



Maggie's Civics Corner

Lesson #28 – Special lesson for Law Day, May 1st, 2020

*Today's lesson focuses on **Law Day**. Law Day is held every May 1st throughout the nation to celebrate the rule of law. It was established in 1958 by President Dwight Eisenhower to mark the nation's rule of law. Law Day highlights how the law and the legal process contribute to the freedoms that all Americans share. My Mom, Judge Rendell, is a Federal Judge and has been sharing information with me about this year's Law Day theme. The theme **Your Vote...Your Voice...Our Democracy** centers on Women's Rights and the 19th Amendment. The 19th Amendment guarantees a woman's right to vote. As a female pup, this is a theme I would like to share with you.*

Sticky Situation: Before you think about the *Sticky Situation*, read or listen to the book, *The Ballot Box Battle* by Emily Arnold McCully (you can find this as a read aloud on YOUTUBE). The story takes place in 1880, a time when women were not allowed to vote. The main character is a girl named Cordelia. In the story, Cordelia's brother captures the feeling of the times when he shouts, "No votes for pea-brained females". Lucky for Cordelia, her next-door neighbor is Elizabeth Cady Stanton, a leader in the struggle to achieve women's rights. Elizabeth Cady Stanton helps Cordelia learn about women's rights.

Now...think about this sticky situation, a situation that any one of us might face...

It is recess time. A group of boys in your class take a kickball outside and start to choose teams. Two girls in your class stand with the boys so they can play kickball as well. One boy takes a piece of chalk and goes over to where the girls are standing and writes: **BOYS RULE!** Another boy turns to the girls and yells, **Girls are no good at kickball!** Rather than walk away or start yelling at the boys, the girls say they want to tell the boys why they should let them play, and then they want the group to vote about whether they should be allowed to play or not. If you were one of the girls, what would you say to the boys to convince them to let you play? Be prepared to share your ideas. If you were one of the boys, how would you vote and why?

Activity: Writing a rule or enacting a law are not easy tasks to accomplish. A rule must be clear, concise, easy to follow, and one that does not contradict a rule that already exists. Think about the experience everyone had on the playground. The girls chose not to use **fight** or **flight** to make their point. They wanted to play, and so they tried to convince the boys that letting them play was a good idea. When the Principal of the school heard what happened on the playground, she decided to have the class develop a rule about who should be allowed to play kickball at recess. What would your rule state?

Now, imagine that the Principal asked every student in the school to vote on whether they think the rule is a good rule or not. Think of three reasons to support your rule.

Civic Resources: https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/law-day/