



# EMMELINE PANKHURST

Leader in the fight for women's votes

## EQUAL EDUCATION

Emmeline Goulden was born in 1858 in Manchester, England, the eldest of 10 children. Her family had a long tradition of being involved in politics and trying to change the world. Both her parents opposed slavery, fighting to help end it. They were also in favour of the new women's suffrage movement, which said that everyone should have the right to vote, including women.

Emmeline's mother took her to her first suffrage meeting when she was 14, yet Emmeline still felt that her parents treated her brothers' education as more important than her own. Luckily, the teachers at Emmeline's finishing school in Paris, France, believed that girls should not just learn embroidery but chemistry and bookkeeping too, so she returned to England with an education just as good as her five brothers had received.



A portrait of Emmeline

## VOTES FOR WOMEN



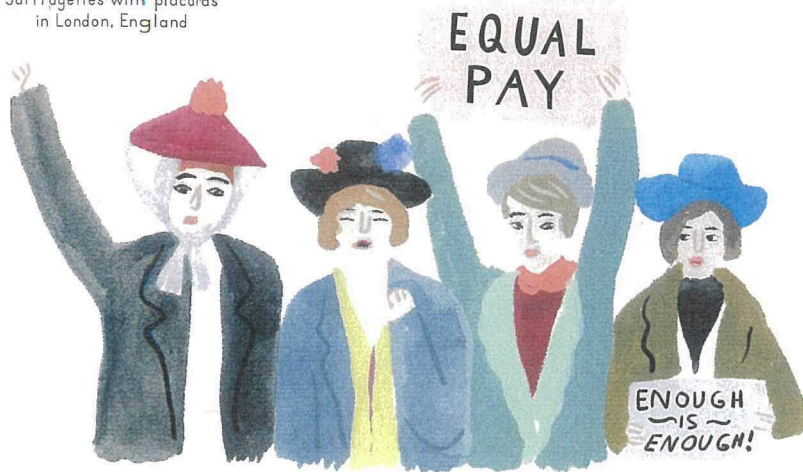
Suffragettes with placards in London, England

## SUFFERING FOR SUFFRAGE

When Emmeline grew up, she met a lawyer named Richard Pankhurst, who shared her belief that women deserved to be treated equally. In 1870 and 1882, Richard wrote the 'Married Women's Property Acts', which allowed married women to keep their property and money when they got married, instead of handing it all over to their husband as they'd had to do before.

Emmeline and Richard were soon married, and Emmeline was a busy wife and mother to their five children. But Emmeline did not just stay at home, as most women did at the time, and continued working on the suffrage movement. In 1889, she started the Women's Franchise League, which fought to allow married women to vote in local elections.

A few years later, Richard — who was 25 years older than Emmeline — suddenly died, leaving Emmeline shocked and broken-hearted. To pull herself out of her grief, she threw herself completely into her cause and, in 1903, Emmeline founded the Women's Social Political Union. Emmeline gave speeches all over the country, including to a crowd of half a million in Hyde Park in London.



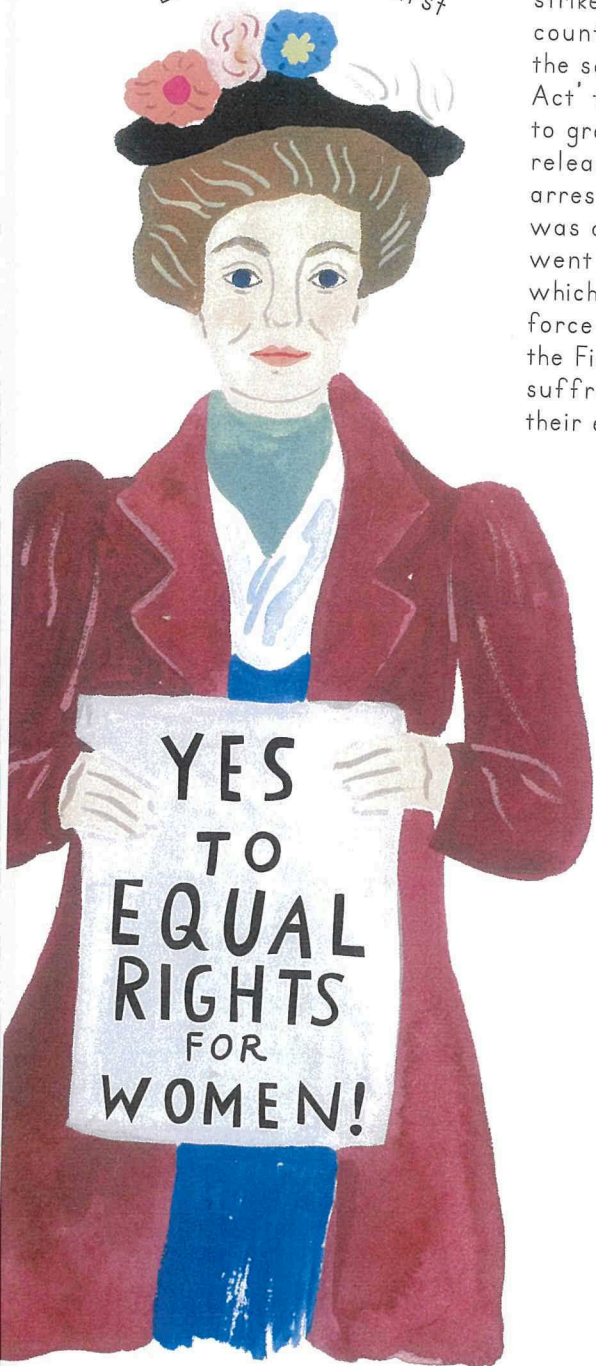
“Trust in God — she will provide.”

“We are here, not because we are law-breakers; we are here in our efforts to become law-makers.”



Soon, tired of talking and getting nowhere, Emmeline and the other 'suffragettes' — including her daughters, Christabel and Sylvia — saw themselves as an army with a war to win. Adopting the motto 'Deeds not words', they became famous for doing whatever it took to make progress in the fight for women's votes. They smashed windows, started fires and went on hunger strikes. One of their members, Emily Davison, was killed when she threw herself under the king's horse in protest at the lack of change.

Emmeline Pankhurst



In 1913, in response to the hunger strikes taking place all over the country, the government passed the so-called 'Cat and Mouse Act' that allowed hunger strikers to grow strong enough to be released . . . and then be arrested again. Emmeline herself was arrested many times and went on hunger strike in prison, which meant that the wardens force-fed her — a horrible and violent experience. But when the First World War broke out in 1914, Emmeline and her fellow suffragettes suddenly ended their protest activity, throwing all their energy into supporting the war effort instead.



Emmeline being arrested outside Buckingham Palace, London, England

**“ . . . nothing on Earth and nothing in heaven will make women give way; it is impossible. ”**

### SHAKING THE WORLD

Because women worked hard in the war, both at home doing the jobs of men who were away at the front and as nurses on the battlefield, they finally began to be recognised as a crucial part of society. In 1918, their contribution was finally recognised in the 'Representation of the People Act', which allowed women over 30 the right to vote. Emmeline's hard work had finally paid off.

Then, in March 1928, a bill was introduced that would finally give all women true voting equality with men. The 'Equal Franchise Act' allowed women aged 21 or older the right to vote — just like men. Emmeline died just a few weeks before the act was passed into law, but she died knowing that the dream she had fought for would finally become a reality. As the fearless leader of the suffrage movement, Emmeline dedicated her life to earning equal rights for women — and she succeeded.



# DIAN FOSSEY

Scientist who changed how we see gorillas

Dian Fossey



## ANIMAL LOVER

Dian was born in San Francisco, California, USA, in 1932. She loved animals from a young age, and started horse-riding lessons when she was six. She became an excellent rider and an even better student. At university, she started studying business, but then decided to become a pre-veterinary student, before eventually training as an occupational therapist. She worked at a children's hospital, but her love of animals continued as she lived on a farm, helping to care for the animals there.



Dian in London, England, one year before her death

Dian longed to travel to Africa, so she carefully saved her money for a trip around the continent. Excited and intrigued, she travelled up into the mountains of Uganda, where she got her first glimpse of wild gorillas. Her life was changed forever.

## GORILLAS IN THE MIST

Back in the USA, Dian worked hard for many years, planning and earning money to return to Africa. Then she got a job leading a study on mountain gorillas, first in Zaire and later in Rwanda. Quietly, respectfully and patiently, she waited and watched. She began to understand the gorillas, and copied their behaviours — like walking on her knuckles and chewing on celery — so they would trust her. Dian befriended several groups of gorillas, using their individual 'noseprints' to tell them apart. She spent years watching them and making careful notes.

Because of films like *King Kong*, people wrongly believed that gorillas were vicious, but Dian was determined to make the world see how gentle these beautiful animals were. In the thousands of hours she spent watching them, she saw less than five minutes of aggressive behaviour — none of it towards humans. Although she knew a lot about gorillas already, she wanted to learn more and so she completed a PhD in animal behaviour at Cambridge University in England, earning greater respect and more money for her research.

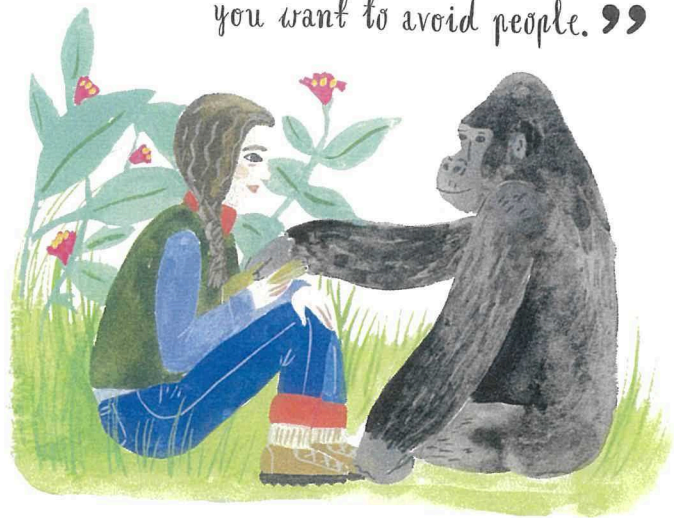
“I feel more comfortable with gorillas than people.”





Dian playing with a baby gorilla

“The more you learn about the dignity of the gorilla, the more you want to avoid people.”



But the gorillas were in great danger: their population had dropped to just 254 in the mid-1980s. Dian was desperate to learn all she could about them and even more desperate to stop them from vanishing altogether. She worried about the dangers gorillas faced from poachers — people who hunted illegally in national parks — because although gorillas weren't usually the real targets, they often got tangled in traps set for other animals. She believed in 'active conservation', forming anti-poaching patrols, wearing masks to scare off poachers, and spray-painting cattle to stop herders bringing them into the national park and damaging the gorillas' habitat. These actions made her unpopular with the locals, but she carried on.

“The man who kills the animals today is the man who kills the people who get in his way tomorrow.”

Dian cared for all the gorillas she studied, but her favourite was Digit, who became her very close friend. Then tragedy struck: Digit was brutally killed by poachers as he tried to defend his family. Dian was heartbroken, furious and determined to do something. She wrote a book, called *Gorillas in the Mist*, which was later made into a film, to raise awareness of the plight of the gorillas. Then, just like Digit before her, her own life was cut terribly short: in her hut in Rwanda, Dian was murdered. No one knows exactly who killed her, or why. She was buried next to her beloved Digit.

## SHAKING THE WORLD

Dian's work with the mountain gorillas of Africa changed the way the world saw these amazing creatures. Her work has led to great conservation efforts and, although their future remains uncertain, the mountain gorilla population is now slowly increasing. Sadly, Dian did not live to see how her work has helped to rescue them from the brink of extinction but, by 2012, there were believed to be 880 gorillas in the wild — nearly four times the number left when she was still alive — with 24 new babies born in 2015. This is almost entirely due to the efforts of Dian, the gorillas' greatest protector and friend.





# SOPHIE SCHOLL

German anti-Nazi resistance leader

## FAMILY, FAIRNESS AND FREEDOM

Sophia Magdalena Scholl was born in 1921 in southwest Germany, to Robert and Magdalena Scholl, the fourth of six children. Sophie's father was the liberal mayor of the town and her mother raised her children to have a firm Christian faith and a strong conscience. Sophie loved to read and did brilliantly well in school.

But things began to change all over Germany as Hitler, leader of the Nazi party, rose to power. At home, Robert, was critical of the Nazis, but his children were curious about joining the massively popular Nazi youth groups. However, Sophie remained loyal to her Jewish friends, complaining when they were not allowed to join and reading aloud from a banned book by a Jewish author she admired.

In 1935, the Nuremberg Laws barred Sophie's Jewish friends from many normal activities and from attending Sophie's school. Then her older brother, Hans, was arrested by the Nazis for joining a more independent youth group, which affected Sophie deeply. Their father continued to encourage them to resist the Nazis, saying, "What I want for you is to live in uprightness and freedom of spirit, no matter how difficult that proves to be."



Sophie as a young girl

## THE ROSE OF RESISTANCE

Upset about the Nazis, Sophie started studying biology and philosophy at the University of Munich. Then Sophie's boyfriend, Fritz, fighting in the East, told Sophie about the terrible concentration camps. Sophie became even angrier when her father was arrested for criticising Hitler. Sophie's brother Hans, and three friends then started an anti-Nazi group called the White Rose. Sophie joined immediately. Despite the dangers, they wanted to open the other students' eyes to the terrible crimes being committed by the Nazi



"Somebody, after all, had to make a start."



Bronze replicas of White Rose leaflets are scattered haphazardly across the pavement in Munich, Germany, as a memorial to the group

In 1942, copies of a leaflet called 'The White Rose' appeared around the university. In their essay about how the Nazi regime was destroying Germany, the authors called on people to rise up and resist. This was shocking and radical: it was the first time anyone in Germany had made such public criticism of the Nazis. Desperate to discover who was responsible, the Nazis could not find the culprits. Sophie, Hans and their friends made a second leaflet, then a third, a fourth and a fifth . . . Graffiti began to appear all over Munich: 'Down with Hitler!', 'Hitler the mass murderer!' and 'Freiheit!' which means 'Freedom!'.

Then, on 18 February 1943, while passing out the newest leaflet, Sophie and Hans were spotted by a Nazi sympathiser. He called the German secret police, and Sophie, Hans and their friend Christoph were put on trial for treason. But their trial was just for show.





As the judge shrieked and roared, Sophie courageously announced, "What we wrote and said is also believed by many others. They just don't dare to express themselves as we did." But her bravery fell on deaf and angry ears, and all three were sentenced to immediate death. In her final visit with their parents, Sophie was calm and smiling. Just a few hours after the trial, first Sophie, then her brother and finally Christoph were executed by guillotine. Their brave resistance was over.

### SHAKING THE WORLD

The Irish statesman Edmund Burke once said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." In the face of great evil, Sophie acted.

Believing that everyone deserved to be treated well, she was unable to sit by and watch as the Nazis committed so many horrific acts. Others, frightened and trying to keep themselves safe, perhaps shared her belief that the Nazis were wrong, but Sophie — along with Hans and the other members of the White Rose — refused to keep silent.

**"The sun still shines."**

The Nazis killed Sophie for speaking her mind, but they could not kill her spirit. Her life — and her death — are an incredible symbol of the power that one person can have, the change that one person can make, by standing up for what is right and good.



A marble bust of Sophie in the Walhalla memorial in Germany

Sophia Magdalena Scholl

**"Stand up for what you believe in, even if you are standing alone."**





# CATHY FREEMAN

Aboriginal Australian Olympic running champion



## OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

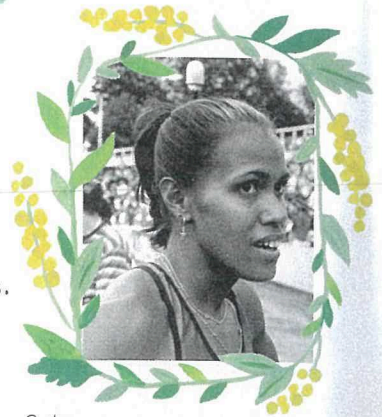
Catherine Astrid Salome Freeman was born in Queensland, Australia, in 1973. Like many Aboriginal children, Cathy and her four siblings had a difficult life. After the arrival of the British in 1770, the Aboriginal people in Australia were treated terribly, killed by European diseases and murdered as the invading Europeans rushed to steal their tribal homelands.

These problems continued into modern times. Cathy's grandmother was part of the 'Stolen Generations'. For many years, Aboriginal children were taken from their homes and raised in state institutions, supposedly to protect them from poverty. Families were tragically broken apart and the stolen children were raised far from home, with little or no idea about who they really were. Luckily, this cruel policy ended just before Cathy was born, and she was raised by her own loving, attentive mother, who made sure that all her children were well fed, cared for and educated. Their father had many problems and left the family when Cathy was five.

Early on, her mother saw that Cathy had a special talent for running. When she was just eight, Cathy won her first race — even though she had a bandage over one eye — and became completely hooked on running. Cathy's stepfather also believed in her talent and became her first coach, encouraging Cathy to follow her dream of becoming an Olympic athlete.

## VICTORY AND PRIDE

Everywhere Cathy went, she won. She worked hard — but it felt easy, because she loved to run. When she was 17, Cathy was named Young Australian of the Year; the next year, she became Aboriginal Athlete of the Year. Not long after that, in 1994, Cathy won her first gold medals at the Commonwealth Games.



Cathy as a young woman

**“I definitely do things on my terms.”**

Catherine Astrid Salome Freeman







She draped a flag around her shoulders for her victory lap . . . but the flag was not the Australian one. She proudly carried the Aboriginal flag: red for earth, yellow for sun and black for skin.

Shockingly, Cathy was criticised by the press for her action, and was warned not to do it again. But, when she won her next event, she bravely carried the Aboriginal flag once more. She knew who she was, and she wanted the whole world to know, too.

**“All that pain, it’s very strong and generations have felt it.”**

In 1996, Cathy achieved her childhood dream of becoming an Olympic athlete. She set four new Australian records and won a silver medal. Over the next few years, Cathy won an incredible 22 finals in a row, including two World Championships. A national hero, she was named Australian of the Year in 1998. But, although her running brought her fame and success, Cathy also suffered sadness: her sister Anne-Marie, who had cerebral palsy, died of an asthma attack and her father, Norman, died too.

They were not there to witness Cathy’s proudest moment, but she dedicated her races to them. In 2000, at the Sydney Olympics, after lighting the Olympic flame, Cathy went on to win a gold medal in the 400-metres event with massive support from the crowds. This time, Cathy ran in red, yellow and black shoes and, when she won, she followed Aboriginal tradition, running her victory lap barefoot. She carried both the Australian and Aboriginal flags and, for the first time the press celebrated her choice. Australia’s ideas about Aboriginal pride had changed — and Cathy had helped to change them.

**“Education is the key to a positive pathway.”**

## SHAKING THE WORLD

Cathy retired from running at the age of 30. In 2007, she founded the Cathy Freeman Foundation, which encourages young Aboriginal people to stay in school. Remembering her own difficult school years, Cathy is committed to making life better for all young Australians.

She has faced many challenges in her life, but Cathy has worked hard to help young Aboriginals build positive self-esteem, which she lacked until she became a runner and running set her free. Cathy’s incredible talent helped her to believe in herself and now she is sharing that belief with another generation, in the hope that they will feel pride in their Aboriginal heritage and be happy.



Cathy winning gold in the women’s 400 metres final at the Sydney Olympics in Australia





# MALALA YOUSAFZAI

Champion for education for women and girls

## EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE

Malala was born in a shack in the mountainous Swat Valley of northern Pakistan in 1997. Her father, Ziauddin, and her mother, Tor Pekai, named their daughter after a female Afghan hero who led a battle against the British. Little did they know that their own Malala would grow up to be a warrior, too.

Malala's family are from the Yousafzai tribe of the Pashtun people, who live in northern Pakistan and in Afghanistan. Like nearly all Pashtuns, they are Muslim and believe deeply in the teachings of the Qur'an. Tor Pekai left school at the age of six, when she realised that she would never get a job and would be expected to stay at home. But Ziauddin became a teacher and started a school, called Khushal School, because he believed that everyone has the right to education, no matter who they are.

“If people were silent, nothing would change.”

In northern Pakistan, many marriages are arranged, but Tor Pekai and Ziauddin married for love and were very happy. Like her younger brothers, Khushal and Atal, Malala enjoyed her studies at school . . . until things started to change.

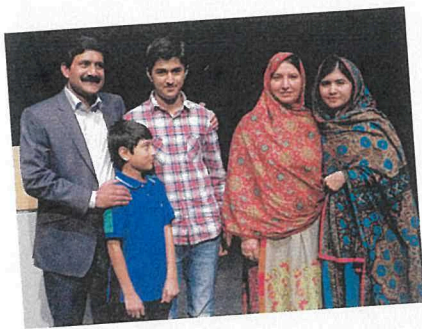
## TALIBAN TERROR

The Taliban is a group of extreme Pashtuns, who fought their way to power in Afghanistan, just over the border from where Malala and her family lived. Their rules meant that girls could not go to school and women were allowed to leave the house only with their father, husband or brother.

After a terrible earthquake, things became even more difficult when the local Taliban leader told people they had to stop dancing, playing games, watching TV and listening to music. They forbade girls from going to school. Malala kept going to school in secret for as long as she could, wearing ordinary clothes instead of her uniform and hiding her books.

“One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world.”

Malala Yousafzai

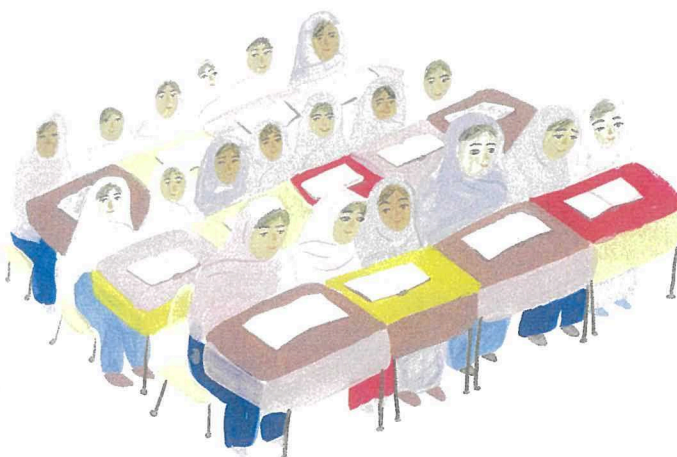


Malala (right) with her parents and younger brothers





Malala's father disagreed with the Taliban and spoke out against them on the radio. Malala joined her father, speaking to journalists and helping to make a documentary about her experience as a girl living under Taliban rule. She started a blog writing as 'Gul Makai', a female Pashtun hero who tried to teach people that fighting was wrong. Although the Taliban often beat and even killed people who did not obey them, Malala and her family continued to fight against the Taliban's rules, and her mother decided to start reading lessons.



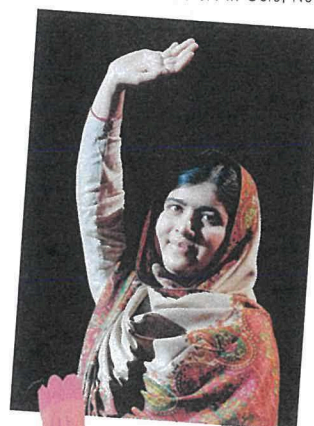
In 2011, Malala received Pakistan's first National Youth Peace Prize and was nominated for the International Children's Peace Prize. This made the Taliban so angry that they decided to kill her. On 9 October 2012, as she rode home from school on the bus, two masked Taliban gunmen shot her in the head. The bullet went through her neck and shoulder, and two of her friends were injured as well. Malala survived, but she was so badly injured that she was flown to Birmingham in the UK for treatment. Her family joined her soon after. After many operations to repair her hearing and the nerves in her face, she finally left hospital in January 2013.

## SHAKING THE WORLD

The whole world was united in their anger at the Taliban for trying to kill a schoolgirl. A petition with over two million signatures encouraged the government of Pakistan to create a new law, allowing all girls education. It was too dangerous for Malala and her family to return home, so the Pakistani government gave Ziauddin a job in education at the embassy and the family stayed in Birmingham. Malala began school in England, and did so well that she earned a place to study at Oxford University.

Malala continues to campaign for the rights of women and girls everywhere, meeting powerful leaders and speaking all around the world. She has received many honours and awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014. The youngest person ever to have received the award, she donated all the prize money to start a new secondary school for girls in Pakistan. A warrior of words, Malala has shown how one girl really can change the world.

Malala at the Nobel Peace Prize concert in Oslo, Norway



“They are our most powerful weapons.”

“Let us pick up our books and our pens.”

