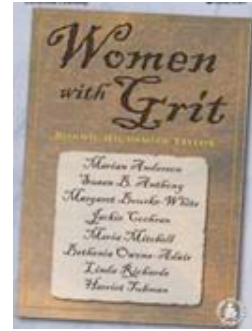


Women with Grit

By Bonnie Highsmith Taylor



Aided by a glossary, Taylor gives enough details for readers to grasp the fundamentals of what it took to become a pioneer American professional woman. Her black-and-white vignettes describe the paths of Maria Mitchell, astronomer, (1818–1889), Susan B. Anthony, activist for the rights of women (1820–1906), Harriet Tubman, conductor on the underground railroad, (1820–1913), Bethenia Owens-Adair, pioneer doctor, (1840–1926), Linda Richards, America's first trained nurse, (1847–1930), Marian Anderson, famous black singer, (1902–1993), Margaret Bourke-White, photographer, (1905–1991), and Jackie Cochran, "first lady of aviation" (1912–1980).

Taylor profiles eight American women who overcame a variety of obstacles to succeed in non-traditional roles. Some, such as Susan B. Anthony and Harriet Tubman, will be familiar to most young readers. Others, such as aviator Jackie Cochran and frontier physician Bethenia Owens-Adair, are more obscure. For each, the author describes a life-defining event, followed by a chronological recounting of the subject's years. Sketches are short (6 to 8 pages), subdivided into sections and illustrated with a combination of period photos and drawings. Taylor uses some invented dialogue, but her language doesn't significantly detract from the factual tone and the writing is concise and direct.

The entries cover the subjects' early lives and their accomplishments, and offer glimpses into their struggles. Many black-and-white photographs and reproductions of period drawings and engravings, often several to a page, illustrate the book.

Women With Grit is a good choice for report writers or classes studying notable American women and helps meet FLORIDA STATUTE 1003.42: Women's Contributions to the United States.

