



A Project based on *Women Leading the Way: Suffragists & Suffragettes* by Mireille Miller.

## BIOGRAPHIE

Ida B. Wells-Barnett était une courageuse suffragette noire. Son enfance a été très difficile et triste. Au cours de sa vie, elle a aidé à changer l'Amérique. Ida tient une place importante dans notre histoire. Ida B. Wells-Barnett a dédié sa vie à la justice.

Ida est née le 16 juillet, 1862 à Holly Springs, Mississippi. Ses parents étaient James Wells et Elizabeth 'Lizzie Bell' Warrenton. Elle a été l'aînée de ses sept frères et sœurs. La tragédie a frappé sa famille alors qu'elle était quinze ans, ses parents et son frère de 10 mois, Stanley, sont morts de la fièvre jaune ou le paludisme. Lors d'une réunion après leur funérailles, famille et amis proches décidèrent que les six enfants restants seraient envoyés chez différents tantes et oncles. Désespérée par l'idée, Ida abandonna l'école secondaire pour essayer de rester avec ses frères et sœurs. Bientôt, elle trouva un métier comme enseignante dans une école noire et convainquit les adultes qu'elle avait dix-huit ans. Sa grand-mère, Peggy Wells s'occupait des autres enfants alors qu'Ida travaillait. Sans cette aide, Ida aurait eu du mal à s'occuper de sa famille et à travailler. Huit ans plus tard, à l'âge de vingt-trois ans, elle décida de vivre à Memphis. Elle prit plusieurs emplois pendant l'été et lorsqu'elle avait le temps, elle allait à l'Université Fisk de Nashville. Bien que les noirs ne fussent plus esclaves, ils étaient encore traités péniblement. Un jour, Ida était dans un train revenant de l'école, un conducteur de train lui ordonna de céder son siège à un homme et de passer dans la voiture «Jim Crow» où tous les noirs étaient entassés. Ida protesta et refusa de renoncer à son siège, certains disent que le chef de train a saisi son poignet et qu'Ida l'a mordu. On la tira hors de son siège. Lorsqu'elle est retournée à Memphis, elle a immédiatement pris un avocat pour porter plainte. Lorsque son avocat a été payé par la compagnie, elle a embauché un avocat blanc. Elle a gagné son procès le décembre 24, 1883, lorsque le tribunal lui a accordé un règlement de 500 dollars. Cinq ans plus tard, toujours maîtresse dans l'école primaire, on lui a offert une place au journal *The Evening Star*. Puis, elle a écrit pour *Living Way* magazine sous le nom d'Iola. Elle a commencé à se faire une réputation aux États-Unis pour ses écrits. En 1889, elle devient éditeur et co-propriétaire du *Free Speech*. Un jour, quand Ida n'était pas là, ses amis ont été accusés d'avoir tué un homme blanc. Moss, McDowell et Stewart, qui étaient les amis d'Ida, ont été envoyés en prison. Les hommes furent lynchés dans un champ devant une foule. Après la mort de ses amis, Ida écrivit un article appelant les noirs à quitter Memphis. Ida s'est intéressée au lynchage et a commencé à enquêter sur les vraies raisons derrière le lynchage. Elle a écrit un article à ce sujet. Alors qu'elle était à Philadelphie, le *Free Speech* fut détruit. Elle quitta Philadelphie pour New York. Ida prit un emploi au journal *The New York Age*. En 1892, elle a publié *Southern Horrors: Lynching Law in All Its Phases and A Red Record*, un document sur le lynchage. En 1893, elle et d'autres dirigeants noirs ont organisé un boycott.

En 1895, elle a épousé Ferdinand L. Barnett. Ils eurent quatre enfants : Charles, Herman, Ida et Alfreda. Mme Wells-Barnett a dit qu'il était difficile de trouver un équilibre entre le travail et la famille. Après la naissance de ses deux premiers enfants, Mme Wells-Barnett est partie à Chicago, puis en Grande-Bretagne, à la demande de Catherine Impey pour continuer à dénoncer le lynchage. Les gens ont été choqués sur comment africains américains étaient traités en Amérique. En 1899, Mme Wells-Barnett fut surprise de ne pas être invitée à se joindre à l'Association Nationale des Femmes de Couleur. La présidente du club, Mme Terrell, dit qu'elle avait reçu des lettres disant que si Mme Wells-Barnett s'y joignait, des personnes quitteraient le club. C'était un mensonge. Depuis deux ans, Mme Terrell était présidente et voulait être élue une troisième fois mais elle avait peur de perdre contre Ida Wells-Barnett.

Après avoir pris sa retraite à Chicago, elle a rédigé son autobiographie, *Crusade For Justice*. Le livre n'a pu être terminé. En fait, il se termine au milieu d'une phrase et au milieu d'un mot. Elle est morte d'urémie à Chicago le mars 5, 1931, à 68.

Ida B. Wells-Barnett a beaucoup contribué au monde. En 1916, seulement deux pour cent de Chicago étaient noirs, puis en 1970, trente-trois pour cent. Ses discours et ses ont aidé à modifier les esprits, et ont contribué à ce que les noirs soient mieux acceptés. Elle a joué un rôle important dans l'histoire des États-Unis et elle a expliqué aux gens les motifs de certaines actions et leur a appris qu'il est important d'agir pour défendre ses idées.



IDA B. WELLS-BARNETT  
1862 – 1931  
AFRICAN-AMERICAN

## BIOGRAPHY

Ida B. Wells-Barnett was a brave, black suffragette. Her childhood was very tough and sad. During her adulthood, she helped make changes unlike any other dared to make at her time. Ida played an important part in our history. Ida B. Wells-Barnett dedicated her life for justice.

Ida was born the 16th of July, 1862, in Holly Springs, Mississippi. Her parents were James Wells and Elizabeth 'Lizzie Bell' Warrenton. She was the oldest of her seven siblings. Tragedy struck in her family when she was around fifteen years old. Her parents and 10-month old brother, Stanley, died of either yellow fever or malaria. At a meeting after their funeral, her family relatives and friends decided that the six remaining children would be sent to various aunts and uncles. Devastated by the idea of being separated from her siblings, Ida dropped out of high school to keep her family together. Soon, she found a job as a teacher in a black school and convinced the officials that she was eighteen. Her grandmother, Peggy Wells, watched the other children while Ida went to work. Without this help, Ida would have had a hard time trying to support her family. Eight years later, at the age of twenty-three, she moved to Memphis. She took lots of summers jobs and when she had time, she would go to Fisk University in Nashville. As a child, she worked hard to earn a living.

Although blacks were no longer slaves, they were still treated horribly. One day, Ida was on a train coming back from school, a train conductor ordered her to give up her seat to a white man and move to the 'Jim Crow' car where all the blacks were crowded in. Ida protested and refused to give up her seat. Some say the train conductor grabbed her wrist and Ida bit him. The conductor and two other men dragged her out of her seat. When she returned to Memphis, she immediately hired an African-American attorney to sue the railroad. When her lawyer was paid off by the railroad, she hired a white attorney. She won her case on December 24, 1883, when the court granted her a \$500 settlement. Five years later, still teaching in elementary school, she was offered a spot in the *Evening Star*. She soon wrote for *Living Way* magazine under the pen name Iola. She started to gain a reputation for writing about the race issue in the U.S.A. In 1889, she became editor and co-owner of the *Free Speech*. One day, when Ida wasn't there, friends of hers were accused of killing a white man. Moss, McDowell and Stewart, who were Ida's friends, were sent to jail. A large lynch mob took the men and killed them in an open field. After her friends died, Ida wrote an article in the *Free Speech* urging blacks to leave Memphis. Wells emphasized lynching to everyone. Some blacks did leave, some organized groups. In her diary, she wrote that she bought a pistol, just in case. Ida got interested in lynching and began to investigate the real reasons behind lynching. She wrote an article about it. While she was away in Philadelphia, the *Free Speech* was destroyed. She moved from Philadelphia to New York City. Ida soon took a job in the *New York Age*. In 1892, she published *Southern Horrors: Lynching Law in All Its Phases and A Red Record*, which had documented research on lynching. In 1893, she and other black leaders organized a boycott.

In 1895, she married Ferdinand L. Barnett. They had four children: Charles, Herman, Ida and Alfreda. Mrs. Wells-Barnett once said that it was hard to balance work and family. After the birth of her first two children, Mrs. Wells-Barnett began traveling again and taking her children with her. Her work focused on Chicago. She went to Great Britain because Catherine Impey had asked for her. Impey wanted to be sure that the British were informed about the problems of lynching. Mrs. Wells and her speeches caused a stir in the audience. She intended to raise money for the U.S. but she was paid so little she could barely pay her expenses for travel. She decided to return to Great Britain in 1896. Mr. Penn William Nixon asked her to write for the newspaper while he was away. People gladly accepted her and were shocked about how African-Americans were treated in America. In 1899, Mrs. Wells-Barnett was surprised that she didn't get an invitation to join the National Association of Colored Women's Club. She confronted Mrs. Terrell, the president of the club. Mrs. Terrell said that she had received letters that if Mrs. Wells-Barnett joined, people would quit the club. That was a lie. The only reason Mrs. Terrell said that was because of selfish intentions. She had been president of the club for two years and wanted to be elected a third time, and she was afraid that if Mrs. Wells-Barnett joined, she would lose against her. After traveling around America and into Great Britain, Mrs. Wells-Barnett settled down in Chicago. After her retirement in Chicago, she wrote her autobiography, *Crusade for Justice*. The book was never finished. In fact, it ends in the middle of a sentence, and the middle of a word. She died of uremia in Chicago on March 5th, 1931, at 68.

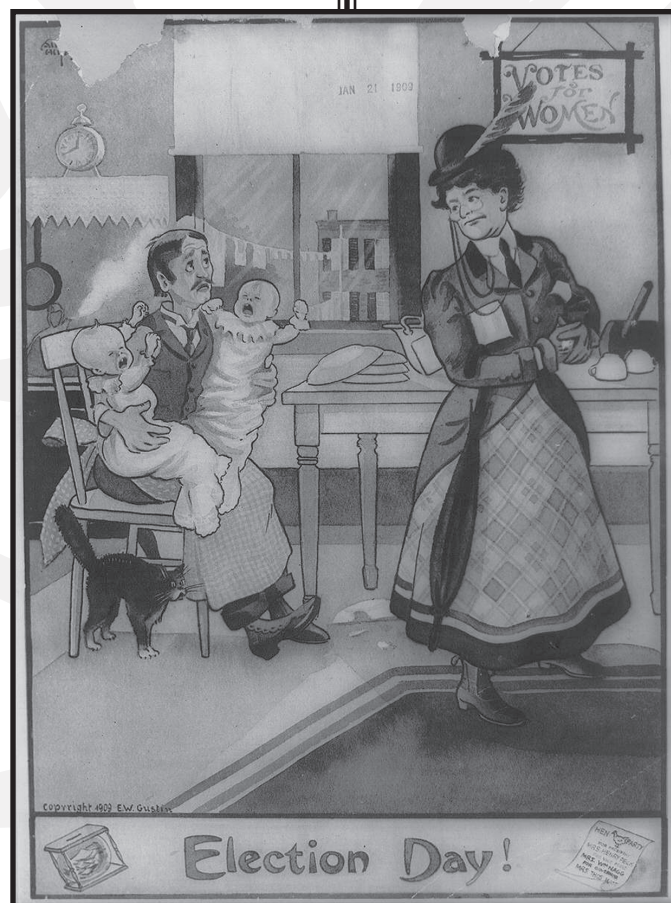
Ida B. Wells-Barnett contributed a lot to the world. In 1916, only two percent in Chicago were black, then in 1970 it went up to thirty three percent. She helped by giving lots of speeches and changing peoples' minds, making blacks more accepted there. She had spoken to lots of people through newspapers and helped them change their minds. She helped make the America a better place, with more justice and fairness for all. She played a really big part in the history of the U.S.A. and she taught people the reasons behind actions and to think about how to take action for what they believe in.

## HOMMAGE A ELISA PROVINI WALKER

Elisa Provini Walker est née le cinq mars 1931 à Piacenza, Italia. Elle est ma grand-mère, je l'appelle Nona, qui veut dire 'grand-mère' en Italien. Elle vivait à la campagne, dans une ville de fermes mais elle ne vivait pas dans une ferme. Sa famille est très nombreuse, elle en est l'aînée. Nona avait deux sœurs et un petit frère.

Quand elle était petite, les enfants étaient traités comme des petits soldats. Ils faisaient tous ce que les adultes disaient. Les adultes étaient très strictes avec leurs enfants, par exemple : pour manger il fallait mettre des livres sous le bras et ils ne devaient pas tomber. Ma grand-mère est très religieuse, petite, elle allait dans une école religieuse. La mère de Nona s'appelait Emilia et était une femme au foyer. Elle cuisinait des escargots pour la famille pour Noël, s'occupait des enfants, lavait les habits...

Le gouvernement était une monarchie, le roi s'appelait Vittorio Emanuele III de savoie. On ne votait que pour les premiers ministres et des personnes comme cela. Seuls les hommes pouvaient voter. Les gens ne faisaient pas la grève parce qu'il y avait la police. Après la Seconde Guerre Mondiale, en 1946, Umberto II, le fils de Vittorio Emanuele III, décida de se démettre. C'est alors que l'Italie était devenue une république. C'est à ce moment-là que les femmes purent voter pour la première fois dans l'histoire de l'Italie. Je crois que le droit de vote des femmes est très important, sans le vote des femmes, nous ne sommes pas égaux.



## TRIBUTE TO ELISA PROVINI WALKER

Elisa Provini Walker was born March 5th 1931 in Piacenza, Italy. She lived in the countryside, in a farming village, but she didn't live on a farm. She had two little sisters and a younger brother and she was the eldest. She is my grandmother, my dad's mom, whom I call 'Nona' which means 'grandma' in Italian. She is very religious, she was taught by nuns.

When she was small, children were treated like small soldiers. There were no arguments with adults. Adults were very strict with their children. For example, to eat they had to put books under their armpits and when they ate, they shouldn't fall on the floor.

My grandma's mom was named Emilia. She was a housewife and would cook snails for the family on Christmas.

The government was a monarchy. The king was called Vittorio Emanuele III. Men voted for prime ministers and other people like this, but women could not vote. Since there was police, nobody would protest. After the Second World War, in 1946, Umberto II, the son of Vittorio Emanuele III, decided to dismiss himself from the throne. He was no longer king. Italy was now a republic. It was at this point that women could vote for the first time in the history of Italy. I believe women rights are very important, because without women's vote, we are not all equal.

EMILY - 2010  
5TH GRADE



An interdisciplinary research project combining history, art and writing by the Fifth Grade Students of the Lycée Français de New York. A bilingual effort made possible by the dedication of the students' French and American teachers: Marion Aujean, Cécile Duquenne, Blandine du Sordet, Patrick Charles, Harold Gretouche, Veronica McGivney Park, Hannah Ingram, Carolyn O'Brien, Laura Smith, Getchen Schell, Judith Morris, and Emily Osteen. Sébastien Freland contributed generously his time to photograph all the students' drawings.

The Lycée Français de New York gratefully acknowledges the support of New York City College of Technology, CUNY, and the City Tech Foundation in this project. The printing of this poster was made possible with the technical assistance of professors and students from the Department of Architectural Technology. A very special note of thanks to both Robert Zagaroli and Joseph Lim for so enthusiastically embracing our project once again.

