

PS 39 Diversity and Inclusion Book of the Month: March

Theme: Women's History

Book Title: Noisemakers: 25 Women Who Raised Their Voices & Changed the World
- A Graphic Collection from Kazoo
By Kazoo Magazine and Edited by Erin Bried

Grade Level: 4th / 5th

Book Summary:

Did *anyone* ever get *anywhere* by being quiet? To change anything, you have to make some noise! From the creators of the award-winning *Kazoo* magazine comes a look at the lives of 25 extraordinary women through the eyes of 25 extraordinary comic artists. In chapters titled Grow, Tinker, Play, Create, Rally, and Explore, you'll meet Eugenie Clark, who swam with sharks, Raye Montague, who revolutionized the design process for ships, Hedy Lamarr, a beautiful actress and brilliant inventor, Julia Child, a chef who wasn't afraid to make mistakes, Kate Warne, the first female detective, who saved the life of President-Elect Abraham Lincoln, and many more.

In 25 distinct styles from some of the most exciting comic artists, *Noisemakers* is for everyone who is not afraid to use their voice *and* for those who could use a little boost.

Discussion Questions:

- What does it mean to be a 'Noisemaker'? Why do you think that this was chosen as the title of the collection?
- The book is broken into categories--Grow, Tinker, Play, Create, Rally, and Explore -- Did any section speak to you most? Why?
- If you could spend a day with one of the women profiled in the book, who would you choose? Why? What would you want to do with her or what might you ask her?
- Have you ever been in a situation where you wish you would have spoken up, spoken out or made some noise? What stopped you from doing so?
- Did the comparisons at the beginning of each profile (ie. Junko and me) help you to see some similarities between yourself and anyone in particular? Did they inspire you to learn more about something new?
- One of the qualities that all of the women in the book share is courage. It takes courage to stand up for something you believe in, especially when it may mean that you are challenging others. Share a time when you or someone you know acted courageously. What happened as a result?
- Has anyone (past or present) encouraged you to take a chance, start a new adventure or otherwise be courageous?
- If you were asked to pick three women from this collection that you think need to be included in all history books, which three would you choose? Why did you choose them?

- Compiling the stories of these 25 Noisemakers into a graphic novel collection was a unique and vibrant way to share the accomplishments of these women. Why do you think the author chose comics to illustrate their stories?
- Each comic is created by a different artist. Which style of art do you find most interesting? How do you think it complemented the story?
- All the comics in this book are created by women and non-binary comic artists. Do you think that by telling these stories, these artists have become Noisemakers too? If so, how so?
- After reading the contributor bios, do you think the editor paired each artist with each Noisemaker for a reason? If so, how do you think the artist's own life influenced the way she told the story?
- Both the women featured in this collection as well as the incredible artists that illustrated their stories used their talent and abilities to make an impact. What is your greatest talent or ability? How might you use it to make a difference in the world?