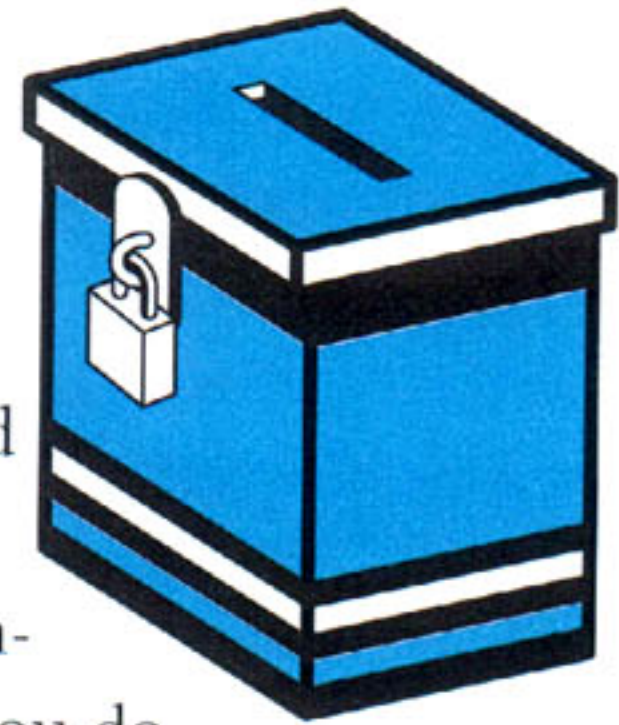


The ✓ **VOTE**

by
Rebecca Hershey



Imagine that when you grow up, you are not allowed to vote for the next President of the United States. You are not allowed to vote on certain laws that may affect you and your family. And your opinion does not matter. Why? You are a woman, and you do not have the right to vote. If you try to vote, you will be arrested.

That was then, perhaps when your grandmother's mother was a little girl. Today, however, voting is one of the most important rights we all have, men and women.

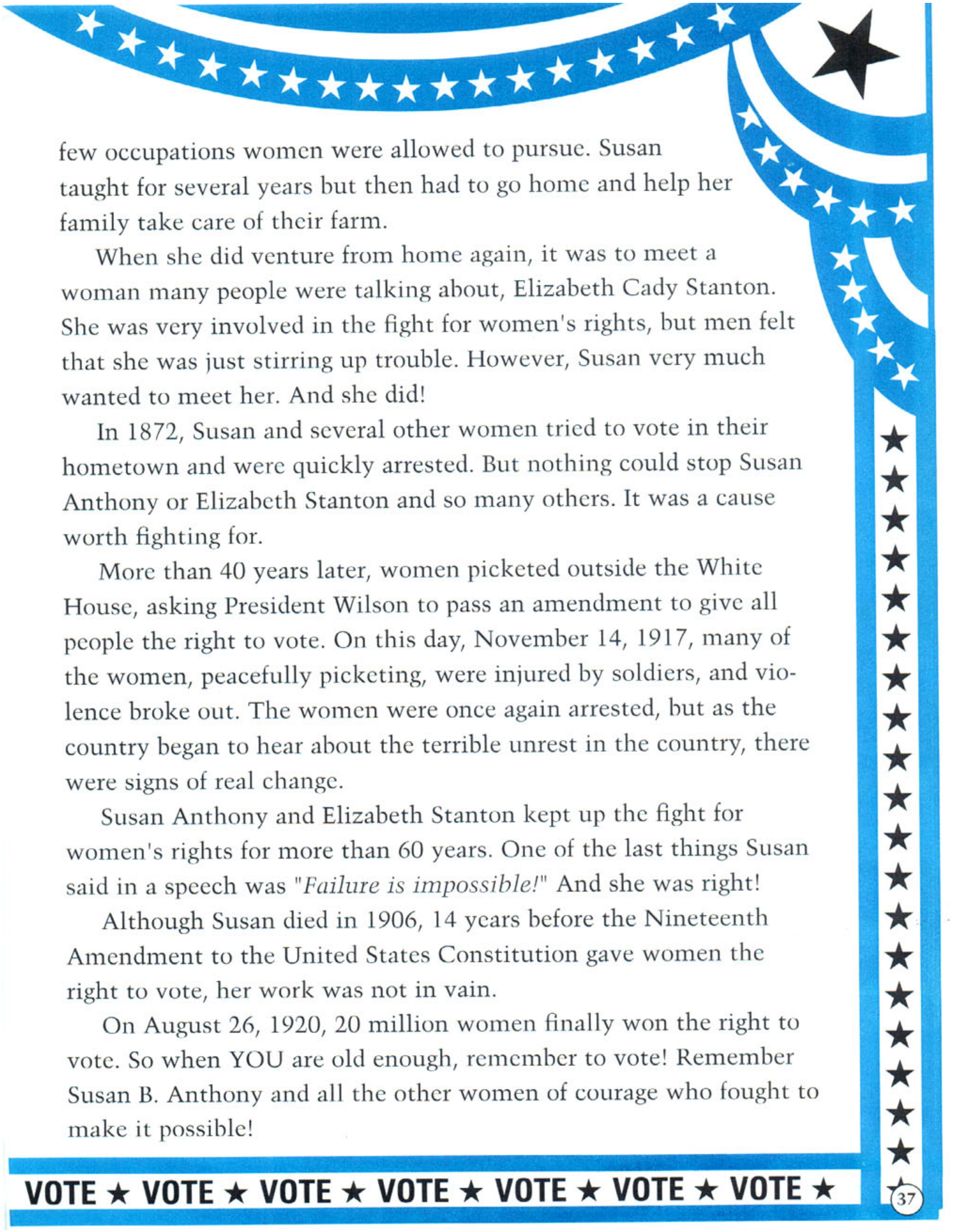
But how did things change?

There were many women through the years who worked very hard, sometimes devoting their entire lives, giving speeches, forming women's groups, picketing, writing politicians, anything they could do to change the laws that kept women from voting.

But there was one little girl who grew up to be one of the most important women of all in the fight for the right to vote! In 1820, in the small town of Adams, Massachusetts, a little girl was born. She was one of eight children. Her mother and father named her Susan Brownell Anthony. When Susan was 11 years old, she rushed home from school very upset. She told her father that the teacher refused to teach her long division in her math class because she was a girl and there was no need for her to know such things. Her father was just as upset and decided from that moment on to homeschool all eight of his children.

When Susan grew up, she became a teacher. It was one of the

★ **VOTE** ★ **VOTE** ★ **VOTE** ★ **VOTE** ★ **VOTE** ★ **VOTE** ★ **VOTE**

A decorative border on the right side of the page features a blue and white striped pattern with white stars. At the top, a blue banner with white stars curves across the page. A large black star is positioned in the upper right corner. The border continues down the right edge with a vertical line of black stars.

few occupations women were allowed to pursue. Susan taught for several years but then had to go home and help her family take care of their farm.

When she did venture from home again, it was to meet a woman many people were talking about, Elizabeth Cady Stanton. She was very involved in the fight for women's rights, but men felt that she was just stirring up trouble. However, Susan very much wanted to meet her. And she did!

In 1872, Susan and several other women tried to vote in their hometown and were quickly arrested. But nothing could stop Susan Anthony or Elizabeth Stanton and so many others. It was a cause worth fighting for.

More than 40 years later, women picketed outside the White House, asking President Wilson to pass an amendment to give all people the right to vote. On this day, November 14, 1917, many of the women, peacefully picketing, were injured by soldiers, and violence broke out. The women were once again arrested, but as the country began to hear about the terrible unrest in the country, there were signs of real change.

Susan Anthony and Elizabeth Stanton kept up the fight for women's rights for more than 60 years. One of the last things Susan said in a speech was "*Failure is impossible!*" And she was right!

Although Susan died in 1906, 14 years before the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution gave women the right to vote, her work was not in vain.

On August 26, 1920, 20 million women finally won the right to vote. So when YOU are old enough, remember to vote! Remember Susan B. Anthony and all the other women of courage who fought to make it possible!

VOTE ★ VOTE ★ VOTE ★ VOTE ★ VOTE ★ VOTE ★ VOTE ★