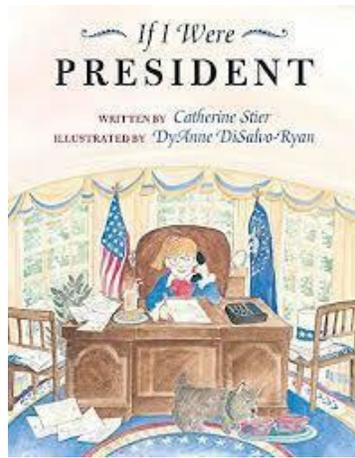


If I Were President



By: Catherine Stier

Illustrated by: DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan

Topics: Constitution, Government, Rights and responsibilities, What it means to be an American citizen, Building community, Student voice

Genres: Informational picture book, American government picture book non-fiction

The President is probably someone you have heard of. Who is the President as a person? What exactly does a President do? In this book, learn about why we have Presidents and what a President does. Listen to kids explain what they would do if they were President. Learn what they would choose to change our world! Here are talking points to use with this story to start an inspirational conversation with students about the presidency.

Before the Read Aloud:

Do you know who the current President is? How about the one before that? As a group, try to name as many Presidents as you can. What do you think that the President does as part of this role?

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During the Read Aloud:

1. Some of the things said by the kids in the story sounded silly. Can the President really do all that? The answer is yes! All the things in the book are actual responsibilities and privileges of the President. What surprised you most about being the President? What is something you didn't think the President could do until reading this?
2. After listening to all the kids in the story talk about what they would do if they were President, it's now your turn! What would you do if you were President? Is there something really exciting you would like to try? Or maybe you have an idea about how you could change the world? Explain what you would do if you were the President.
3. If you could sit down with the President and ask any question, what would it be? You could ask about the President's life, house, family, pets, responsibilities, or anything else! Explain why you would ask this question.

Take Action Project:

As the President, you would have the power to change the world and do so much good in other people's lives. Even though being the President is a very interesting job that comes with a lot of power and responsibility, not everyone will get to be President; there's just too many of us! What are some ways that we can do good and make change in our world even if we never get to be President?

What is one key national or local change that would improve your life or that of your family? Be specific. Think about school, or your home or neighborhood. Focus on food, health, buildings, rights to do things, those in need of food and housing or some other concerns that might worry you.

If I Were President

Presidents have the power to bring their key ideas for change to the attention of the nation and Congress. What single key idea or platform would you want to bring to our nation's attention? Create a poster, short statement, or slogan depicting it.

One president wanted, "a chicken in every pot," while another said "ask what you can do for your country." A third said "the only thing to fear is fear itself." What will your platform be?

