

For Immediate Release:
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Rise Up!

Powerful Protests in American History

Written by Rachel C. Katz
Illustrated by Sophie Bass

Publication Date: March 11th, 2025
Published by Barefoot Books
Hardcover | 9798888593684 | \$17.99

“Throughout our long history,
when something’s unfair,
When rights need expanding
or wrongs need repair,
American’s protest.
We challenge tradition.
Protest is American by definition!”



“Brilliant colors and dramatic contrast burst from the pages of this age-appropriate primer on the history and power of protests in the United States.”

— Foreword Reviews

Listed as one of the "Most Anticipated Children's Books of 2025" — *Literary Hub*

Independent Children's Publisher Barefoot Books Makes Bold Statement with Picture Book on Protest in American History

CONCORD, MA - As an independent, women-owned publisher headquartered in Concord, Massachusetts – the birthplace of the American Revolution – Barefoot Books is deeply committed to celebrating the nation’s 250th anniversary in a way that honors both the progress we’ve made and the struggles that remain. *Rise Up!* is a cornerstone of Barefoot’s America 250 collection, which encourages kids to see themselves as part of the ongoing fight for justice and equality.

Rise Up!, a rallying cry for the next generation of changemakers, explores 25 pivotal moments of protest, resistance, and revolution in American history in an accessible picture book format. Written by debut author Rachel Katz and vibrantly illustrated by Sophie Bass, *Rise Up!* is more than a history lesson – it’s a call to action. From the Boston Tea Party to the Capitol Crawl, *Rise Up!* introduces kids to the rich history of activism that has shaped the United States. Young readers will discover how ordinary people have created extraordinary change, speaking truth to power and shaping a more perfect union. Now, it’s their turn.

Rise Up! was named to Literary Hub’s list of “The Most Anticipated Children’s Books of 2025.” Acclaimed author Ray Anthony Shepard writes, “As the country commemorates Lexington and Concord and the American Revolution, author Rachel Katz and illustrator Sophie Bass’s fact-filled and delightfully rendered picture book shows how 25 moments of protest, resistance, and revolution led to victories won by the same kind of grit and risk-taking of the Minutemen 250 years ago – emancipation from slavery, women’s rights, safe foods, environmental protection, and minority voting rights.”

With accessible, engaging text and dynamic illustrations, the book emphasizes that protest is not only a cornerstone of democracy but also a powerful tool that kids can use to stand up for what’s right.

"We hope this book will serve as a starting point for learning, exploration, discussion, and questions," says author Rachel Katz. "How can you make the world a better place?"

“Activism and democracy go hand in hand,” says Barefoot Books CEO and Co-Founder Nancy Traversy. “At a time when voices for justice are being challenged, *Rise Up!* reminds children that standing up for what’s right is not just part of history – it’s part of their future. This book is a celebration of resilience, courage, and the enduring spirit of protest that has shaped and will continue to shape America.”

With a timeline, map, and deep dives into each protest, *Rise Up!* provides the tools the next generation of activists need to understand the past and mold the future. The revolution isn’t over – it’s just getting started.

Rise Up! is [available for preorder now](#).

[Learn more about Barefoot Books’ America’s 250th Collection](#)

[Watch the trailer for *Rise Up!*](#)

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For review copies, images, or interview requests with Rachel Katz or Sophie Bass, please contact Lauren Joyner at lauren.joyner@barefootbooks.com.

Barefoot Books is an award-winning, independent, women-owned and run, children’s book publisher based in Concord, MA. Founded by two mothers in England in 1992, they are committed to creating visually captivating books that celebrate global awareness and diversity, spark curiosity, and capture imaginations. Learn more at barefootbooks.com.

