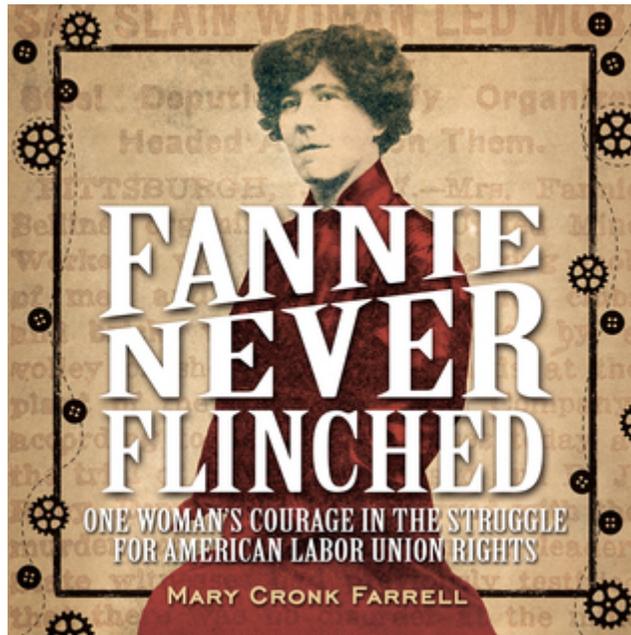


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**Review of *Fannie Never Flinched*:
By Mary Cronk Farrell**

Adult/ Educator Reviewer: Heidi Lyn Hadley
The University of Georgia, Athens, GA
Student Review: Spencer Hadley, 6th Grade



Farrell, M.C. (2016). *Fannie never flinched: One woman's courage in the struggle for American labor union rights*. New York, NY: Harry N. Abrams.

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Adult Review: Heidi Lyn Hadley

This book tells the story of Fannie Sellins (1872-1919) who was a leader in the labor movement at the turn of the century.

“I see a great deal of potential for this book as a resource in the classroom.”

After working as a seamstress in a factory in St. Louis, Missouri, Fannie helped create a local chapter of the United Garment Workers of America, organizing strikes and walkouts. Fannie then went on to travel the nation, organizing unions and speaking out for fair wages and treatment of workers, particularly in the garment and mining industries. Although the book is generally organized into chapters that roughly follow Fannie’s journey from an underpaid seamstress to a martyred union activist, the first page of the book begins with the end of Fannie’s life, describing how she was gunned down by local policemen as she tried to protect the women and children who were protesting with her.

I read this book with my son, Spencer. It did give us the opportunity to talk through what it means to protest, and why the right to protest has been such an important right in shaping the history of the United States. Spencer is a bit of a history buff, so this book was right up his alley. Students who are less enthusiastic about history may find the story to be a bit dense in details, but the book has plenty of pictures with educative captions to support and enrich students’ reading. In fact, my five-year-old and seven-year-old didn’t read the book’s text, but I was able to have conversations about social justice with them as we did an informal picture walk through the pages.

I see a great deal of potential for this book as a resource in the classroom. Aside from the obvious connections to curricular units that deal with labor injustice, this book could be a great addition

to studies of women who changed history. Because this book features many photos from the time period, newspaper cuttings, and other original source material interspersed with a more narrative account of Fannie’s life, it could also serve as a model text for teaching non-fiction writing. At the end of the book, there is a timeline of important events in the struggle for workers’ rights which students might use as a springboard to further research. *Fannie Never Flinched: One Woman’s Courage in the Struggle for American Labor Union Rights* would be an excellent addition for most classrooms’ non-fiction library.

Student Review: Spencer Hadley

Fannie *Never Flinched* by Mary C. Farrell, is about a woman, who was born in 1872 in New Orleans, famous because she was a key part in the fight for workers’ rights. She protested, she boycotted, she encouraged others to strike for better working conditions, salaries, and the abolishment of child labor. She did a lot of work to help countless people and families before she was murdered by a police officer during a protest.

“I like this book because it is not only about her, but her influence and her fiery passion to help the people of America as well.”

I like this book because it is not only about her, but also about her influence and her fiery passion to help the people of America as well. The photos and the captions help to adequately portray her back-breaking work and life, and the writing is smooth. This story really captures the dire situation of what workers used to have to endure and portrays what Fannie did for the working class of America.

In conclusion, “Fannie Never Flinched” is about a woman who influenced hundreds and spread hope across America. The writing is extremely

smooth, engaging, and interesting. The numerous types of media such as newspaper clippings helps portray what happened. Overall, I think this book is extremely interesting and engaging, and best of all, it gets people thinking about the world, and what THEY could do to make it better.