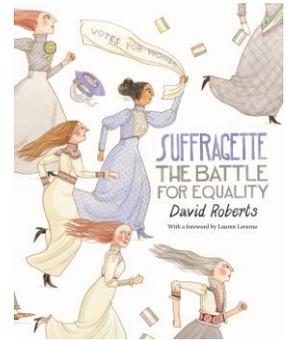


## Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning

### Suffragette by Davis Roberts (Two Hoots)

#### 1. Explore it

Look at the illustration below. Who do you think these people are? What are they doing? Where are they going? What do you think they are thinking? When do you think this event is happening? What in the illustration makes you think this?



Now look at the text and illustration together. You can also see the text below if this is difficult to read:

#### 1908: The 'Trojan Horse Raid'

SUFFRAGETTES WERE FREQUENTLY STOPPED FROM ENTERING PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS. HECKLING, BOOING, EVEN PHYSICAL ATTACKS ON MPS HAD WORN THE PATIENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT PAPER-THIN.

The government was so nervous that Parliament was on occasion surrounded by an army of policemen to stop the women from getting in.

But suffragettes didn't give up so easily, especially Christabel Pankhurst, who thought up a new tactic. When a big furniture van trundled up to the gates one day in 1908, the police thought nothing of it, parted ranks, and let the van pass through.

No sooner was it inside than over twenty suffragettes leaped from the back and made a dash for the entrance to the building.

The startled police gave chase and grabbed all but two who barged straight into Parliament shouting, 'Votes for women!'

The newspapers thought this was hilarious, and called it the 'Trojan Horse Raid'. The story of how the suffragettes outwitted the police was reported as far away as New Zealand, where the Auckland Star commented, 'Such determination and pluck must surely win in the end.'

There was still a long way to go, but through such exploits the campaign for votes for women was getting noticed.

Have you heard of the word Suffragette before? What do you think the message on the banner the woman is holding says? Why would these women be demanding to vote? What does it mean to vote?

Now re-read the text a few times and talk together about what more it is telling you about what is happening in this picture. Why would they want to barge in to parliament? What did they have to gain?

How does the title 'The Trojan Horse Raid' relate to what is happening here? Have you heard of the Trojan Horse Raid before? Do you know the original Greek Myth about the Trojan Horse raid? You can hear esteemed storytellers Hugh Lupton and Daniel Morden tell this story here:

<http://classictales.educ.cam.ac.uk/stories/warwithtroy/episode12/index.html>

How is this like the suffragettes entering parliament? What do you like about this story of the suffragette's own 'Trojan Horse Raid'? Do you agree with the newspapers that it was hilarious? Can you imagine this happening nowadays?

## 2. Illustrate it

Look at the illustrations of the suffragettes. How do you know the suffragettes are running quickly? How has David Roberts depicted this movement? How has he depicted their determination? Look at their clothing and the colours he has used. What do you notice about the shape and the patterning of the blouses, skirts, jackets and accessories? Which suffragette interests you most? Why? If you were to draw one of the other suffragettes involved in this raid, how would you draw them? What would be special about her? What would you include? How could you show the force of their energy compared to the 'trundling' van? Use whatever drawing materials you have to illustrate one of the other suffragettes.

## 3. Talk about it

- Which words give us a sense of the suffragettes' speed and determination once they left the van?
- What did the suffragettes hope to gain from this particular exploit? Did they achieve their goal?
- Why do you think women weren't allowed to vote before this? Why is it important for women to have won the equal right to vote?
- Why do you think equality is important? Do you think we have achieved equality between men and women now? Why or why not? Are there any other groups that are unfairly treated by society?
- If you were to summarise this event for your own newspaper, what would you tell your readers?

## 4. Imagine it

Imagine you were one of the suffragettes leaping out of the van and barging through the police at parliament. Do you think they were fearless? How would you feel? What would you be thinking? Would you be afraid? How would you overcome your fear? Why would votes for women matter so much to you? Write an eye witness account in role as one of these suffragettes.

## 5. Create it

Think about how the suffragettes fought for what they believed in. What current issues are happening in your own time that you feel strongly about? This could be global issues like climate change, the refugee crisis or continued female inequality. Or, you could choose an issue that relates to daily life, such as should as mobile phone use, junk food, school testing or stereotyping.

Produce a piece of writing to motivate others to fight for your chosen cause. Think about what kind of writing this could be; will you write a speech, poster, leaflet, web page or article? How will you use both text and images to engage your reader in the way David Roberts has in Suffragette? Share your writing with someone else at home – are they engaged and motivated by your writing?