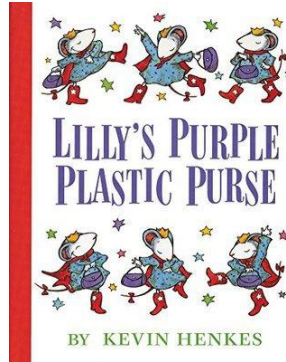


Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse



By: Kevin Henkes

Topics: Rules, Rights and responsibilities, Constitution, Community building, Student voice

Genres: School stories, Picture books

Many of us have had a teacher take something away from us because we were not following the rules. Lilly is no exception. She knows she has the freedom of speech. That freedom is provided in our Constitution. However, does Lilly have the freedom to speak in her classroom whenever she wants? This story offers perspectives on rights and responsibilities from various perspectives. Allow students to decide if Lilly's rights were violated or not. A famed children's book icon provides an incredibly relatable rights, rules, and responsibilities lesson.

Before the Read Aloud:

Do you think that when you are in school, you can still share your personal stuff with your friends as you do outside? Why or why not?

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse

During the Read Aloud:

1. Do you think Lilly had the right to share her purple plastic purse, her movie star sunglasses, and her three shiny quarters with her classmates? Why or why not?
2. If Lilly had the right to share her things with the class, do you think she acted responsibly when she first brought them to class? If you could talk to Lilly, what ideas might you give her about how she could have shared her things in a more responsible way?
3. The U.S. Constitution tells us what we are allowed to do within the laws of our country. In much the same way as our Constitution, our classroom and school rights and responsibilities tell us our rights and what our responsibilities are. Do you think Mr. Slinger had the right to say that Lilly had to give him her purse, glasses, and quarters until the end of the day? Why or why not?
4. Lilly became very angry at Mr. Slinger. She drew a picture of him and labeled it, Big Fat Mean Mr. Stealing Teacher. Thinking about our rights and responsibilities, do you think Lilly had the right to be angry at Mr. Slinger? Be prepared to support your answer. Do you think the way Lilly showed Mr. Slinger her anger was a responsible choice? Be prepared to share your answer. What else do you think she could have done besides draw the picture?

Take Action Project:

Lilly liked Mr. Slinger because he had the class sitting in many ways and he brought in tasty snacks. Just for fun, make a list of all the tasty snacks you would like a teacher to bring to your class. Also, draw or describe all the different ways you could be seated in a classroom. Try to use your seating arrangement to get the teacher to follow it for some class activities. If you can persuade your teacher to use your arrangement your voice will have been heard as a student citizen of your school.

