Sojourner Truths Step-Stomp Stride
by Andrea Pinkney

This Is A Nice Peace Of History Well Said And Is A Perfect Introductory Biography To A Woman Of Strength And Courage!

She was big. She was black. She was so beautiful. Born into slavery, Belle had to endure the cruelty of several masters before she escaped to freedom. And oh, was freedom sweet! But still, she knew that she wouldn't really be free unless she was helping to end slavery and injustice in America. That's when she changed her name to Sojourner and began traveling across the country, demanding equal rights for black people and for women. A woman of towering height and a mesmerizing speaker, Sojourner began drawing mighty crowds wherever she went. Many people weren't ready for her message--some even threatened her. But Sojourner was brave and her truth was powerful, and people would remember what she said. And slowly, but surely as Sojourner's step-stomp stride, America began to change. Celebrated author-illustrator team Andrea Davis and Brian Pinkney tell the story of one of the most unique and courageous women in American history, Sojourner Truth.

My Personal Review:
Her master named her Isabella, Belle for short, but a big, black, beautiful girl was going to have none of that nonsense and later renamed herself Sojourner. She was a slave and a much valued one because by the time she was nine she was "almost six feet tall" and her feet, far from dainty, were size twelve. She was a hard worker and that made her a valuable commodity, so valuable she was sold at the tender age of nine. John Dumont promised her freedom if she worked hard, but as hard as she worked the promise would never come to pass.

A promise is a promise and disheartened she ran like to wind and "refused to stop until she saw hope." Her hope ended up in the home of two Quakers, but Dumont wasn't far behind. He caught up with her, but the Van Wagener's offered to buy her. The cash was accepted and Sojourner thought she had a new master, but they freed her on the spot. Because she "didn't have to run anymore, she set out on her own." She soon began
to stomp-stomp around the country imparting her message "about the unfair treatment of black people and women" everywhere. Just how far would this determined young woman go to pass on her truth?

The tone and rhythmical sway of the text gives creates a strong aura around Sojourner, who was indeed a strong-willed woman. This story gives the reader a real sense of whom she was and the strength of her personality and convictions. The artwork meshes well with this story. My favorite illustration shows a proud and determined Sojourner heading for a pulpit getting ready to "stomp-stomp-stomp" all over them." This is a nice peace of history well said and is a perfect introductory biography to a woman of strength and courage.

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