About the Book

Margaret Chase Smith was the first woman to run for president on a major party ticket. This biography highlights key moments in her personal and political life. From Smith's humble beginnings to her foray into Congress to her historic decision to run for president, readers will be inspired by the feisty, independent woman who embodied the qualities upon which this country was founded.

A series of thematically organized time lines accompanies the text, providing context for the life of this extraordinary woman.

History of Women’s History Month

Since the early 1900s, March 8 was celebrated as International Women’s Day. In 1981, the US Congress declared a national Women’s History Week in early March. Then in 1987, the entire month of March was declared Women’s History Month.

Timeline Activities

Before showing students the time lines on pages 3 and 4 of this discussion guide, photocopy one, cut the facts out and separate them from the actual time line, then challenge students to put the facts in the correct order and with the corresponding date on the time line.

Have students discuss time lines about women in history shown on pages 3 and 4 of this discussion guide; a discussion could include which facts on the time lines most surprised them, which women on the timelines had they heard of before and which they had not, what recent or future developments might be added to the end of a time line, etc.
Have students research a famous woman in history and then create a timeline showing the
highlights of that woman’s life.

As a class, work together to create a timeline for famous women in history from your state
showing their achievements.

Choose one of the timelines on pages 3 or 4 of this discussion guide, or another timeline on
women in history found in a book or on a website, and turn it into a narrative format.
Students will need to research and add more details to the skeletal facts found on a time
line in order to turn it into paragraphs that add up to an interesting HERstory.

Have students each create a time line showing the history of women in their own families.
They can interview older family members, search family trees, and census information.
Encourage them to show what women in their family were doing during important
historical times, such as the Great Depression, the World Wars, etc. But they also should
include important female family milestones, such as when the first woman in their family
graduated from eighth grade, high school, or college.

Websites to research Women’s History Month

National Women’s History Project: www.nwhp.org

Library of Congress, Women’s History Month: www.womenshistorymonth.gov

History.com, Women’s History Month: www.history.com/content/womenhist

Time for Kids, Women’s History Month: www.timeforkids.com/TFK/whm

Biography.com, Women’s History Month: www.biography.com/womens-history

Women’s History Month Books from Charlesbridge

Amelia to Zora: Twenty-six Women Who Changed the World
by Cynthia Chin-Lee
978-1-57091-522-5 HC
978-1-57091-523-9 PB

Come Look With Me: Discovering Women Artists
by Jennifer Tarr Coyne
978-1-890674-08-3 HC

Margaret Chase Smith: A Woman for President
by Lynn Plourde
978-1-58089-234-6 HC
978-1-580189-235-3 PB

Priscilla and the Hollyhocks
by Anne Broyles
978-1-57091-675-5 HC

Sea Queens: Women Pirates Around the World
by Jane Yolen
978-1-58089-131-8 HC

Vinnie and Abraham
by Dawn FitzGerald
978-1-57091-658-8 HC
978-1-57091-644-1 PB
Women in the U.S. military

When a fight she was—was determined to defend her country

The right to vote

Women’s suffrage campaigns began in the 19th century and
were organized to fight for women’s right to vote. The
Women’s National Equal Suffrage Association was
founded in 1869, and by 1920, the 19th Amendment to
the U.S. Constitution granted women the right to vote.

The right to serve

Women were not eligible to serve in the military until 1948,
when President Harry Truman signed the order integrating
the armed forces. Women were allowed to serve in the
reserves, but not in combat roles until 1993, when
President Bill Clinton signed the order lifting the ban.

The right to serve in combat roles

The ban on women serving in combat roles was lifted in
2015 by President Barack Obama, allowing women to
serve in all military positions.

Women are now serving in all branches of the military,
and their contributions are essential to national defense.

Women in the U.S. military
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Women in Congress

When a congresswoman dies—ready to vote on a moment's notice.

In the Senate,
the House of Representatives and her newspapers.
It was the right decision to bring her on this team.

When one of Congress's women dies, the depth of grief is unnumbered.
She was only forty-two years old. She had been to

Clydes dead sister and sister became a widow.

Before things got better, death got worse.

Patience and better things.

Schwartz, Kwame, and the House of Representatives. The House of Representatives. The House of Represen-

The death of the first lady of the White House, grounded in

In 1990, Cindy was elected to the House of Represen-

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