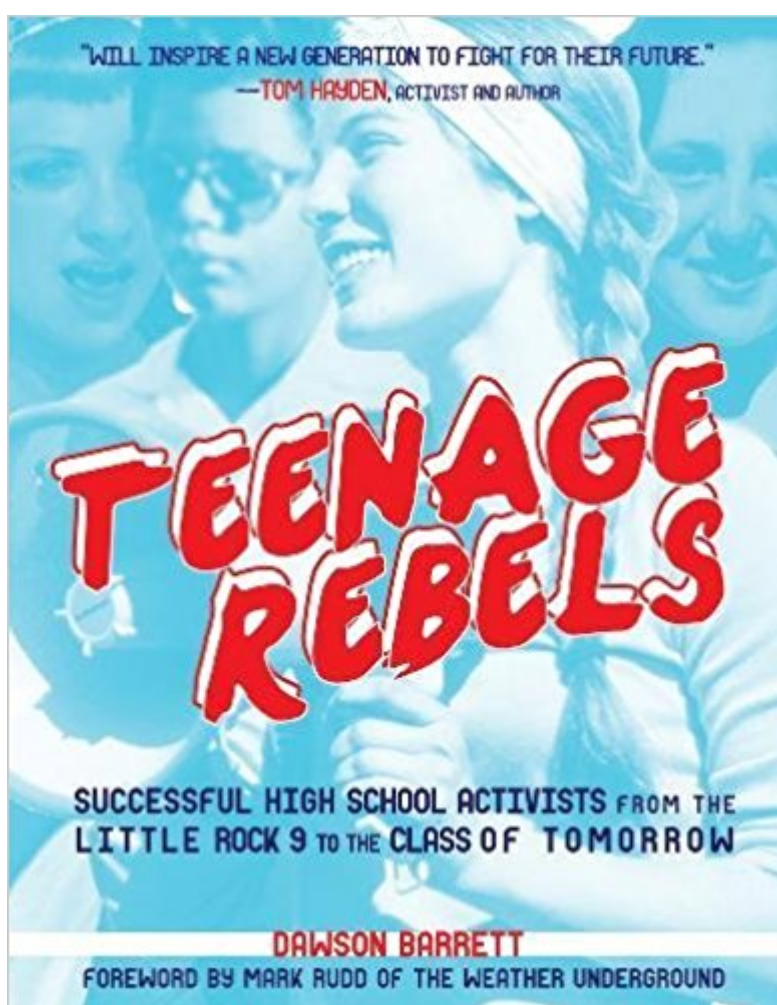


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Teenage Rebels: Stories Of Successful High School Activists, From The Little Rock 9 To The Class Of Tomorrow (Comix Journalism)



Synopsis

Teenage Rebels provides a glimpse into the laws, policies, and political struggles that have shaped the lives of American high school students over the last one hundred years. Through dozens of case studies, Dawson Barrett recounts the strikes, marches, and picket lines of teens all over the US as they demand better textbooks, start recycling programs, and protest the censorship of student newspapers. Using historically influenced artwork and accessible writing, this book is for anyone who has ever challenged the rules and wished for a better world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 5 Up - Informative and inspiring, this collection of 72 stories from American history demonstrate the impact that teenagers have been able to make when they believe in a cause. Barrett exposes readers to the defiance and activism of adolescents who are often overlooked in history books, from 16-year-old Sybil Ludington's midnight ride warning the countryside of a British attack in 1777 to the 2014 counterdemonstration organized by Wilson High School students (in Washington, DC) in response to a hate group's presence outside their school. The author makes it clear that young people have played an integral role in many American social movements. For the most part, he briefly and effectively describes each example from its roots to its conclusion. However, there are many case studies, such as "The March for Principal Baker," where the resolution is either ambiguous or not included, leaving readers to wonder about the outcome. Other entries don't mention any teenage rebels and instead function as opportunities for the author to

grandstand about issues that he considers troublesome, such as "'Abstinence-Only' Education" and "No Child Left Behind." Perhaps the biggest drawback is the lack of photographs. Instead, illustrations in shades of black and gray accompany the text and seem to trivialize the courageous acts. VERDICT Though a bit flawed, this title will attract budding activists and young history buffs. —Audrey Sumser, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Mayfield, OH

"Cuts through the strange separateness, superficiality, and social disconnectedness commonly ascribed to teenagers to the underlying core truth that teens are people who are connected to their world. Every single astonishing story that Dawson relates, from 16 year-old Sybil Ludington's 1777 ride to alert the militia of a British attack, to the 21st century high school students fighting for gay and transgender rights and the rights of immigrants, illustrate the deep concern of young people about their society, and their willingness to act on that." —Mark Rudd, *The Weather Underground*; "It's nothing new that high school students are left out of the political process. They've even been left out of most histories of student movements, which focus on colleges; although they led many brave battles in the face of fire hoses in Birmingham and rifles in Johannesburg. In this lucid book, Dawson Barrett corrects that omission. Hopefully these stories will inspire a new generation to fight for their future and not settle for the present. Climate change, unemployment, inequality, all these injustices are stealing from the future." —Tom Hayden, activist and author; "As someone who became active in high school--protesting the Vietnam War, fighting for Black Power, demanding more rights for students--I was thrilled with the publication of this work. It reminds the reader of the proud tradition of progressive student activism and that, far from being limited to college students, it has been a phenomenon crossing many age, gender, racial and ethnic boundaries." —Bill Fletcher, Jr., writer/activist; author of *They're Bankrupting Us* - And Twenty Other Myths about Unions; "Unlabeled and under-the-radar, teenagers create their political identities in Dawson Barrett's stories of young people successfully fighting the power. Righteous and inspiring!" —Jennifer Baumgardner, author of *Manifesta*, *Grassroots*, and *Look Both Ways*; "The timing of Dawson Barrett's *Teenage Rebels* couldn't be better. Now that standardized testing has been abolished, and Congress has diverted \$500 billion per year to public education from the defense and homeland security budgets, and from taxes on the prison-industrial complex, we will finally have free, engaging, quality education for all American kids." —Senator Andy Bichlbaum (D-New Virginia)

Teenage Rebels documents the rebellious acts of youth from the colonial period to the present day in the United States. Each page begins with a new story of a teenager or an event that occurred at a school and sometimes occurred at workplaces. Filled with illustrations, Dawson has provided an excellent account of youth activism that all schoolchildren will enjoy. Even academic historians have something to take away from this. As a book targeted towards schoolchildren, Teenage Rebels succeeds in inspiring students with stories of youth that they can relate to; however, it is quite clear that the author has an obvious political agenda. Some of the sections (which are two page) are not even about high school activism, but rather about school policies such as Title IX and No Child Left Behind Act where the author asserts his views about these policies. It is understandable that the author wants schoolchildren to take something away from this by creating a useable past. The subtitle is a bit misleading. Most of the youth in the eighteenth and nineteenth century were not actually "high school students," or would have identified themselves as teenagers. I don't think it is enough to say that "young people have always been politically active." What's more important is to demonstrate the impact of their activism and the larger meaning to the historical period. Another disappointing aspect is that the vast majority of stories in the book occurred after 1980. There are few passages that discuss the 1960s, and high school students were extremely active during that period according to recent scholarship. Nevertheless, even as a child's book, scholars in the Ivory Tower can actually find this book to be useful. Scholars could look more into the various stories the author documented. There has been an article written about the Charleston, South Carolina sit-in conducted by high school students, so it's apparent that many of these stories have richer details if investigated more thoroughly.

My son researched the football touchdown I did as the first female to do so in a male varsity game in High school. We came across this book, and page 114 describes me. I bought three copies and I am glad what I did has been recognized and this book to hand off to my son so he can see a single person makes a difference. I really appreciate that the author mentions how people who are different or abnormal from social norms can often be bullied or harassed. Nothing amazing comes from doing nothing, so we might as well be amazing. Very inspirational and glad to hand this book off.

Teenage Rebels is basically a non-fiction collection of one to two page stories about teens who have changed the world at different points in time. Now, I'm not usually the biggest fan of non-fiction

books, however, if all books were as well written and as intriguing as *Teenage Rebels* was, non-fiction would be my favorite genre rather than my current favorite sci fi. I loved the way that the stories were brief, but informative. Having my own public charity, and being so involved in attempting to change the world, I enjoyed seeing stories of others who had made a difference in the world in which we live. My only problem with the book was that within some of the recollections the author was a bit biased about certain topics, such as one chapter in which he basically favored one style of education over the others. I just didn't appreciate that outlook and the author's voice, in what was supposed to be a non-biased, non-fiction book. Overall, it was definitely worth reading and I would highly recommend it to any teens who are interested in learning about other people, and specifically people like themselves who are making a difference in their communities and world. Review by Meagan W., Age 12, Columbus Area Mensa

To challenge the above reviewer, I think the author's analytical brevity is intentional so the book can 1) serve as an easily-accessible supporting text for a larger course in which students can get through quickly 2) encourage follow-up research; It's intentionally open-ended. Haven't taught it yet, but I expect my students will find these examples to be a refreshing alternative to stale, fatalistic survey-style history. I also expect students to ask more questions after reading and Barrett chose not to answer for them. Bottom line, there's nothing this accessible out there about everyday acts of protest that puts teenagers in the driver's seat despite literally every major movement in American history being impacted by them.

Loved this book, and found the examples of teenage activists inspiring. In an age when Texas lawmakers are rewriting the textbooks, rewriting history itself, I think it is imperative that teens take responsibility for their education and their communities. They need to be aware of what is happening and use a combined voice to declare that they deserve better. This book gives many examples of teens taking a stand for equality in education, gender, sexual orientation, religion...they deserve to receive truthful and fair information and be allowed to formulate their own opinions. I believe this book shows teens that change is possible, and it is in their reach. The book provides examples of non-violent means of making a teenage voice heard. I only wish I had the financial means to get this into the hands of every incoming freshman.

This book is awesome. When i was coming into my own politics as a teen, most of the books i found were dense and academic. This is kind of book I wish I had gotten my hands when I was in high

school. The stories of young kids fighting back throughout history is so inspiring. I can't wait until my nephews get a little older so i can read this to them.

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