

MARGO SORENSON, AUTHOR

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

Fight in the Fields: Cesar Chavez

Ages 9-14

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Synopsis: While studying migrant farm workers of the 1960's, Kenneth and Aleesa travel back in time and meet Cesar Chavez during the farm workers' strike for fair treatment and better pay. Can they protect Chavez and his dream for his people from sabotage?

Strategy: Ask, "Think of a time you saw someone being unfair to someone else – in a movie or on TV. What happened? Write about it." Have students share in small groups. In the group, brainstorm, listing two or three other actions that the person might have done instead. Ask, "What would you have liked to have happened?" Share these with the class.

Say, "Cesar Chavez knew farm workers were being treated unfairly, and, instead of getting angry, he decided to protest peacefully and let others know what was going on. With his quiet courage, he was able to change lives for the better."

Have students write about a time they saw someone handle unfairness in a positive way, either in real life, or in a movie, or on a TV show.

Recommendations: ALA/YALSA Quick Pick Nomination 1999. Endorsed by Dr. Julio Ortega, chair Hispanic Studies, Brown University, RI. Recommended by *Multicultural Review* ALA/YALSA Quick Pick Nomination 1999. Endorsed by Dr. Julio Ortega, chair Hispanic Studies, Brown University, RI. Recommended by *Multicultural Review*, December 1998, Editor's Shelf. Recommended by Shenandoah Valley VA Youth Libraries. State of CA Dept. of Ed. Resource for Cesar Chavez holiday. In legal and social compliance with the State of CA Dept of Education.