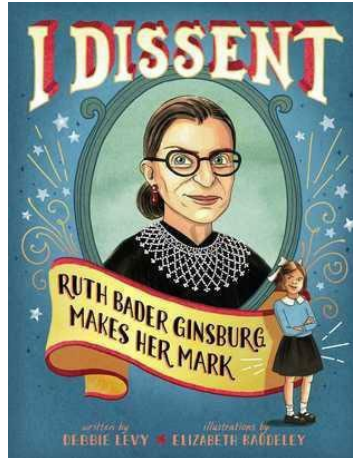


# I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark



**By: Debbie Levy**

**Illustrated By: Elizabeth Baddeley**

Topics: Supreme Court, Constitution, What it means to be a citizen

Genres: Moral tales, Historical information picture book nonfiction

**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 woman on the Supreme Court. Since Justice Ginsburg died, people all over the world have remembered her words and her work, both of which have made our world a better place.**

## **Before the Read Aloud:**

What do you know about the Supreme Court system? What do you think a judge does? Do you know how somebody becomes a Supreme Court justice? Do you know who Ruth Bader Ginsburg was?

# **I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark**

## **During the Read Aloud:**

1. Ruth Bader Ginsberg's mother thought girls should have the chance to make their mark on the world. So she took Ruth to the library. Think about both the past and the present. Who do you know of that is an independent woman or girl taking charge? Be prepared to share your answers.
2. Ruth saw hateful signs on people's businesses and lawns. People don't have to post signs on their property to treat other people with prejudice. As young citizens and leaders, what action would you take to discourage prejudice in our world?
3. Ruth Bader Ginsburg was left-handed. Her teacher insisted that she 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 went back to writing with her left hand. By doing so, she showed that she had 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 Ginsburg 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 Ginsburg and 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 Ginsburg has been called a hero because she changed people's minds on many important issues. Do you think this 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 Ginsburg family – Ruth, her husband Marty, and her children Jane and James – were often considered a bit unusual. Marty was a chef and lawyer, while Ruth was a lawyer who would often burn the dinner. Think about today's world. Are there activities that you

# **I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark**

think only men should do? Are there activities that you think only women should do? Be prepared to share your thoughts.

## **Take Action Project:**

After reading or listening to *I Dissent* (check YOUTUBE for a read-aloud of this book), think about Justice Ginsberg's impact on our world today, and think about what each of us can do to make our world a better place.



**Annenberg**  
PUBLIC POLICY CENTER  
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA