

Brave Girl

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Hard Work, Equality, Workers' Rights, Immigration

Book Brief: This book tells the exciting true story of Clara Lemlich, a brave young woman who stood up for the rights of female factory workers when no one else would.

Author: Michelle Markel

Illustrator:
Melissa Sweet

Content Connections:
Social Studies,
Science, Art



TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Have students make predictions about the book based on the title and the cover illustration. Who is the girl on the cover? Why is her fist in the air? What does the sign

she's holding mean? What does the book's subtitle tell you about the setting of the book?

The Pictures: Flip briefly through the pages. What else can students tell about the book's setting? Where does it take place?

Prior Knowledge: Ask students if they know what a strike is. Have workers in your area ever gone on a strike? Explain that strikes were especially important in the early 1900s because workers didn't have the same laws protecting them that they have today. Female workers had even less protection. How were women treated in 1909, when this book is set?

Vocabulary: strike, shirtwaist, tenement, garment, union, picket

Purpose for Reading: As you read, think about why the workers decided to form a union. What could they do together that they couldn't do alone?

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Why does Clara become a garment worker?
- ◆ What are the rules at the factory?
- ◆ Why don't the men at the factory think female workers will strike?

- ◆ What does Clara do at the union meeting?
- ◆ What happens after the strike?



LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: Why did the workers form a union? What do you think would have happened if Clara had tried to strike by herself? Have you ever heard the expression, "There's strength in numbers"? What does that mean?

Extending Our Thinking: Factory owners generally have more money and power than their employees. Today, we have laws to make sure workers are treated fairly and have safe working conditions. Can you think of any laws like that? Have you ever used any of the lessons Clara learned in the book?

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.

