Lots of the activities and discussion topics in these teacher’s notes are deliberately left open to encourage pupils to develop independent thinking around the book. This will help pupils build confidence in their ability to problem solve as individuals and also as part of a group.
The Front Cover
Why do you think Emmeline Pankhurst was an important figure?

The Blurb
Which heroes can you name who fought for others?
Do you know what the ‘remarkable movement’ was called?

The Endpapers
What colours have been used to design the end papers?
Why do you think the artist chose these particular colours? If you are not sure, see if you can find out.
At the time she grew up, life was hard for many people. Her parents did whatever they could to help, and they often brought young Emmeline along.

Emmeline was born into a big family in a nice house in Manchester, England.

Find Manchester on a map of Great Britain.

How many children were in Emmeline’s family?

What is a bazaar? If you are not sure, look the word up in a dictionary and see which definition fits this context best.

What do you think the sign ‘SUPPORT EMANCIPATION IN THE USA’ means?

Find out about the Latin etymology (word origins) of the word ‘emancipation.’

What do you think the author is suggesting about Emmeline’s parents?

What do you think they are doing in the illustration?

Emmeline learned to read when she was three, and it became her favorite thing to do. She read the newspaper and book after book, drawn to stories of heroes who fought for others. She dreamt about who she might become…

…But Emmeline didn’t have many choices because she was a girl.

One night, she heard her father say that it was too bad she wasn’t a boy. She wouldn’t go to college, get a job or even vote like her brothers. Emmeline didn’t understand why.

Why does Emmeline like reading?

How is she different from her brothers and sisters?

What sort of books does she like?

Why was life different for girls?

Can you think of any countries today that treat girls differently from boys?

What was expected of girls in Emmeline’s day?
One of the leaders of the cause was a lawyer named Richard, who also believed that women should be equal to men. The two fell in love, working side by side to help women win the right to vote.

As soon as Emmeline finished high school, she began working for women's rights. Emmeline and Richard married and had a family. For many years they tried to get voting rights for women, but nothing changed.

Sadly, Richard became sick and died, leaving Emmeline with four children, little money, and no rights as a woman.

Emmeline had to work very hard to support her family, but she didn't stop supporting women's rights.

Soon it was her daughters who begged Emmeline to take them to meetings. They asked why women had been following unfair rules for so long. This gave Emmeline an idea...

Find out what the word 'franchise' means.

What is 'a cause'?

Why do you think Richard supported the cause?

Why do you think Emmeline plans to do?

Why do you think there are only women in the audience?

What would having the right to vote change things?

Why do you think nothing changed for many years?

Why was life difficult for Emmeline?

What idea do you think Emmeline might have had?

What sort of words could you use to describe Emmeline Pankhurst? Create a role on the wall of her figure and write in these words, adding any more that you think of as you read through the book.

What do you think Emmeline might have had?
They started by speaking out on street corners and at fairs. They stood up to protest at big meetings. Some people laughed at them, but others began to listen.

Emmeline and her daughters became the leaders of a new group of women, a group that would stop following the rules and would fight for their rights. People called them suffragettes.

The government tried to stop them, so they fought harder. They marched in the streets. They broke windows, set fires and chained themselves to railings.

Even though some were hurt, and others arrested, more and more women joined Emmeline’s group. They were braver than anyone had imagined.

**WOMEN ARE HUMAN BEINGS**

In between spending many days in prison, Emmeline traveled to the US and spoke at big theaters. People gathered by the thousands to hear her.

She told them she would keep fighting until every woman was free to do the same things as men.

The banner says ‘DEEDS NOT WORDS.’ What does this mean? Can you think of other ways of saying this?

What are the rules that you think the women might stop following?

Find out what ‘suffragettes’ means.

Discuss whether it is right for the women ‘to fight for their rights.’

How do you think the suffragettes felt when they first started speaking out?

Freeze frame the street scene and choose someone to tap each person in turn to discover what they are thinking: are they laughing, angry, interested, dismissive, determined?

Why do you think the government tried to stop the suffragettes?

Do you think the suffragettes were right to break windows, set fires and chain themselves to railings?

Why do you think more and more women joined the movement, even though women were being arrested?

Why do you think Emmeline Pankhurst travelled to the United States as well?

Why did so many people come to hear her?

Why does the speech bubble say, ‘WOMEN ARE HUMAN BEINGS’?

Do some more research into suffragettes and create your own speech, detailing why there should be votes for women.
Then a great war broke out, and lots of men went off to fight.

Emmeline encouraged suffragettes to take over jobs that only men had done before.

They were stronger than anyone had believed.

Which war broke out?

What sort of jobs did the women do?

Why were they allowed to do these jobs? Do you think this affected people’s attitudes regarding women?

After the war, Emmeline’s dream came true: women would finally get the right to vote.

By fighting for others, Emmeline had done what no one thought a little girl could do…she had become a hero.

In what year did women finally get the vote in Great Britain?

What is a polling booth?

What was special about Emmeline Pankhurst?

Conduct a class vote by secret ballot, when you place your folded voting slip in a box, so that nobody knows how you have voted. You could vote for:

• School council members
• Librarians
• Playtime buddies

How would people feel if not everyone in the class was given the right to vote?

You might find this short video interesting: quartokno.ws/2H9HK1G

Or the Horrible Histories account of the Suffragette movement: quartokno.ws/2C69QKr

Create a time line of Emmeline Pankhurst’s life, showing the Great War, when women over 30 got the vote and when all women over 21 were given the vote.

How do you think Emmeline Pankhurst has changed the lives of people?
Be bold, be brave, dream BIG!
Discover inspirational lives from around the world.