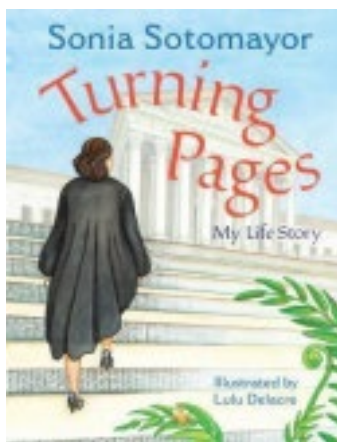


Turning Pages: My Life Story



By: Sonia Sotomayor

Illustrated by: Lulu Delacre

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

Genres: Historical information picture book nonfiction, autobiography

Sonia Sotomayor is an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. She was nominated to serve on the Supreme Court by President Barack Obama, and has served since August, 2009. Sonia Sotomayor is the first Hispanic and Latina justice. In her book *Turning Pages*, Judge Sotomayor shares with the reader what inspired her to reach for her dreams.

Sonia Sotomayor’s parents came to the United States from Puerto Rico. Her mother worked as a practical nurse. Her father, who only had a third-grade education and didn’t speak English, was a tool maker. The Sotomayor family lived in a tenement and then the housing projects in the Bronx, New York City. Sonia Sotomayor knew that she “was going to college and...become an attorney.” Amazingly, she knew all this by the time she was ten years old.

In *Turning Pages*, the reader discovers what inspired Sonia Sotomayor to work hard and dream big. Her book reveals her personal inspiration and encourages each reader to have their own dream.

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During the Read Aloud:

1. The Rendell Center embraces the idea that reading is our first freedom. In *Turning Pages*, we learn that Sonia Sotomayor feels the same way. What do you think that means? Do you agree or disagree that reading is our first freedom? Be prepared to support your answer.

(This question could lead to a conversation about the First Amendment in the Bill of Rights.)

The 1st Amendment to the Bill of Rights lists out our freedoms.

- Freedom of Speech...Do you have the right to hold any opinion you want as long as you express that opinion in a responsible manner?
- Freedom of Religion...Do you and your family have the right to practice any religion that you choose?
- Freedom of the Press...Do you read a newspaper or listen to the news on your TV or phone? Do you think that the Government controls what is written in the press?
- Freedom to Assemble...Do we have the freedom to protest something we do not think is right? Can you give an example that you might have seen or heard about recently?
- Freedom to Petition the Government – Do you have the freedom to ask someone in the city government for something for your school or neighborhood?

2. When Sonia Sotomayor was diagnosed with diabetes at seven-years-old, she faced the fact that she had to poke herself with a needle every day of her life in order to stay alive. She writes that she found the courage to do so by reading superhero comic books. Why do you think comic books about superheroes inspired her to be brave?
3. Do you think all heroes are brave and powerful? Why or why not? Do you have someone in your life who you see as a hero, someone who has inspired you in your journey to reach your dream?
4. Sonia Sotomayor writes, “Books were my loyal friends. They made it so I never felt lonely.” We all feel lonely some of the time. Have you read anything that “made it so you did not feel lonely?”
5. Like Sonia Sotomayor, have you found a character in a book that you can picture yourself as? Be prepared to share.

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6. Why do we have laws? Do our laws as stated in the Constitution ever need to change? Why or why not?
7. Sonia Sotomayor feels like it is important to know what you do not know. Do you think it is important to know what you don't know? Why or why not?
8. Sonia Sotomayor defined the word "justice" as "treating people fairly under the law." How would you define the word "justice"?
9. *Turning Pages* highlights the importance of words. From your point of view, in what way are words important?
10. Sonia Sotomayor was the first Hispanic and Latina member of the Supreme Court of the United States. What would you like to be the first to do?



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