

## Maggie's Civics Corner



### Lesson #13 – Law Day 2020 Special Lesson *Your Vote...Your Voice...Our Democracy*

#### Maggie says ...

*In these difficult times, as our nation and the world pull together, it is more important than ever to understand our role as a citizen.*

**Today's special lesson is about LAW DAY.** Every year throughout the U.S. we celebrate the **rule of law** on May 1<sup>st</sup> - Law Day. This observance was established in 1958 by President

highlight how the law and the legal process contribute to the freedoms that all Americans share. My mom, Judge Marjorie O. Rendell, is a Federal Judge. She shared information with me about the theme for Law Day 2020 – ***Your Vote...Your Voice...Our Democracy***. She said that it 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 an important theme I would like to share with you.

**Sticky Situation:** Before you think about this Sticky Situation, read or listen to this read-aloud of the book, **[The Ballot Box Battle](#)** by Emily Arnold McCully.

The story takes place in 1880, a time when women were not allowed to vote. The main character is a girl named Cordelia, whose brother has captured the feeling of the times when he shouts, "No votes for pea-brained females." Luckily for Cordelia, her next-door neighbor is Elizabeth Cady Stanton - a leader in the struggle to achieve women's rights. Elizabeth helps Cordelia to learn about the need and fight for women's rights.

**Now...**think about this *sticky situation* - one any 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 the class stand with the boys so they can play kickball, too. One of the boys takes a piece of chalk and walks over to where the girls are standing to write **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 stay, explaining they want to tell the boys why they should let them play and to suggest the group vote about whether girls 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? If you were one of the boys, how would you vote and why? Be prepared to share your ideas.

Continued

**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 a *“fight or flight”* response to make their point. They wanted to play, 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. If you were asked to write this rule, what would it state?

Now, imagine that the Principal asks every student in the school to vote on whether they think your rule is a good one or not. Think of three (3) reasons to support your rule and write them down. Be prepared to share.

**Civics Resources:** Each year the [American Bar Association](#) (“ABA”) selects a new theme for Law Day and provides information, sets activities, and makes resources for teachers available about the topic. Click the ABA link above to get information about this year’s theme.