wing of the house. A two-story addition was built in the rear of the house and by the time of his death in 1895 the mansion had 21 rooms. This is the last home where Frederick Douglass lived, for the last 18 years of his life.
Significant Dates

February 1818  Frederick Douglass is born into slavery, and, at 6, was sent to work at the Wye Household. His owner was Thomas Auld. The exact date of his birth is unknown.

February 15, 1820  Susan B. Anthony is born in Adams, MA to a Quaker family heavily engaged in social causes.

1827  Frederick asks Sophia Auld to teach him to read. She does so until Hugh Auld stops them, believing that education makes slaves rebellious.

1837  A national financial panic.procès Susan B. Anthony to end her formal studies. She becomes a teacher at a Quaker boarding school to help her parents with finances.

1845  The Anthony family move into a farm on the outskirts of Rochester, NY. Douglass publishes his first autobiography that covers his experiences as a slave. The popularity of the book and Douglass’ heightened profile, causes some to be concerned for his safety in the states.

1845-1847  Douglass lectures in the UK and Ireland. During his trip, supporters and admirers raise the funds to purchase Douglass’ freedom from Thomas Auld.

December 3, 1847  Douglass moves to Rochester.

1848  Douglass begins sheltering escaped slaves fleeing north on the “underground railroad.” Anthony’s father founds the Congregational Friends, and their farm becomes a gathering place on Sundays for like-minded social reformers Frederick Douglass would be a guest on these Sundays.

March 1, 1849  Susan gives her first public speech, to the Daughters of Temperance in Canajoharie.

October 23, 1850  Lucy Stone organizes the first National Woman’s Rights Convention at Worcester, Massachusetts. Susan B. Anthony, who was not at the convention, later said it was reading Stone’s speech that converted her to the cause of women’s rights.

October 16-18, 1858  John Brown and other abolitionist followers raid the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferr y. He is eventually tried and hanged. Authorities find a letter from Douglass to Brown. Douglass flees to Canada and then to a planned lecture tour of England to escape arrest on charges of being an accomplice in Brown’s raid.

March 4, 1861  Lincoln sworn in.

April 12, 1861  The American Army surrenders Fort Sumter, SC, to the Confederates; the American Civil War begins.

January 1, 1863  Emancipation Proclamation

April 15, 1865  President Lincoln is assassinated at Ford’s Theater. Andrew Johnson is inaugurated President.

December 6, 1865  The Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery is ratified by the required number of states.

May 9, 1865  Civil War is over.

May 10, 1866  The American Equal Rights Association (AERA) is founded at the Eleventh Annual National Women’s Rights Convention in Boston. Douglass and Anthony are leading participants.

March 4, 1869  Ulysses S. Grant inaugurated.

February 26, 1869  The Fifteenth Amendment gets passed in Congress. ‘The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.’ The amendment is sent to states to be ratified.

December 10, 1869  Wyoming passed the first woman suffrage law; women voted for the first time in 1870s.

February 3, 1870  The Fifteenth Amendment gets ratified after acquiring the requisite 27 states needed.

May 14, 1870  The AERA folds in large part due to infighting over passage of the Fifteenth Amendment. The National Woman’s Suffrage Association (NWSA) is founded in New York by Susan B. Anthony and
Elizabeth Cady Stanton. The American Woman’s Suffrage Association (AWSA) will be their rival and is run by Lucy Stone.

April 1871
President Grant appoints Douglass to a special Commission to assess Santo Domingo and the Dominican Republic for potential annexation into the Union. He is the first African American to be appointed by a President to such a commission.

November 5, 1872
Anthony arrested in Rochester for trying to vote in the Presidential election.

1873
Anthony is tried and fined $100 with costs after the judge ordered the jury to find her guilty. Anthony refuses to pay but is not imprisoned so cannot appeal the verdict.

March 4, 1877
Rutherford B. Hayes inaugurated President. Days after his inauguration, he appoints Douglass as Marshall for the District of Columbia.

March 4, 1881
President James A. Garfield inaugurated.

May 17, 1881
Garfield appoints Douglass as Recorder of Deeds.

September 19, 1881
James A. Garfield assassinated. Chester A. Arthur sworn in as President. Federal action from his administration on behalf of recently freed slaves was ineffective.

1881
Anthony and Stanton publish History of Woman Suffrage Volume I, which covers early moments of the movement pre-1861. Later, Anthony and Stanton publish History of Woman Suffrage Volume II, which covers the movement from 1861-1876.

August 4, 1882
Anna Murray Douglass, Frederick Douglass’ wife, passes away from a stroke in Washington DC.

January 24, 1884
Frederick Douglass marries Helen Pitts, a white suffragist and abolitionist.

March 6, 1884
President Arthur receives a delegation of 100 women of the NWSA, and Susan B. Anthony asks, “Ought not women have full equality and equal political rights?” He responds, “We should probably differ on the details of that question.”

1887
Anthony and Stanton publish History of Woman’s Suffrage Volume III, which summarizes laws and the enfranchisement of women in the Wyoming Territory.

March-April 1888
International Council for Woman’s Rights in DC. Anthony takes this opportunity to lobby Cleveland on the issue of women’s voting rights.

March 4, 1889
Benjamin Harrison inaugurated as President. During his administration six western states were admitted to the Union. However, his proposals to secure federal education funding as well as voting rights enforcement for African Americans were unsuccessful.

February 20, 1890
The NWSA and the AWSA, two disparate factions of the defunct AERA, merge to form the North American Woman’s Suffrage Association (NAWSA).

February 20, 1895
Frederick Douglass dies in Washington DC of a massive heart attack. He was attending a meeting at the National Council of Women, where his speech received a standing ovation. He is 77.

April 1895
Anthony attends Ida B. Wells’ lecture in Rochester. Wells’ journalism and speeches raised awareness to the discrimination and violence occurring against African Americans across America AND championed woman’s suffrage.

March 4, 1897
William McKinley inaugurated as President. The Progressive Era begins.

February 15, 1900
Anthony invited to the White House by President McKinley for her 80th birthday.

September 14, 1901
Theodore Roosevelt inaugurated as President days after President McKinley is assassinated.

March 3, 1906
Susan B. Anthony dies in her home at Rochester. Though she would not live to see national suffrage, at the time of her death, women had achieved suffrage in Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and Idaho, and several larger states followed soon after.
Discussion Themes

- Racial and Gender Bias
- Racism and Misogyny
- Masculine and Feminine Duality
- History of Women’s Black Suffrage
- Birth of An Activism
- Contemporary Feminism
- Quakers in The US
- Modern Movements for Change
- Necessary Coalitions

Activities After the Play

SCENE STUDY

In this scene taken from The Agitators, we see Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass discussing their family life, hardships, and the hardships facing both women and people of color in the time period of this scene, 1849.

Have your students read and discuss the scene and perform it for the class. Answer the following questions as a group and then perform the scene again with any possible suggestions and adjustments.

SUSAN

“We have to do with the past only as we can make it useful to the present and to the future.” Thank you. (Beat) I could not find good peaches in Canajoharie. Since I resigned my position, I have eaten a dozen peaches a day here. And I am not tired of them yet. I cannot believe you do not like peaches. I should have made an apple cobbler. Next Sunday, I will –

FREDERICK

Did I say I do not like peaches?

SUSAN

You did not say anything at all. Do you like peaches?

FREDERICK

Yes.

SUSAN

(relieved) Oh. (alarmed) Then do you not like cobbler? (Beat) I offended you earlier – is that what happened? I never should have stammered up to you and asked you to sign my copy of your autobiography. I apologize. Did I offend you earlier?

FREDERICK

No.

SUSAN

No?

FREDERICK

No.

SUSAN

Then I think you are being quite rude.

FREDERICK

Rude?

SUSAN

Yes, if I put you off earlier, then I apologize and I quite understand your behavior. But if I did not put you off, then I should think you are being rather rude.

FREDERICK

You did not put me off earlier. You are putting me off now. (Beat) I am here, in the far corner of the yard, because this is the best vantage point to watch my children play. To watch my beautiful wife
SCENE STUDY continued

Anna – as she plays her violin – with our little Annie swaddled to her chest. To watch your father and your mother, your brothers and your sisters. You. To watch the miracle of our families all together – to have a glimpse of what the future of this hateful, hypocritical country could be. Outside this fence, a black man talking to an unmarried white women is a death sentence. This conversation – right now – is enough to have me killed.

SUSAN You are safe here.
FREDERICK I am welcome here. But there is nowhere in America that I am safe. (He looks back at his family in the yard) Charles! Down from the – Charles Remond Douglass! Down from that peach tree! Now!
SUSAN Outside this fence, the fact that I am 29 years old and unmarried is scandalous. Most women my age have six or seven children by now.
FREDERICK And why do you not?
SUSAN Oh, the question everyone must ask me! Do you too think I am incomplete without a husband and six or seven children?
FREDERICK It is not an indictment. It is only a question.
SUSAN As soon as a woman marries, everything she owns is dissolved into her husband. All of her money and property, all of the wages she earns. And if her husband drinks every night and beats her – she cannot divorce him. She cannot leave him. Because if she did, she would lose her children and be cast out from society forever. Her only prospects being prostitution and death. A single woman can own property. She can keep her own earnings. Sign contracts. And if she finds herself in a situation she does not find suitable, she may leave. It is a wonder to me that any woman chooses to marry.
FREDERICK But what about love?
SUSAN How do you mean?
FREDERICK What if you fall in love?
SUSAN Who is to say I have not fallen in love?
FREDERICK I meant the general you – not you in particular. Because when one falls in love, sometimes it changes one's thinking.
SUSAN Well, if and when one falls in love, it should not change one's thinking on the injustices of the institution of marriage. . . . If I ever fall in love, it will be with an equal.
FREDERICK When I first met Anna, I was a slave and she was free. We were not equals. She was everything I hoped to become. (calling out to Anna) Anna! I love you! I have loved you since I first saw you in Baltimore – walking down South Caroline Street! (FREDERICK picks up his violin and plays an impassioned riff) Do you hear how much I love you? I owe everything to you – you beautiful, euphonious woman! I only had the courage to run away because I was running away to Anna. Twelve days after I escaped, we were married. Throughout my life, it is women who have taught me how to be the man I am. (Beat) Your father said you recently gave your first public speech in Canajoharie – a speech on temperance. He said it caused quite an agitation.
SUSAN Agitation is overstating it. It was more of a . . . stir. A gentle stirring really.
FREDERICK It prompted people to start calling you “The Smartest Woman in Canajoharie,”
SUSAN I am afraid that is not much of a compliment. And more accurately, people called me “The Smartest Woman Who Has Ever Been in Canajoharie.” Sadly, still not much of a compliment.
FREDERICK Your father beams with pride when he speaks of you.
SUSAN I do not know why. I am a school teacher who quit her job and moved home. I have done nothing yet.
FREDERICK He believes you can become anything you want to become.
SUSAN Well, he does not have a say in the matter.
SCENE STUDY continued

FREDERICK Do you realize how unusual your father is?
SUSAN He is like many Quaker men.
FREDERICK No, he is not. Even though Quaker men say they believe in the equality of the sexes, when it comes down to their wife – or daughter – speaking her mind with abandon – their conviction wanes. It may be 1849, but most men, however enlightened, find the idea of a woman giving a public speech repugnant.
SUSAN And how do you find it?
FREDERICK I find it... as vital as oxygen. When I was a boy, I did not know white people like your family existed. The slaveholders would sometimes whisper a word to one another like it was the filthiest, most pernicious word ever created “Abolitionist.” At first, I had no idea of what it meant. But I knew I liked it – because it was so clear that they hated it. It has always been, and remains, one of my favorite words. (noticing Charles in the tree, yelling) Get down, Charles! Get down, you filthy abolitionist (FREDERICK and SUSAN laugh) It is a pleasure to finally meet you. Please – sit.
SUSAN No, thank you.
FREDERICK Sit for a moment – I insist.
SUSAN I do not know how to sit.

Questions:

1. Describe the relationship between Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony. How did you and your scene partner express that relationship through vocal tone, body language, etc.?
2. What does Frederick want in this scene and what is she feeling?
3. What does Susan want in this scene and what is she feeling?
4. What is the flow of the scene? Where does the scene pick up and slow down? Why?
5. Discuss the difference of the length of the lines for each character. Why do you think one character speaks more than the other?
6. What can you and your scene partner change or add to make the scene more believable and dynamic?
YESTERDAY’S AGITATORS

Throughout the play both Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass mention other agitators who had helped them in their fights for rights for women and rights for people of color. Those individuals were the support system for Anthony and Douglass and are still remembered today for their efforts.

Here are some of the most influential “Yesterday's Agitators” who paved the way for change in their world and the world today.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton: Elizabeth Cady Stanton was an American suffragist, social activist, abolitionist, and leading figure of the early women's rights movement. Her Declaration of Sentiments, presented at the Seneca Falls Convention held in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York, is often credited with initiating the first organized women's rights and women's suffrage movements in the United States. Stanton was president of the National Woman Suffrage Association from 1892 until 1900. Before Stanton narrowed her political focus almost exclusively to women's rights, she was an active abolitionist with her husband Henry Brewster Stanton (co-founder of the Republican Party) and cousin Gerrit Smith.

Lucretia Mott: Lucretia Mott was a U.S. Quaker, abolitionist, women's rights activist, and social reformer. She had formed the idea of reforming the position of women in society when she was amongst the women excluded from the World Anti-Slavery Convention in 1840. In 1848 she was invited by Jane Hunt to a meeting that led to the first meeting about women's rights. Mott helped write the Declaration of Sentiments during the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention. Her speaking abilities made her an important abolitionist, feminist, and reformer. When slavery was outlawed in 1865, she advocated giving former slaves who had been bound to slavery laws within the boundaries of the United States, whether male or female, the right to vote.

Harriet Tubman: Harriet Tubman was an American abolitionist and political activist. Born into slavery, Tubman escaped and subsequently made some thirteen missions to rescue approximately seventy enslaved people, family and friends, using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known as the Underground Railroad. She later helped abolitionist John Brown recruit men for his raid on Harpers Ferry. During the Civil War, she served as an armed scout and spy for the United States Army. In her later years, Tubman was an activist in the struggle for women’s suffrage.

Ida B. Wells: Ida Bell Wells-Barnett, more commonly known as Ida B. Wells, was an African-American investigative journalist, educator, and an early leader in the Civil Rights Movement. She was one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She arguably became the most famous black woman in America, during a life that was centered on combating prejudice and violence.

Booker T. Washington: Booker Taliaferro Washington was an American educator, author, orator, and advisor to presidents of the United States. Between 1890 and 1915, Washington was the dominant leader in the African-American community. Washington was from the last generation of black American leaders born into slavery and became the leading voice of the former slaves and their descendants. They were newly oppressed in the South by disenfranchisement and the Jim Crow discriminatory laws enacted in the post-Reconstruction Southern states in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Washington was a key proponent of African-American businesses and one of the founders of the National Negro Business League.
Anna Howard Shaw: She was a leader of the women's suffrage movement in the United States. She was also a physician and one of the first ordained female Methodist ministers in the United States.

William Lloyd Garrison: He was a prominent American abolitionist, journalist, suffragist, and social reformer. He is best known as the editor of the abolitionist newspaper The Liberator, which he founded with Isaac Knapp in 1831 and published in Massachusetts until slavery was abolished by Constitutional amendment after the American Civil War. He was one of the founders of the American Anti-Slavery Society, and promoted "immediate emancipation" of slaves in the United States.

John Brown: John Brown was an American abolitionist who believed in and advocated armed insurrection as the only way to overthrow the institution of slavery in the United States. He first gained attention when he led small groups of volunteers during the Bleeding Kansas crisis of 1856.

MODERN DAY AGITATORS

In America today, young people are at the forefront fighting for social justice issues spanning across a myriad of topics such as LGBTQ+ rights, gender equality, racism, gun violence, environmental change, etc.

Here are some of the most influential Modern Day Agitators who are changing their world today.

Emma Gonzalez, David Hogg, Alex Wind, Jaclyn Corin, Cameron Kasky, and survivors of the Marjory Stoneman shooting: American activists and advocates for gun control. This group are survivors of the February 2018 Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida, and in response co-founded the gun-control advocacy group Never Again MSD. In an effort to keep people's attention, they organized the March For Our Lives, a nationwide demonstration on March 24 that demanded change from Washington D.C.

Marley Dias: Wanted to donate 1,000 books with black girls as the main characters to other black girls, after becoming frustrated with the fact that she couldn't find many to read herself. She was "sick of reading about white boys and dogs." She reached her goal more than nine times over, made Forbes 30 Under 30 list that year, and received the Smithsonian Magazine's American Ingenuity Award.
Malala Yousafzai: An activist for female education, initially in Pakistan, since 2009, support for her cause reached international levels after she was shot by a Taliban gunman in 2012 because of her activism. Since then, Yousafzai has established a non-profit organization and received the Nobel Peace Prize. She also was the catalyst for a United Nations campaign for children's education world-wide.

Jazz Jennings: In 2007, Jazz Jennings gained national attention in the United States at the age of 6 when she was interviewed by Barbara Walters on 20/20 about being a transgender girl. She and her family founded the Transkids Purple Rainbow Foundation, whose mission includes financial resources for homeless trans youth in need, education, and advocacy. In 2014, Time magazine included Jennings on their list of most influential teenagers in the world.

Asean Johnson: In 2013, Chicago Public Schools announced plans to close down as many as 54 public schools. This 9-year-old did everything he could to make sure his school was not on that list, including giving a series of incendiary speeches against the mayor's plans. He even went on to speak at the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, where he invoked Martin Luther King Jr.: “Every school deserves equal funding and resources,” he said. “I encourage all of you to keep Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream alive. Help us fight for freedom, racial equality, jobs, and public education, because I have a dream that we shall overcome.” Johnson plans to run for mayor in 2025.

Shawn DeAngelo: Founded Atlanta's first black-owned bicycle shop WeCycle Atlanta, an organization that uses cycling as a means to promote health, economic, and environmental awareness in the local community. It provides residents with bike riding lessons, bike customization, and educational programming. Plus, WeCycle has evolved to include an urban agricultural element that teaches the benefits of gardening.

Xiutezcatl Martinez: This 17-year-old has been in the business of trying to save the world since age six. His powerful speech at the United Nations in 2015—when he was just fifteen years old—cut straight to heart of the biggest threat of the world’s inability to take meaningful action on climate change. He received the United States Community Service Award and served on President Obama's Youth Council and he's taking his activism to court: he's one of the 21 people who have sued the federal government and Donald Trump for failing to act on climate change.

https://www.complex.com/life/young-activists-who-are-changing-the-world/
CREATIVE WRITING

Both Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony are two of the greatest orators in American history who traveled all over the United States and abroad giving speeches to help aid and further their causes.

Think of a social justice issue that America is facing right now that you are passionate about (gun violence, LGBTQ+ rights, racism, gender inequality, etc) and write a speech to give to the class about your cause. Find ways to add both facts and emotions into your speech.

DISCUSSION

Today’s America faces a lot of the same issues that Douglass’s and Anthony’s America faced. Openly discuss with your students what you can do to make a difference within your community and how to be a conduit for change. Talk about ways to contact your senators, congressman, and communities and use #iamanagitator on social media to spark the change you want to see in the world. How can you be a modern day Agitator?
Vocabulary

Abolition: the act of ending a system, practice, or institution

Abolitionist: a person who favors the abolition of slavery

American Woman's Suffrage Association (AWSA): founded in 1869 by Lucy Stone following the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment (and subsequent dissolving of the AERA). They distinguished themselves from the more radically-minded NWSA (for instance, The AWSA included both men and women. The NWSA was all-female.)

American Equal Rights Association (AERA): An organization founded 1866 that "to secure Equal Rights to all American citizens, especially the right of suffrage, irrespective of race, color or sex." Its leading members included Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony. The AERA dissolved in 1870 following the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment.

Agitator: A person who urges others to protest or rebel.

Fifteenth Amendment: Ratified in 1870, it secured the right to vote for recently freed male slaves: 'The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.'

Fourteenth Amendment: Ratified in 1869, the five sections gave rights and protections to recently freed slaves.

National Woman's Suffrage Association (NWSA): founded in 1869 by Susan B. Anthony and Cady B. Stanton following the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment (and subsequent dissolving of the AERA). They distinguished themselves from the more conservatively-minded AWSA (The NWSA also took positions on a number of other women's rights issues, including advocating easier divorce laws and an end to discrimination in employment and pay. The AWSA was a single-issue organization: woman suffrage)

National American Woman's Suffrage Association (NAWSA): Founded in 1890, when the NWSA and the AWSA merged. Stanton and Anthony were the leaders of this group. This organization would fight for woman suffrage up to the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920.

The New National Era: Frederick Douglass' Washington D.C.-based newspaper that began publication in 1870. The weekly publication served recently freed slaves.

Nineteenth Amendment: ratified in 1920, it gave women the right to vote. 'The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.'

The North Star: Frederick Douglass' Rochester-based anti-slavery newspaper that began publication in 1847. It's slogan was "Right is of no Sex—Truth is of no Color—God is the Father of us all, and we are all Brethren." In 1851, the paper would be renamed Frederick Douglass' Paper. Harriett Beacher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin and Charles Dickens’s Bleak House would appear in the paper.

Quaker: a member of a Christian group with roots that began in England in the 1650s. Members of the various Quaker movements are all generally united in a belief in the ability of each human being to experientially access "the light within", or "that of God in every one". By 1761, Quakers had come to view abolition as a Christian duty and all Quakers, on both sides of the Atlantic, were barred from owning slaves.

Suffrage: the right to vote in political elections

Temperance: abstinence from alcoholic drink

Tesseract: a fourth-dimension representation of a cube

Thirteenth Amendment: Ratified in 1865, it abolished slavery in the United States.

Violin Concerto in E Minor (Op. 64): Composer Felix Mendelssohn's last large orchestral work. Composed between 1838 and 1844, the piece is widely performed today, and the work is considered one of the foremost pieces of the Romantic era and laid the groundwork for composers who followed. The piece has developed a reputation as