



17 Books for the Youngest Marchers for Our Lives

A recommended book list to spark conversations with children about empathy, kindness, and youth activism from mother, author, and educator Megan Dowd Lambert

1. *Why Am I Me?* By Paige Britt, illustrated by Selina Alko and Sean Qualls
2. *I Can Help* by David Hyde Costello
3. *We March* by Shane Evans
4. *Malala: Activist for Girls' Education* by Raphaëlle Frier, illustrated by Aurélia Fronty
5. *Grandfather Gandhi* by Arun Gandhi and Bethany Hegedus, illustrated by Evan Turk
6. *A Sweet Small of Roses* by Angela Johnson, illustrated by Eric Velasquez
7. *The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a Young Civil Rights Activist* by Cynthia Levinson, illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton
8. *Come with Me* by Holly M. McGhee, illustrated by Pascal Lemaître
9. *The Three Questions: Based on a Story by Leo Tolstoy*, by Jon. J. Muth
10. *A Is for Activist* by Innosanto Nagaro
11. *The Peace Book* by Todd Parr
12. *The Little Book of Little Activists* Penguin Books for Young Readers, illustrated with photos of child activists, introduction by Bob Bland, afterword by Lynda Blackmon Lowery
13. *This Day in June* by Gayle E. Pittman, illustrated by Kristyna Litten
14. *I Have the Right to Be a Child* by Alain Serres, illustrated by Aurélia Fronty
15. *You Hold Me Up* by Monique Gray Smith, illustrated by Danielle Daniel
16. *Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation* by Duncan Tonatiuh
17. *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis

Raise a First, Light a Candle, Hold Tight

By Megan Dowd Lambert

Sometimes we march to call for change.

Sometimes we march to celebrate.

We march in protest of what's wrong.

We march for love to counter hate.

But other times a march won't do,

no, other times we

Will Not Move:

We come together in a vigil,

still and strong, with candles bright.

We come together, heads bowed low,

our memories sharp, hearts open wide.

But, no matter if we march ahead,

or stand in vigil side-by-side,

when times demand we join as one

we hold our purpose in our minds:

We claim space.

We say no.

We make change.

We forge hope.

And in our assembly we remake the promise

(though we may face walls and worse)

that we are stronger when we're together,

listening, striving, doing the work.

So when in joy or righteous rage

we see each other showing up,

we draw strength and sustenance

from goodness, hope, and all the love.

March in the protest, child,

come to the vigil.

Raise a fist, light a candle, hold tight

to the people beside you,

before you,

still coming,

to help make things whole,

to help make things right.