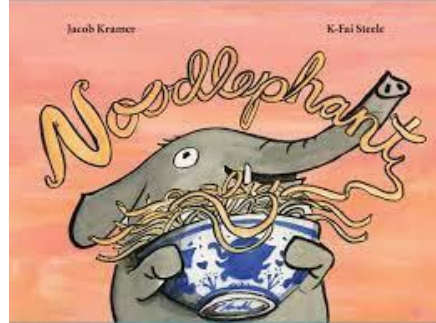


Noodlephant



By: Joseph Kramer

Illustrated by: K-Fai Steele

Topics: Rules, Student voice, Community building, Who we are as citizens, Constitution/First Amendment

Genres: Animal anthropomorphic stories, Picture books

Noodlephant is a pasta-loving elephant who is famous for her delicious pasta and equally delicious pasta parties. When pasta-eating is banned by the kangaroos that rule the town, Noodlephant and her friends must raise their voices and break some rules to change them. This story looks at what to do when we are subject to unfair rules and how to rise up and change the world for the better.

Before the Read Aloud:

What would you do if a new school rule ended recess or eating lunch? Would you just accept the new rule or try to argue against it? If so, how would you try to get the rule changed?

Noodlephant

During the Read Aloud:

1. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution gives us many important rights we use every day. The First Amendment gives us the right to practice religion freely, the right to free speech, the right to a free press, and the right to peaceably protest. Have you ever used any of these rights? Give an example of a time when you have used one or more of your First Amendment rights.
2. Think about Noodlephant and her friends. Which First Amendment rights did they use to try to change the unfair rules? Make sure to think through the whole book and explain your answer.
3. Even though they knew eating pasta wasn't allowed, Noodlephant and her friends had a big pasta party at the end of the book. Do you think that this was okay because they were using their First Amendment rights (free speech, peaceful protest)?
4. Do you think what they did was wrong because they were breaking the law? Explain your thoughts on this issue.

Take Action Project:

Listen to some of the songs that Noodlephant and her friends sang in the book. Think about the line, "When the law is so unjust, misbehavior is a must." Do you think this is true? When laws are unfair, does that mean it is okay to break them? What are some ways we can change unfair laws without breaking them?

