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and

**COLORFUL  
HISTORY**  
PRESENT:

*Minnie J. Reynolds Scalabrino*  
& Colorado Women's Suffrage

WOMEN  
UNITE!

VOTES  
FOR  
WOMEN

VOTES  
FOR  
WOMEN

In 1890, women across the nation were organizing and marching for the right to vote.

Denver, Colorado was no different.

Minnie J. Reynolds arrived in Denver to advance the women's suffrage movement through her journalism.

She believed The Rocky Mountain News offered her the chance to do just that.

I'm sorry, Ms. Reynolds, but the Rocky cannot hire a woman to write politics.

My work speaks for itself. My gender shouldn't matter.

People won't take us seriously. You can write the society page.

Fashion, events...the finest and most talked about women in Colorado.

Minnie quickly realized having access to Denver's upper class would have advantages.

She reported on many like-minded, powerful suffragettes and amplified their voices.

Minnie's writing in the Rocky's society page became a sensation that influenced public opinion in favor of women's right to vote.



In 1893 the Colorado state legislature ratified a constitutional amendment, HB 118, giving women the vote in state elections.



It's a powerful victory for Colorado's suffragettes and an example for the nation.

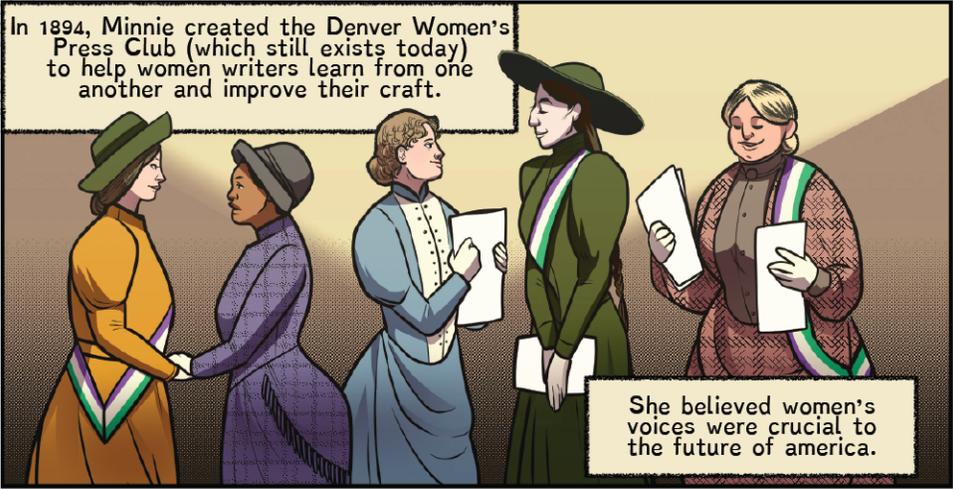
I can't believe it.

...waited my whole life for this.



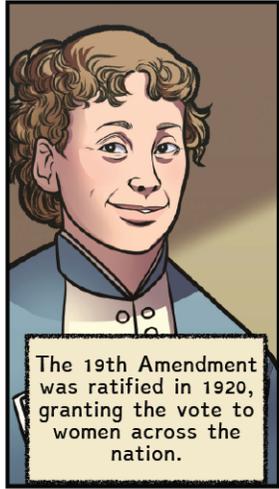
VOTING BOOTHS

I'm ready.



In 1894, Minnie created the Denver Women's Press Club (which still exists today) to help women writers learn from one another and improve their craft.

She believed women's voices were crucial to the future of America.



The 19th Amendment was ratified in 1920, granting the vote to women across the nation.



WE ARE TOGETHER Denver, Colorado. 2018.

A WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN THE RESISTANCE

MATTER

RESIST

MARCHING

OUR BODY OUR MIND OUR POWER

"Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won, you earn it and win it in every generation."  
-- Coretta Scott King



# Teacher Guide



**Minnie J. Reynolds Scalabrino**

1865 – 1936

By Erik Taylor and Dailen Ogden

Guide by Tracy Edmunds, M.A.Ed.

## **Discussion Questions**

### **3rd-5th**

- Based on context clues in the comic, what do you think a “society page” is?
- When Minnie is told that she has to write the society page, she makes the best of a bad situation. How does she do this? Have you ever had to make the best of a bad situation? How?
- Minnie J. Reynolds Scalabrino stood up for other women and for herself. What do you think is important enough to stand up for?
- How does the final quote from Coretta Scott King relate to the story of Minnie J. Reynolds Scalabrino?

### **MS-HS**

- How can journalists like Minnie influence their readers? How do you think journalism is different today than it was in Minnie’s time?
- Are determination and persistence important to you? Why or why not?
- In Minnie’s time women weren’t expected to be journalists. What else have women not been expected to do in the past? Do you think expectations for women are different today? How?
- How was Minnie important to the cause of women's rights? Is there still more work to be done for this cause? Why or why not?

## **Comic Analysis**

- Have students read the comic the first time by looking only at the images and not the text. Have students discuss who they think the main character is in the comic, describe her, and make predictions about her based on visual cues. Then have students read the images and text together and see if their impressions have changed.
- Look at Minnie Scalabrino’s clothing and hairstyle in each panel. Now look at the dates in the captions. How much time passes in this comic? Do you think this is a realistic depiction? Why do you think the creators did this?
- How does the cartoonist show the reader the difference between third-person narration and dialogue?
- *Emanata* are lines or symbols used in comics to show what a character is thinking, feeling, or saying. They usually appear above or near a character’s head. In the

fourth and fifth panels the cartoonist added emanata. One is a scribble and the other is a shining light bulb. What do you think she is telling the reader with this use of symbols? What do you think they mean? How does the artist use them in combination with the character's facial expressions? Also, what is different about the background in these panels compared to the rest of the comic? Why do you think the creators made this choice?

- Analyze the body language and facial expressions of the characters. How does the artist give you information about the characters' thoughts and feelings that may not be represented in the text?
- In the last panel on the first page, look at the way the lighting is drawn on Minnie in her office. Why do you think the artist drew the scene this way? What does the lighting tell you?
- Look at the first and last panels of the comic. What do you notice? What do you think the creators intended in this choice?

### **Lesson Ideas**

- Have students research the life of Minnie J. Reynolds Scalabrino and make a timeline showing her journalistic career.
- Where does Minnie fit into the history of the fight for women's rights? Students can use Minnie's story as a starting point for research about the history of the fight for women's rights in Colorado and/or across the nation.
- Have students compare and contrast this comic with the Colorful History comic about Meredith Ellis. How did each woman work for women's rights?
- Politically active women in the late nineteenth century who fought for suffrage often worked for other causes and reforms, such as temperance, racial equality, and labor unions. Have students research these issues and discuss how and why they were connected.
- Have students interview local journalists and write about their careers.

### **Additional Resources**

Minnie J. Reynolds Scalabrino biographies

- [3rd-5th](#)
- [MS-HS](#)

[History of the Denver Women's Press Club](#)

### **Women's Suffrage in Colorado**

Document-based Questions: [Women's Suffrage in Colorado](#)

Teacher's Edition: [Women's Suffrage in Colorado, 1877-1893](#)

Rocky Mountain PBS video ["Suffrage"](#)