

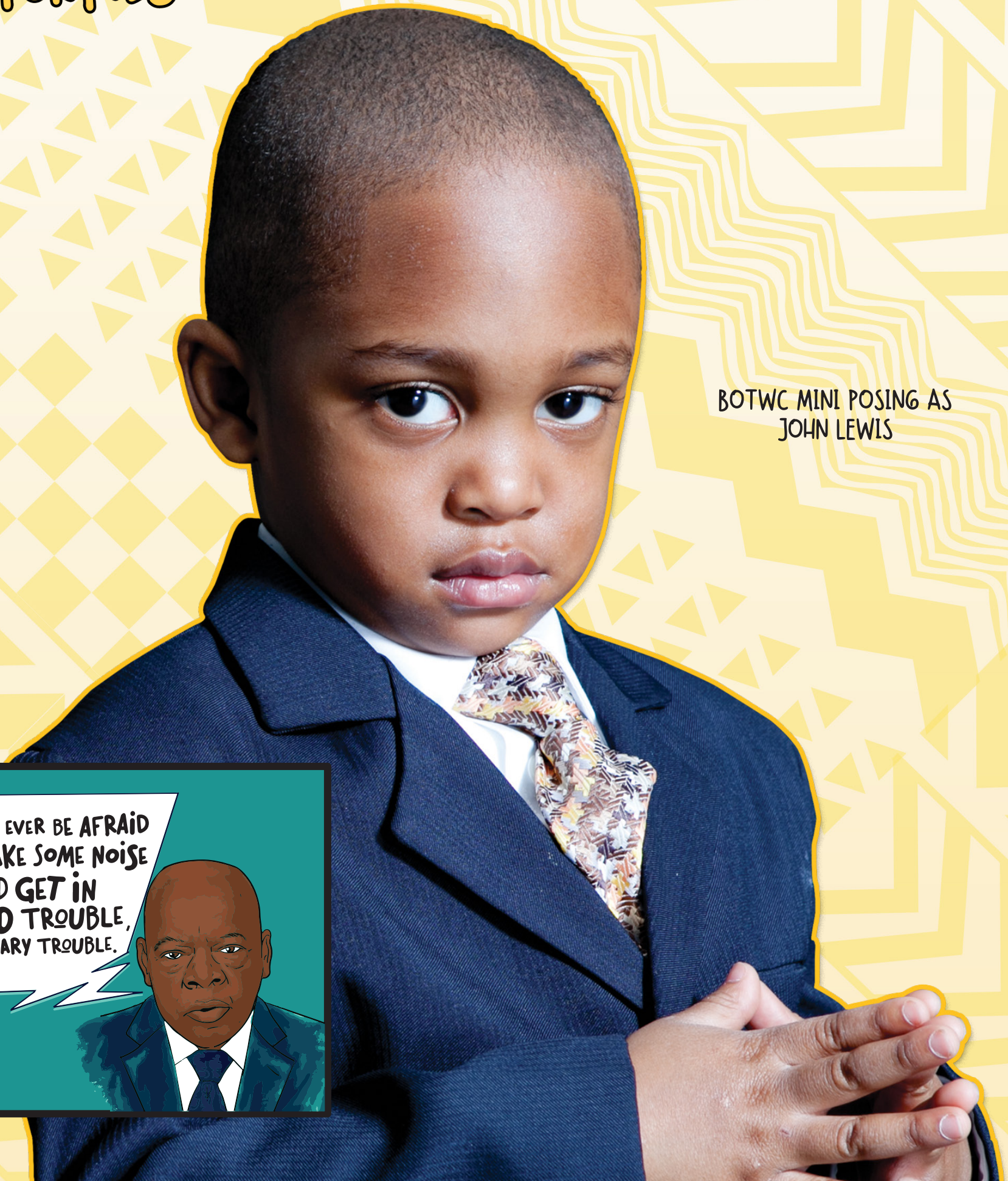
**BECAUSE
OF THEM
WE CAN**

BOX

JUST FOR KIDS

BECAUSE OF JOHN LEWIS

AGES 5-8



BOTWC MINI POSING AS
JOHN LEWIS

NEVER, EVER BE AFRAID
TO MAKE SOME NOISE
AND GET IN
GOOD TROUBLE,
NECESSARY TROUBLE.



MARCH ON!



Many people gathered around a Black **elder** with a coat and bookbag, during San Diego's **Comic-Con**. Many of the people, including children, were wearing shirts with Captain America, Batman, and other superhero costumes, and holding toys that meant the world to them. The people knew many of these characters! Many of the people recognized the Black elder, too. They walked alongside him as he marched, and everyone was excited.

This is not the first time that Black elder has marched with a crowd. He would do it time and time again throughout history.

John Lewis was born on February 21, 1940, in Troy, Alabama. His parents were **sharecroppers**. Their names were Willie Mae and Eddie. They named their son John. At age five, John was **preaching** everywhere. He preached to the chickens in the yard and his family. At age fifteen, John Lewis first heard Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the radio. He was inspired and began to follow Dr. King's sermons and public service, including the Montgomery bus boycott.

John knew that seeking **justice** for Black people was his purpose.

Five days before his sixteenth birthday, John gave his first public speech at Macedonia Baptist Church. It was called "a praying mother."

John met Rosa Parks when he was 17 and met Dr. King for the first time when he was 18.



Create a timeline using the events of John's childhood, up until the age of 18:

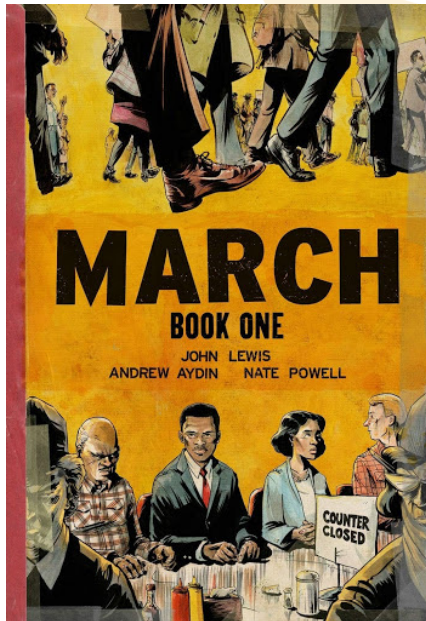
A horizontal timeline line with arrows pointing up and down to seven empty rectangular boxes for notes.

Dr. King called John "the boy from Troy" and helped him decide to go to an **HBCU**. John went to American Baptist Theological Seminary and became a Baptist minister. He also graduated from Fisk University. Both schools are HBCUs.

SEEKER OF JUSTICE

At the age of 25, John was still known as a seeker of justice. His work did not stop there.

John went on to become a director for many organizations; he became a part of the Atlanta City Council and the United States House of Representatives. In these roles, he called for peace during the war, preservation of Black history, and continued his journey of protest.



He has been featured in music videos. He voiced a character, also called John Lewis, on the TV Show “Arthur.” He also made many appearances in documentaries, and actors have portrayed him in films, like Stephan James in Ava Duvernay and Paul Webb’s “Selma.” He also had his books called “March.”

John attended comics conventions, like San Diego’s Comic-Con. He kept going back in 2013, 2015, 2016, and 2017. During the 2015 event, Lewis led a march, much like the one in Selma, arm in arm with children. As they marched, more people joined.



Seeing the Black elder, John Lewis, in his trench coat and bookbag, was a familiar sight. He wore the same clothes that he did on the day of the march on Selma. There was no need to call people to join. Everyone understood and knew the way.

And so they marched.

GLOSSARY

Comic-con: Comic-con is a festival that raises awareness of and appreciation for comic books and related popular art forms which celebrate the historic and ongoing contribution of comics to art and culture.

Sharecropper: a tenant farmer who gives a part of each crop as rent.

Preaching: the delivery of a sermon or religious address to an assembled group of people, typically in church.

Justice: the quality of being fair and reasonable.

Segregation: the action or state of setting someone or something apart from other people or things or being set apart.

Elder: (of one or more out of a group of associated people) of greater age.

HBCU: Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Nonviolent: using peaceful means rather than force, especially to bring about political or social change.

Racism: prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against a person or people on the basis of their membership of a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized.



GOOD RESEARCH



DIRECTIONS: In the spirit of “Good Trouble,” we have a special assignment for you. John Lewis spent a large part of his legacy fighting for the right to vote. Currently, in the United States of America, many people are trying to stop others from voting.

Whoa! How can someone stop people from voting?

Voter suppression is the way that certain parties or individuals try to change the outcome of an election. They want to discourage and prevent people from voting. It includes stopping early votes, **racism** at the places you can vote, and getting rid of places you can vote. This happens more often in Black neighborhoods, Native American reservations, and college campuses.

You aren't old enough to vote, but you can help! You can tell people what's happening and make a change. Your voice matters.

- With your parent/guardian's permission and help, look up information on “Voter Suppression and Your State.”
- Find the main ideas that will help people understand voter suppression.
- You can create a poster with this information and post it online, in your yard, or anywhere many people can see it.
- Have your parents/guardian's tag #botwcbbox, on social media, so we can find it and post it!

Here is our example:

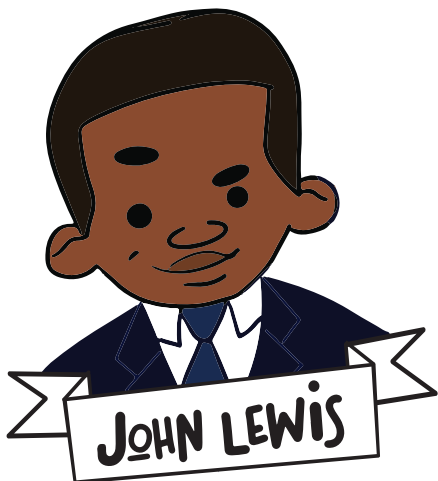
- People are waiting in lines for over five hours to cast their ballots.
- We have broken machines.
- Polling sites open late and we don't have enough backup paper ballots.
- Use your voice to make noise, today! We don't have much time! Everyone should be able to vote!

Voter suppression
IS REAL.
It's happening
in Georgia,
RIGHT. NOW!



WORD TO JOHN LEWIS!

DIRECTIONS: Find the words below!



ELDER
EQUALITY
JOHN LEWIS
RACISM
RIGHTS
SEGREGATION
SHARECROPPER
VOTING

Word Search Answer Key

T	A	Z	r	N	E	X	p	g	K	N	M	O	W	
C	Q	M	I	W	X	d	r	M	X	M	A	A	D	W
T	U	I	H	U	Y	I	E	D	U	V	L	I	A	
9	A	O	R	B	A	N	D	M	U	M	H	H	M	
S	A	E	A	M	N	C	P	N	D	B	R	K	R	
C	W	O	P	Z	Z	E	D	T	E	M	Z	Z	A	
D	U	D	P	T	H	T	S	M	A	R	G	R	C	
M	Z	I	H	O	J	I	H	O	L	M	V	R	J	
T	N	N	R	J	O	V	T	E	B	R	J	A	R	
U	G	U	G	O	G	D	P	M	T	G	H	I	T	
M	D	K	E	B	E	H	E	T	O	H	H	H	D	
T	S	D	R	D	P	F	G	T	H	A	G	M	O	
V	A	G	R	A	P	S	I	T	S	I	K	E	N	
C	E	A	H	A	S	I	M	E	T	N	H	O	T	
S	Z	S	S	T	A	V	C	A	M	O	W	I	S	

T	M	O	W	W	C	V	W	V	T	S	S	Z	L	S
D	J	O	H	N	L	E	W	I	S	V	H	V	E	C
N	D	F	K	T	S	I	T	Q	L	P	A	G	R	V
W	G	Y	H	T	Q	G	F	D	P	Q	R	Q	S	T
Q	H	G	H	O	I	F	E	H	B	E	E	K	Q	W
L	I	G	H	T	L	M	P	D	G	O	C	G	U	G
R	I	J	R	B	E	J	T	A	O	J	R	N	N	T
R	J	A	W	M	O	L	T	V	J	H	O	I	Z	W
C	A	R	G	W	S	I	D	H	T	N	P	T	U	D
Y	P	Z	W	E	O	I	Q	E	Z	R	P	O	M	C
R	K	B	D	N	I	P	C	N	R	Y	E	V	V	S
M	H	H	W	U	M	Q	N	A	W	B	R	O	Y	G
Y	T	I	L	A	U	Q	E	I	R	U	H	I	U	L
M	Q	V	V	W	X	W	J	P	X	M	T	W	D	C
M	O	W	N	K	G	P	F	X	E	N	J	Z	V	L



R.I.P.
John Lewis

Born: February 21, 1940,
Troy, Alabama

Died: July 17, 2020,
Atlanta, Georgia

TAKE THE PLEDGE

I WILL HONOR
THE SACRIFICES OF
MY ANCESTORS.

I WILL BELIEVE
IN ME.

I WILL PURSUE
MY DREAMS.

I WILL HELP
OTHERS ALONG
THE WAY.