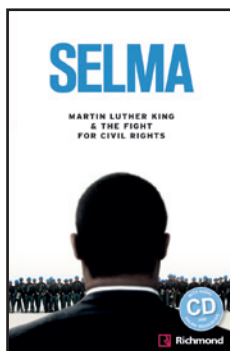


A **FREE** RESOURCE FOR TEACHERS!



# SELMA

## Level 2

This level is suitable for students who have been learning English for at least two years and up to three years. It corresponds with the Common European Framework level A2.

### SYNOPSIS

*Selma* is the story of the fight for civil rights led by Martin Luther King. The events which take place in the small town of Selma in Alabama in 1965 convince the US president and the American people that change is necessary.

Dr King wants a new law to enforce equal voting rights for African-Americans but President Johnson isn't ready for that fight. Dr King and his team head to Selma, Alabama to protest and to raise awareness.

First, Dr King leads a protest outside the Selma Courthouse. Next, there is a night march in which a young black man is shot dead. Dr King then organises an illegal march from Selma to Montgomery. The police beat the marchers and the footage is shown on news programmes around the world.

Dr King calls for a second march, again illegal. This time the police move aside for the marchers. Dr King is suspicious, however, and he turns back. A white priest who joined the march is killed by racists.

President Johnson decides enough is enough, and takes a new Voting Act to the US House of Congress. Dr King organises a third march, now legal, and invites all races to join him. The march becomes a celebration, ending in Montgomery, where Dr King addresses a crowd of 25,000 people. It's a milestone in the fight for civil rights.

### THE BACK STORY

Martin Luther King is an icon of black history and of protest by non-violent means. He was an admirer of Mahatma Gandhi, who led a non-violent campaign to win independence for India. Like Gandhi, Dr King was assassinated. In 1968 Coretta King set up the King Center for non-violent social change and campaigned for a national day to recognise her husband's achievements. The film *Selma* came out just after new laws in the U.S. affected voting rights, making it much harder to vote. The film was therefore very timely, reminding Americans of the struggle to win the vote.

### MEDIA LINKS

**DVD:** The photos in this reader come from *Selma* (2014) directed by Ava Du Vernay. The original music was written by Jason Moran. You can show your class a performance of the song 'Glory' at the Oscars ceremony in 2015, on YouTube.

**CD:** An audio recording of *Selma* is available to accompany the Richmond Reader.

**Visits/Internet:** The National Voting Rights museum is near the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma. The museum website contains recordings and films from the time:

[www.nvrmi.com](http://www.nvrmi.com).

The King Center website contains lots of information about Martin Luther King and his work: [www.thekingcenter.org](http://www.thekingcenter.org).

## HOW TO USE YOUR RICHMOND MEDIA READER

### Choosing and motivating

Is this the right story for your class? Have your students heard of *Selma*? Try to generate interest by showing the film trailer, or by reading the first page of the story.

### Organising

Plan a class reading schedule. Decide how many pages to set for reading each week. Select exercises from the Self Study section at the back of the reader and extra activities from this resource sheet to go with each chunk of reading. (All answers are on page 5 of this resource sheet.)

### Using the CD

Students can listen and follow in their books. They can listen and then read. They can read and then listen. All these activities will improve their reading speeds and skills.

### Using the DVD

Select the English language option on the DVD. The running time is 128 minutes. Select key scenes to show in parallel with the class reading schedule. Alternatively, show it when the class have finished the book, as a reward.

### Glossary

Go to 'New Words' at the back of the reader. Translate the words with the class or get students to find meanings at home. The Vocabulary Builder on page 4 of this resource sheet practises the new words in a different context.

### The civil rights movement

Before beginning the reader, brainstorm what students know about the civil rights movement in the United States and about Martin Luther King. Use the Black History Timeline on pages 6 and 7 to introduce key facts that led to the campaign, and right up to the point where *Selma* takes place.

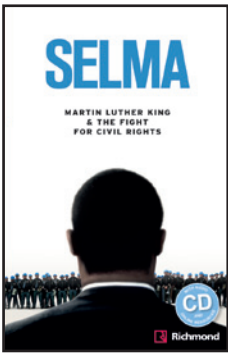
### Fact File

Set this as self-study or use for whole class work. It provides background information about civil rights in the United States today.

### What did they think?

Get everyone to do a written or spoken review of *Selma*. Compare opinions. Will they watch the film? Did *you* like it? Let us know at [elt@scholastic.co.uk](mailto:elt@scholastic.co.uk).

**RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES**



# SELMA

**Pages 4–7**

**1 When this story takes place, who is ...**

- a) ... President of the USA?  
Lyndon Baines Johnson .....
- b) ... Director of the FBI?  
.....
- c) ... leader of the civil rights movement?  
.....
- d) ... Governor of Alabama?  
.....
- e) ... trying to vote in Selma?  
.....

**Where is ...**

- f) ... the Oval Office? .....
- g) ... the Edmund Pettus Bridge? .....

**2 When ...**

- a) ... do the American Civil War and slavery end? 1865 .....
- b) ... does Rosa Parks refuse to give her seat to a white man? .....
- c) ... do the Ku Klux Klan appear for the second time? .....
- d) ... does the Civil Rights Act become law in the USA? .....
- e) ... does the story of Selma take place? .....

**Chapters 1–4**

**1 Match the two halves of these sentences.**

- a) The 'lost ones' are ...
  - b) Annie Lee Cooper has already tried to register to vote ...
  - c) In Alabama there are ...
  - d) Coretta thinks it's okay ...
  - e) Dr King puts the civil rights movement ...
  - f) Dr King takes the prize for the four girls and ...
- i) before his family.
  - ii) 20 million black Americans.
  - iii) three times.
  - iv) 67 judges.
  - v) four girls killed in an Alabama church.
  - vi) to take a few days' break.

**2 Who are these sentences about – Dr King or President Johnson? Tick the correct box.**

	Dr King	President Johnson
a) He thinks the Civil Rights Act is enough for now.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) He follows the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) He's a Nobel Prize winner.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) He doesn't want to work at the White House.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) He wants to fight for poor people of all colours.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**3 Choose the correct option. Tick the correct box.**

- a) Who isn't welcome in Alabama, according to Ralph?  
 White people.  Black people.
- b) Where does Dr King go first when they arrive in Selma?  
 The Courthouse.  The Hotel Albert.
- c) What does a white man do in the hotel?  
 Hits Dr King.  Takes Dr King's hand.
- d) What is the FBI's first plan to deal with Dr King?  
 Kill him.  Break up his family.
- e) What does Coretta do when she gets a horrible phone call?  
 Shouts back.  Puts the phone down.
- f) What does Dr King say about the fight for the vote?  
 It will be easy.  It will be difficult.

**4 Work with a partner. One of you is Coretta. The other is a close friend. Talk about Coretta's life. What is her life like? What would she like to change?**

**Chapters 5–8**

**1 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?**

- a) White people are taking part in the sit-down protest at the Courthouse.  F
- b) The sheriff pushes Jimmie Lee to the ground.
- c) Annie Lee Cooper hits the sheriff with her bag.
- d) A photographer takes a photo of Jimmie Lee's grandfather on the ground.
- e) Governor Wallace phones the President to tell him about black trouble-makers in Alabama.
- f) Dr King and some of his team are in jail.
- g) Dr King will lead the night march in Selma.

**RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**2 Put these sentences in the order they happen.**

- a) Jimmie Lee gets his grandfather and mother into a restaurant.  d
- b) One officer beats Cager Lee and another fires his gun at Jimmie Lee.
- c) The police attack the marchers.
- d) The night marchers walk through the dark streets.
- e) The police follow them into the restaurant.
- f) The police shine car lights into the marchers' eyes.
- g) The police tell the marchers to move back and someone fires a gun.

**3 Answer the questions.**

- a) Where did Jimmie Lee Jackson fight for his country?  
*Vietnam*
- b) How old was Jimmie when he died?  
.....
- c) What is on top of the wooden box in the church?  
.....
- d) Which black people does Dr King say killed Jimmie?  
.....
- e) Who is sitting behind Jimmie's mother?  
.....
- f) What does Dr King say they will do for Jimmie?  
.....

**4 Work with a partner. Student A is a newspaper reporter. Student B is a person from Selma. Student A asks about what has happened in the town in the last few days – the sit-down protest, the night march and Dr King speaking in the church. Student B answers the questions.**

**Chapters 9–11**

**1 Which of these ways does the President use to try to change Dr King's plans? Tick the boxes.**

- a) gets angry with Dr King
- b) asks for Dr King's help
- c) says he'll put Dr King in jail
- d) says Dr King's not safe from the Ku Klux Klan
- e) asks the FBI to try to break up Dr King's family
- f) asks the FBI to kill Dr King

**2 Choose the correct word(s) in *italics* in these sentences.**

- a) Dr King / *Hosea Williams* and John Lewis lead the first march over the bridge.
- b) At first, the march is very *quiet* / *noisy*.
- c) The marchers are carrying *sticks* / *sleeping bags*.

- d) When the marchers meet the police, *the police move to one side* / *the sheriff fires a gun*.
- e) The police run after the protesters to *help* / *beat* them.
- f) The beatings *are* / *aren't* on the TV news.
- g) Dr King invites *all Americans* / *reporters and cameramen* to join him.

**3 Who ...**

- a) ... interviews James Reeb outside the church?  
*Roy Reed*
- b) ... tells the police on the bridge to move to the side?  
.....
- c) ... does Dr King ask for help on the bridge?  
.....
- d) ... asks Dr King what happened on the bridge?  
.....
- e) ... does Dr King write to?  
.....
- f) ... kills James Reeb?  
.....

**4 Work with a partner. You are in the second march and Dr King turns back. Talk about what is happening and why.**

**Chapters 12–Epilogue**

**1 Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.**

- a) The President has telephoned
  - i) Jimmie Lee Jackson's mother.
  - ii) James Reeb's wife.
- b) Dr King needs to talk to someone
  - i) who is very close to him.
  - ii) who understands him but isn't close to him.
- c) John Lewis cries when he remembers
  - i) a white girl attacking his friend.
  - ii) Rosa Parks in Montgomery.
- d) Judge Johnson decides that the five-day march to Montgomery
  - i) can take place.
  - ii) can't take place.
- e) The President takes the side of
  - i) George Wallace.
  - ii) Dr King.
- f) The President goes to the House of Congress with a new law
  - i) on voting rights.
  - ii) to help poor people.
- g) The march to Montgomery turns into
  - i) a party.
  - ii) a violent fight.
- h) In Montgomery, Dr King speaks to
  - i) 8,000 people.
  - ii) 25,000 people.

## RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES

### 2 What do you think?

- a) Is non-violent protest the best way to get things changed?
- b) Would black people be able to vote freely in the 21st century without the civil rights movement?
- c) Martin Luther King puts his work before his family. Three years after Selma, he loses his life because of his work. Is the price too high?

### FINAL TASKS

**1 You are a reporter for one of your country's best newspapers. You are in Selma during these events. Write a report about one of them to send back to your newspaper.**

- the night march
- the first march
- the second march
- the third march

**2 The fight for voting rights is an important fight. What important fights are there in the world today? Make a list. Compare your list with other students.**

**3 It's voting day in Selma. The President has passed the Voting Rights Act into law. White and black people in Selma can vote. A white farmer meets a black lawyer on the street outside the Selma Courthouse. They have both just voted. The farmer has voted for Sheriff Clark. The lawyer has voted for John Lewis. Write a dialogue between them.**

## VOCABULARY BUILDER

**Look at the 'New Words' at the back of *Selma*.**

**1 Who is speaking? Write the name of the speaker next to each sentence. Choose from:**

judge   lawyer   leader   priest   protester   racist  
 registrar   reporter

1. "Our team is the best. We must win. We will win if you follow me!" ..... *leader*.....
2. "This woman is not a bad woman. She knows that she made a mistake. Please don't send her to jail." .....
3. "You will go to jail for ten years." .....
4. "We want change and we want it now! We have no power but we have a loud voice!" .....
5. "Excuse me, madam. Your husband's going to jail for ten years. How do you feel?" .....
6. "It's my job to keep the names of our city's voters up to date." .....
7. "I do not believe that Asian, white, Hispanic and black people are equal." .....
8. "Ask God for help and listen to what he says." .....

**2 Find nouns in the 'New Words' list to complete these sentences.**

1. After he lost his court ..... *case*....., the man went to jail.
2. Over a million people joined the ..... through London to protest against the Iraq War.
3. The police used their ..... to beat the protesters.
4. The Presidents of the USA, Russia and China have a lot of ..... between them.

5. The twelve people on the ..... couldn't agree on anything.
6. There was a loud ..... as the car crashed into a wall.
7. When the man came out of ....., he couldn't get a job.

**3 Choose the correct adjective in these sentences.**

1. The fight was *equal / violent* – both men were two metres tall.
2. The fight was *equal / violent* – there was blood everywhere.

**4 Put these verbs in the correct form in the sentences.**

to beat   to cheer   to knock   to vote

1. Parents are not allowed ..... their children in Britain.
2. The man ..... the police officer to the ground as he tried to escape from the station.
3. More than 50% of the American people ..... for Barack Obama in 2008.
4. The fans ..... when the Barcelona team ran out onto the pitch.

### Casual Language

**1 Match these casual expressions to the more formal meanings.**

- a) "ya hear"   b) "This ain't right."   c) "Well, I'll tell ya."
1. "I'm not sure this is the correct thing to do."
  2. "Now listen to what I have to say."
  3. "... and I really mean it."

## FACT FILE FOLLOW-UP

### CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE USA TODAY (pages 50–1)

#### Quick Fire Questions

Before students look at the Fact File, write these questions on the board. Students look at the Fact File and find the answers as quickly as they can.

1. In what year did the USA vote for Barack Obama for the first time?
2. There are many people in the USA with nowhere to live. How many of them are black?
3. What don't 2% of young black people have?
4. Is social media popular among young black Americans?
5. Who is the leader of the new civil rights movement?
6. Who was shot in Ferguson, Missouri, in August 2014?

Ask the fastest student to give the answers.

(Answers: 1. 2008 2. 37% 3. a job 4. 96% are on social media 5. There isn't a leader. 6. Michael Brown)

#### Your chance to speak!

1. *Choose a topic:* Students choose a topic that's important to them. It can be global or local. Here are some options:

- whaling
- the right to carry guns
- equal pay for men and women, young and old
- the right to free education for all children in the world
- burning fossil fuels
- your own idea

2. *Find the facts:* Students find at least three facts that they can use in their campaign. They can research on the Internet or in the library, or by asking people who know.

3. *Write a speech:* Martin Luther King is famous for his speeches, especially his "I Have a Dream" speech. In 2015, aged just 15 years old, a climate activist called Xiuhtezcatl ('Shoo' for short) Roske-Martinez stood up in the United Nations, and spoke for ten minutes about the environment without notes. You can watch his speech on YouTube, showing part of it to students to inspire them.

Brainstorm ideas about speech writing before students begin. For example, it's important to keep it short and snappy, so that listeners don't get bored. Listeners are more likely to remember if you repeat key words and phrases. Use facts to support your points, but keep them short.

4. *Give your speech:* In turn, students give their speeches to the class. The class votes on the best speech.

### DVD/CD FOLLOW-UP

#### DVD: Choosing scenes

*Selma* is over two hours long, and contains some scenes with complex language. Several scenes contain violence and bad language, too. Watch the film yourself and choose a few key scenes that are appropriate for your class. Students vote for the scenes they would most like to watch. After watching the scene, discuss these questions: *Is the acting good? Is the scene exciting? Is the music good? What emotions do you go through while you are watching it? Do you want to watch the rest of the film?*

#### CD: What's happening?

Select key moments on the CD from chapters students have read. Play a small section of *Selma*. Students describe the context of the extract: who is speaking, where the characters are, how they are feeling, what has just happened, what is going to happen next.

### ANSWER KEY

#### Self-Study Activities (pages 52–5)

##### Chapters 1–3

- 1 a) law b) jury c) power d) bang e) violence f) jail g) equal
- 2 a) register b) vote c) march d) leaders e) protesting f) vote g) register
- 3 a) i, iii b) The American Civil War c) Rosa Parks d) A country with equal rights for all races. e) Lyndon B. Johnson
- 4 a) school > church b) knows > doesn't know c) Alabama > Oslo, Norway d) now > in the future e) doesn't believe > believes f) is pleased to meet Dr King > knocks Dr King to the floor g) the same > different
- 5 Open answers.

##### Chapters 4–7

- 6 a) iii b) i c) ii
- 7 a) T b) F. she doesn't think it's funny c) F. likes what Dr King says d) F. Annie Lee Cooper e) T f) T
- 8 Open answers.

##### Chapters 8–11

- 9 a) case b) priest
- 10 a) Because he is angry about the killing of Jimmie Lee Jackson. b) The Ku Klux Klan c) Because they're part of a non-violent movement. d) The police beat her. e) All Americans f) They move to one side to let the marchers cross.
- 11 Open answers.

##### Chapters 12–Epilogue

- 12 Open answers.
- 13 The correct order is: c, b, g, f, a, e, d.
- 14 Open answers.

### Resource Sheet Activities

#### Pages 4–7

- 1 b) J. Edgar Hoover c) Martin Luther King d) George Wallace e) Annie Lee Cooper f) the White House, Washington, DC g) Selma
- 2 b) 1955 c) 1950s d) 1964 e) 1965

#### Chapters 1–4

- 1 b) iii c) iv d) vi e) i f) ii
- 2 b) Dr King c) Dr King d) Dr King e) President Johnson
- 3 b) The hotel Albert. c) Hits Dr King. d) Kill him. f) Puts the phone down. g) It will be difficult.
- 4 Open answers.

#### Chapters 5–8

- 1 b) F c) T d) F e) F f) T g) F
- 2 The correct order is: d, f, g, c, a, e, b.
- 3 b) 28. c) White flowers. d) Everyone who does not join this fight. e) Coretta f) Win the vote.
- 4 Open answers.

#### Chapters 9–11

- 1 The President tries a, b, d and e.
- 2 b) quiet c) sleeping bags d) the sheriff fires a gun e) beat f) are g) all Americans
- 3 b) the Sheriff c) God d) John Lewis e) Coretta f) Two white men
- 4 Open answers.

#### Chapters 12–Epilogue

- 1 b) ii c) i d) i e) ii f) i g) i h) ii
- 2 Open answers.

### Vocabulary Builder

- 1 2. lawyer 3. judge 4. protester 5. reporter 6. registrar 7. racist 8. priest
- 2 2. march 3. batons 4. power 5. jury 6. bang 7. jail
- 3 1. equal 2. violent
- 4 1. to beat 2. knocked 3. voted 4. cheered

### Casual Language

- 1 1. b 2. c 3. a