



**Read Aloud and Lesson
based on the book**

I Dissent Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark

by Debbie Levy

*In the book **I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark**, the reader learns about Justice Ginsburg from her early life to her time as the first Jewish female Supreme Court Justice. Since Justice Ginsburg died this September, people all over the world have remembered her words and her work, both of which have served to make our world a better place,*

*After reading or *listening to **I Dissent** (check YOUTUBE for a read-aloud of this book), think about Justice Ginsburg's impact on our world today, and think about what each of us can do to make our world a better place. Use the questions below to guide your thoughts and discussions:*

1. Ruth Bader Ginsburg's mother thought **girls should also have the chance to make their mark on the world. So, she took Ruth to the library.** Think about both the past and present times. Who do you know or recognize **as independent girls or women taking charge**? Be prepared to share your answers.
2. It was not that long ago that hateful signs Ruth saw on businesses and people's lawns existed. People do not have to post signs on their lawns or businesses to have their prejudices impact the way they treat other people. As young citizens and leaders, what action would you take to encourage all people to treat everyone without prejudice?
3. Ruth Bader was left-handed. Her teacher insisted that Ruth try to write with her right hand. When she followed the teacher's instructions, she got a "D" in handwriting. Ruth did not think that was fair. So, she began to write with her left hand. In doing so, she demonstrated that she had a very nice handwriting. This took courage, but Ruth knew she had to question the authority

of her teacher. Do you think active citizens should question authority? Why or why not? How would you recommend a person act when questioning authority?

4. All of us have the ability to become leaders. In high school, Ruth was a cello player, a baton twirler, and the editor of her school newspaper. In order to become a leader, do you think it is important to get involved in school activities? Why or why not? In what activities would you like to become involved?

5. When Justice Ginsberg was on the Supreme Court, the Court ruled against having women workers get paid the same as men. She disagreed with this decision. The President and Congress at that time agreed with Justice Ginsberg and, therefore, passed a law undoing the Court's ruling. Do you think it is right to be able to overturn a decision of the Supreme Court? Why or why not?

6. Ruth Bader Ginsberg has been called a *hero* by some because she changed people's minds on many important issues. Do you think that is a characteristic of a hero? Why or why not? Do you think all heroes are leaders? Do you think all leaders are heroes? Be prepared to support your answers.

7. The Ginsberg family – Ruth, her husband Marty, and her children Jane and James – were often considered a bit unusual. Marty was a marvelous chef and lawyer, while Ruth was a marvelous lawyer who would often burn the dinner. Think about today's world. Are there activities that you think only men should do? Are there activities that you think only women should do? Be prepared to share your thoughts