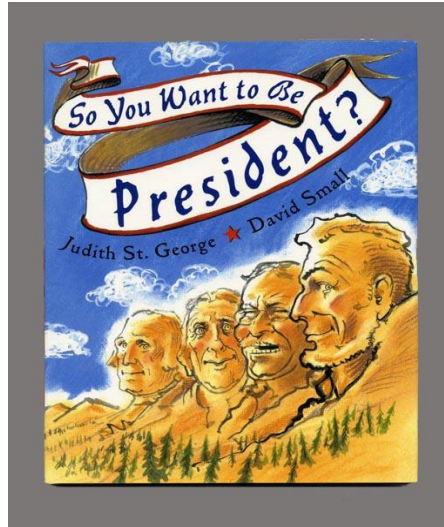


So You Want to Be President?



By: Judith St. George

Illustrated by: David Small

Topics: US Government, Constitution, Student voices, Rights and responsibilities

Genres: Nonfiction historical picture book

Suggested for Grades 4 to 8

***So You Want to Be President?* is a book about the pros and cons of becoming the President of the United States. This is a classic Elastic Clause read aloud chock full of key information about the presidency role. Skilled readers can curate its information for the grade, age, and reading level of the student audience.**

Before the Read Aloud:

Take what you already know about the role of the President. Make a list of the characteristics that a leader should have and the powers the President has based on the Constitution. Write your ideas down. We will check back after we finish the story. A teacher needs to have a license to teach. Lawyers need to pass a bar exam to practice law. Are there any qualifications needed to be President?

So You Want to Be President?

During the Read Aloud:

1. There are three qualifications an individual must have in order to run for President of the United States. They include:

- The individual must be at least 35 years old.
- The individual must be a natural-born citizen of the United States.
- The individual must be a resident of the US for at least 14 years.

Thinking about these three qualifications, would you change any of them? If so, why? If not, why?

2. Presidents can only serve two consecutive terms. That means, a President can, if elected twice, be President for 8 years. Some people have suggested that our President should serve only one term of 6 years. Do you think that would be a good idea? Why or why not?

Take Action Project:

Imagine that your school, in an effort to support students who want to become great leaders, starts a Student Council, a place where students share their ideas and opinions. Now imagine that there are two candidates who want to be President of your Student Council. One of the students has been in your school since kindergarten and is well-known by many of the other students. The other student is brand new to the school but has had leadership experience in the school they first attended. They told students that they have fresh new ideas for making your school a better place. Which student would you vote for and why?

Or

If you ran a campaign to be elected Student Leadership Council President, what single school improvement would you advocate for? Why would you choose that issue? How would you express it in a paragraph or a slogan?

