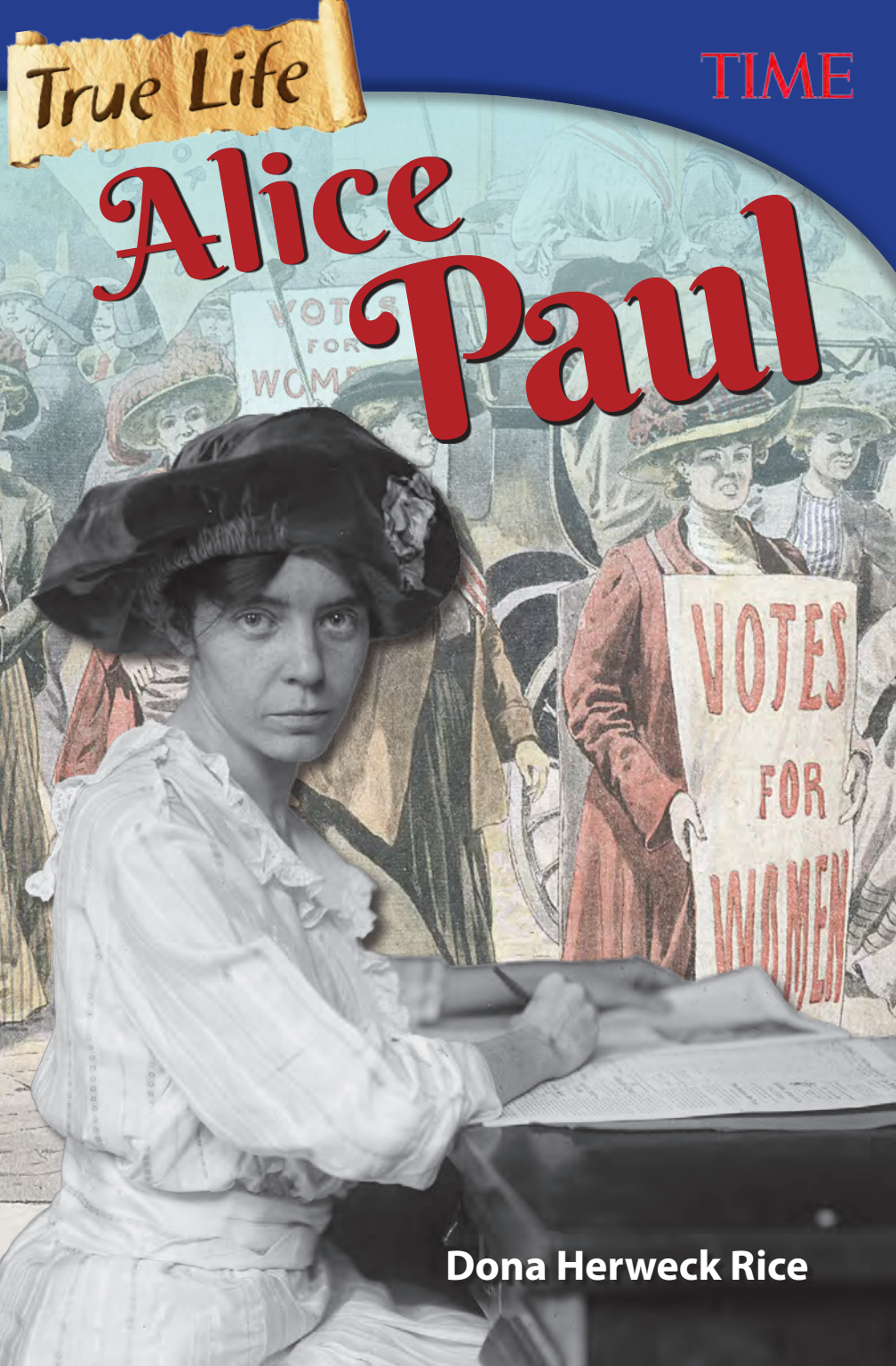
True Life

TIME

# Alice Paul




Dona Herweck Rice

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# Conviction

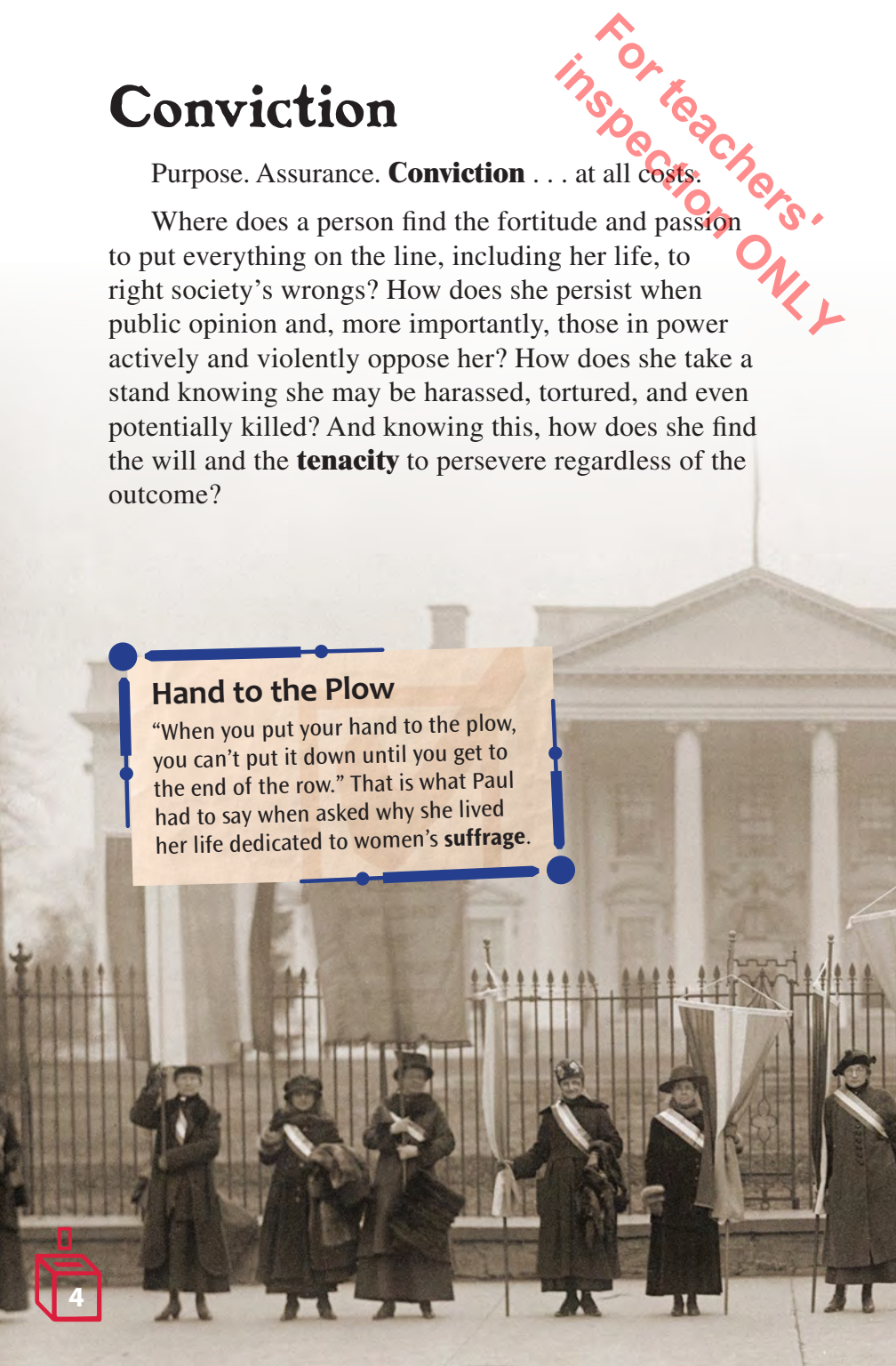
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Purpose. Assurance. **Conviction** . . . at all costs.

Where does a person find the fortitude and passion to put everything on the line, including her life, to right society's wrongs? How does she persist when public opinion and, more importantly, those in power actively and violently oppose her? How does she take a stand knowing she may be harassed, tortured, and even potentially killed? And knowing this, how does she find the will and the **tenacity** to persevere regardless of the outcome?

## Hand to the Plow

"When you put your hand to the plow, you can't put it down until you get to the end of the row." That is what Paul had to say when asked why she lived her life dedicated to women's **suffrage**.



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She does what she does simply because she must. She knows only one truth, and that is the clarity of her conviction. It is worth everything—***everything***—to stand up and be heard. Her inner guidance is so clear that choice is all but removed from her experience. To breathe is to force action. She charges forward, **undaunted** and **resolute**.

Stand, speak, fight—she ignites a revolution in the name of women's rights. And history is finally, irrevocably set on a new path.

## THINK LINK

*Conviction* is a strong word for a powerful concept. Some people might say it has shaped history. Think about it:

- What role has conviction among individuals or groups played in the shaping of society as you know it?
- In what ways do your own convictions shape your life?
- Have the convictions of others directly affected your experiences and your opportunities, for good or bad?



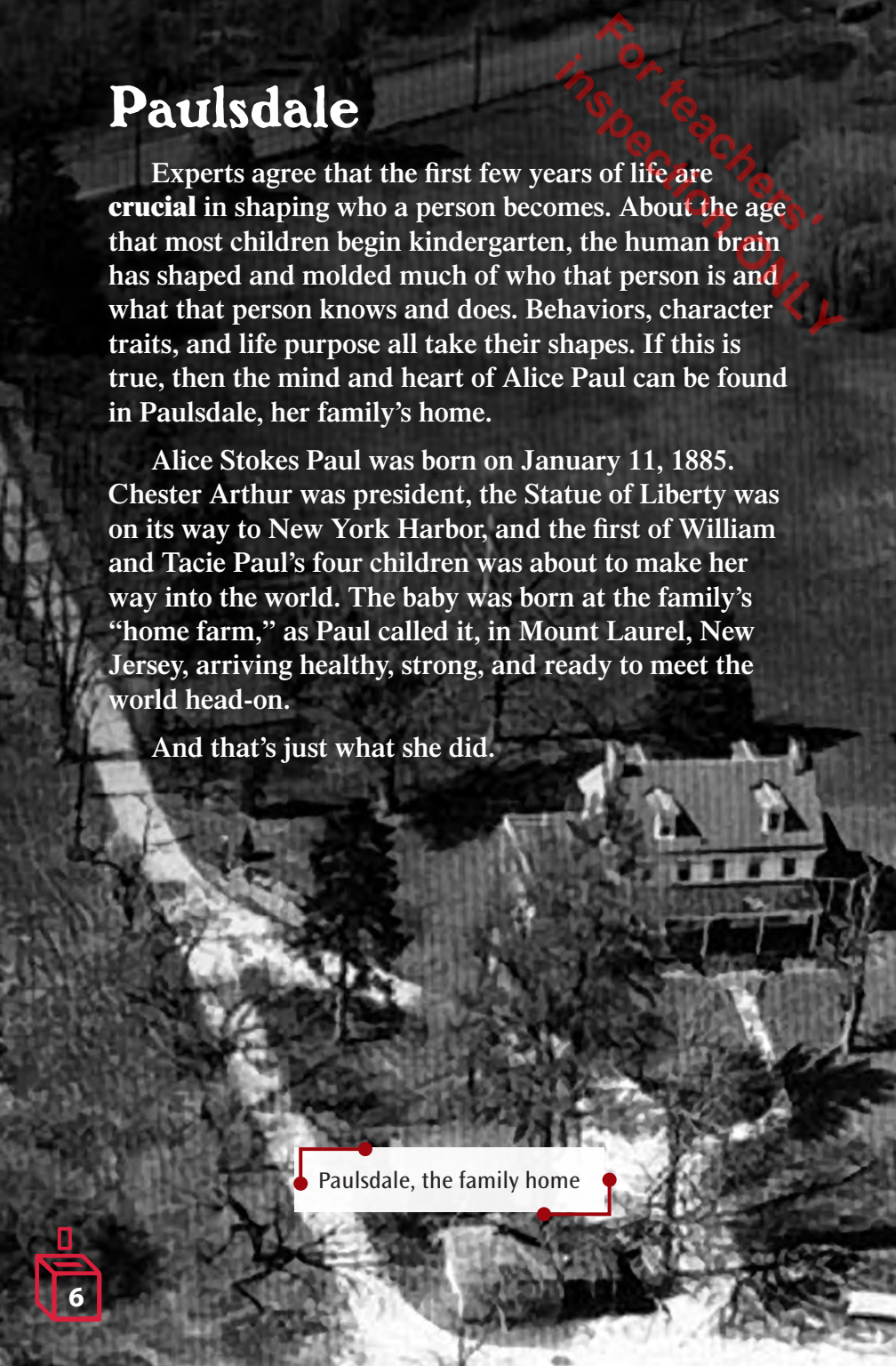
# Paulsdale

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Experts agree that the first few years of life are **crucial** in shaping who a person becomes. About the age that most children begin kindergarten, the human brain has shaped and molded much of who that person is and what that person knows and does. Behaviors, character traits, and life purpose all take their shapes. If this is true, then the mind and heart of Alice Paul can be found in Paulsdale, her family's home.

Alice Stokes Paul was born on January 11, 1885. Chester Arthur was president, the Statue of Liberty was on its way to New York Harbor, and the first of William and Tacie Paul's four children was about to make her way into the world. The baby was born at the family's "home farm," as Paul called it, in Mount Laurel, New Jersey, arriving healthy, strong, and ready to meet the world head-on.

And that's just what she did.



Paulsdale, the family home

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## Preservation

Paul's family home and acres of land have been preserved as a National Historic Landmark. At this book's printing, Paulsdale is among the few U.S. historic landmarks—under four percent—that are dedicated to the memories and legacies of women.



Alice as a baby with her mother, Tacie

## Tacie Paul and the Suffragists

Paul's mother, Tacie, was a firm believer in equal rights. Tacie was a member of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA). Suffragists sought the right for women to vote. They frequently included the rights of nonwhites in their efforts, since at that time only white men could vote. When the Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was passed, women were left out. NAWSA worked to change that.

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Paul was born into comfort and ease, since her family did very well in the world. Her father, William, was president of a trust company in Moorestown, New Jersey. Although Paulsdale was a roughly 200-acre working farm, the family had the **means** to hire laborers to run it. Paul and her siblings didn't need to work strenuously on the farm, as many farm children of the time did, although they did have chores and responsibilities. Even so, they had time and space to explore and create. Their parents believed strongly in the need for all people—especially children—to stay close to nature and to live connected to the natural world. Because of these roots, Paul had an active and happy childhood.



Alice (age 6) and her brother Billy (age 4)

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## Athlete

As a child, Alice loved sports and played baseball, basketball, and field hockey.

## Alice Paul Institute

Today, Paulsdale not only stands as a National Historic Landmark but also serves as the home of the Alice Paul Institute, an organization that carries on the legacy of Alice Paul by "educating and empowering women and girls from all segments of society to take leadership roles in their schools and communities."

# Reader's Guide

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1. How did Alice Paul's upbringing affect her work as an adult?
2. How was propaganda used to keep women from having the vote, and how was it used to forward the cause?
3. To what cause might you be tempted to dedicate your entire life, and why?
4. How does Alice Paul compare to more famous leaders of the suffrage movement?

