



BARBARA JORDAN: POLITICIAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER

Say What?

Studying history and political figures can mean learning a lot of new vocabulary. Find five words in this book you've never heard before. Use a dictionary to find out what they mean. Then write the meanings in your own words, and use each word in a new sentence.





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Another View

Chapter Three discusses how Barbara Jordan helped pass the Fair Employment Practices Act. As you know, every source is different. Ask a librarian or another adult to help you find another source about this event. Write a short essay comparing and contrasting the new source's point of view with that of this book's authors. What are the authors' points of view for each source? How are they similar and why? How are they different and why?





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Dig Deeper

After reading this book, what questions do you still have about Barbara Jordan? With an adult's help, find a few reliable sources that can help you answer your questions. Write a paragraph about what you learned.





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Take a Stand

Barbara Jordan was a minority in politics both as an African American and as a woman. Today, more women and people of color have become politicians. But most US politicians are still white men. Do you think it is important that politicians come from different backgrounds? Why or why not?





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You Are There

This book talks about Barbara Jordan's speech during President Richard Nixon's impeachment hearings in 1976. Imagine that you are watching Jordan give this speech. Write a letter to a friend with your observations. Make sure you add plenty of details.





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Discussion Questions

- Barbara Jordan had to overcome many obstacles to become a lawyer and a politician, but her family always supported her. How do you think her experience might have been different without that support?
- How did Jordan's talent as a public speaker help advance her career? What common themes and ideas do you see mentioned in her speeches?





- How do you think Jordan's experience as a teacher and a lawyer helped shape her political career?
- How do you think US politics might be different today without Jordan's legacy? How do you think Jordan's legacy can be carried on to future generations?
- Jordan's story has often been overlooked in discussions about the American civil rights movement. How do you think Jordan's story could be taught in schools and communities?

