

Primary Civics (K-2)

Theme Addressed: Rules and Laws

Title	Author	Subject	Brief Description
A "Mice" Way to Learn About Government: Teaching the Three Branches of Government	Peter W. Barnes	3 Branches of Government	A teacher curriculum guide for the "Mice Way To Learn About Government" series on the three branches of government from VSP Books
Applemando's Dreams	Patricia Pollaco	Classroom rules	Applemando has many amazing dreams. When it rains his vivid dreams stick to surfaces and brighten up the drab village. With the linked lesson plan, students can learn about how rules can help them to achieve their dreams.
Arnie and the Stolen Markers	Nancy Carlson	Shoplifting Laws	Main character steals markers and then must work in the store he stole them from.
Better Not Get Wet, Jesse Bear	Nancy White Carlstrom	Following Rules	Main character follows rules for when he is allowed to "get wet;" can use story to stimulate discussion of the purposes of a rule and when rules are applicable.
Earth Day	Linda Lowery	Beginning of Earth Day and its Laws	Lowery addresses the concerns that eventually brought about Earth Day and the laws and programs that have come about due to its establishment in 1970.

Everglades	Jean Craighead George	Environmental Laws	Presents story of the Everglades and how humans have endangered this habitat. Stimulates discussion on necessary environmental laws to protect this environmental treasure.
Freedom Summer	Deborah Wiles	Civil Rights during the Summer of 1964	This book takes place during the Summer when the Civil Rights act of 1964 was passed. Segregation, southern white retaliation to the law, and the willingness to stand up for what you believe are exposed through the friendship of two young boys, one white and one black.
Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse	Kevin Henkes	Classroom Rules	Lilly gets in trouble for disobeying a rule set forth by the classroom teacher and is subsequently punished.
Mailing May	Michael O. Tunnell	U.S. Mail regulations	May was shipped as a "baby chick" to her grandmother's house seventy-five miles across the Idaho mountains. Her Uncle Leonard worked on the mail car of the train and helped deliver this unusual package, all forty-eight pounds of her including suitcase. True story. Delightful illustrations by Ted Rand.

Officer Buckle and Gloria	Peggy Rathmann	Safety rules	Police officer visits elementary schools with his trusty police dog, Gloria, who is a big hit with the kids. A lot of illustrations.
Old Henry	Joan W. Blos	Standards in the Community	Neighbors get angry with the main character because he does not take care of his property and then realize too late that he had other good qualities that added to their community.
This Time, Tempe Wick	Patricia Gauch	Bill of Rights	A young girl helps the Revolutionary soldiers who camp on her New Jersey farm in 1780, until they steal her horse.
Thunder at Gettysburg	Patricia Gauch	Bill of Rights	Tilly watches the Battle of Gettysburg from her attic window as though it were a circus. However, soon she finds herself drawn into the terrible and seemingly unending fray.
Too Many Tamales	Gary Soto	Authority and Power	A little girl wears her mother's ring without permission and loses it in the tamales she is making for a family celebration. She ends up eating more than her share of the tamales as she looks for the ring.

Intermediate Civics (3-4)**Theme Addressed: Rules and Laws**

Title	Author	Subject	Brief Description
A Kid's Guide to America's Bill of Rights: Curfews, Censorship, and the 100-Pound Giant	Kathleen Krull	Bill of Rights	This book takes the first ten amendments and made their often difficult language understandable for students. Using anecdotes, sidebars, and political issues, the author helps kids understand not only the meaning of amendments but also their relevance and how they apply to our daily lives.
Bad Girls	Cynthia Voight	Classroom Rules	Hilarious look at school rules in the classroom of a fifth-grade teacher who is extremely strict.
Earth Day	Linda Lowery	Beginning of Earth Day and its Laws	Lowery addresses the concerns that eventually brought about Earth Day and the laws and programs that have come about due to its establishment in 1970.
Emancipation Proclamation	Brendan January	Passing of the Emancipation Proclamation	Tells the story of the document which led eventually to the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment and relates the role of President Lincoln in freeing the slaves.
Everglades	Jean Craighead George	Environmental Laws	Presents story of the Everglades and how humans have endangered this habitat. Stimulates discussion on necessary environmental laws to protect this environmental treasure.
Junebug	Alice Mead	Family rules	Junebug lives in low-income project housing and must follow a lot of rules for his safety. Even though other family members and friends slip into a life of crime and drugs, Junebug remains true to the values his mother taught him.

Let it Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters	Andrea Davis Pinkney	Black Freedom fighters and civil rights.	This book is a compilation of short biographies about black women who fought for their rights and the rights of other people. The women covered in this book are; Sojourner Truth, Biddy Mason, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Mary McLeod Bethune, Ella Josephine Baker, Dorothy Irene Heights, Rosa Parks, Fannie Lou Hamer, and Shirley Chisholm. Illustrated by Stephen Alcorn.
Marshall, The Courthouse Mouse: A Tail of the U.S Supreme Court	Peter W. Barnes	History and Workings of the Supreme Court	Using a blend of information and story and an often-forced verse that doesn't scan well, the authors attempt to explain the history and workings of the Supreme Court.
Public Defender: Lawyer for the People	Joan Hewett	Rules and Laws	Photo essay which describes the typical day of an Asian American public defender. Straightforward account of a public defender's work with clients charged with serious crimes.
Sleds on Boston Common: A Story from the American Revolution	Louise Borden	Bill of Rights	This is a folk story of four school children who want to go sledding on the Boston commons in 1774 where British troops are located, and how they deal with their predicament.
The Bill of Rights	Patricia Ryon Quiri	Bill of Rights	This book explains what the Bill of Rights is, and what rights these amendments bestow upon us. The author clearly paraphrases each of the ten amendments and discusses why and how they are continually interpreted by the courts.
The Fall of the Berlin Wall: The Cold War Ends	Nigel Kelly	Communist vs. capitalist government	This books explains how the Cold War began, persisted, and ended in a way that elementary students can understand.

There's an Owl in the Shower	Jean Craighead George	Environmental Laws	Young boy brings home a spotted owl that is in trouble; however, the boy's father, a lumberman, lost his job due to the spotted owl legislation. Stimulates discussion on the cost and benefits of various environmental laws.
Through My Eyes: The Autobiography of Ruby Bridges	Ruby Bridges	Bill of Rights	This is Ruby Bridges personal account of when, as a six-year-old African American, she integrated the New Orleans public schools in 1960.

Advanced Civics (5-6+)

Theme Addressed: Rules and Laws

Title	Author	Subject	Brief Description
A Kid's Guide to America's Bill of Rights: Curfews, Censorship, and the 100-Pound Giant	Kathleen Krull	Bill of Rights	This book takes the first ten amendments and made their often difficult language understandable for students. Using anecdotes, sidebars, and political issues, the author helps kids understand not only the meaning of amendments but also their relevance and how they apply to our daily lives.
A "Mice" Way to Learn about Government: Teaching the Three Branches of Government	Peter W. Barnes	The Three Branches of Government	A teacher curriculum guide for the "Mice Way To Learn About Government" series on the three branches of government from VSP Books
Bad Girls	Cynthia Voight	Classroom Rules	Hilarious look at school rules in the classroom of a fifth grade teacher who is extremely strict.
Emancipation Proclamation	Brendan January	Passing of the Emancipation Proclamation	Tells the story of the document which led eventually to the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment and relates the role of President Lincoln in freeing the slaves.

Fighting for Honor	Michael Cooper	Japanese internment and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team	An easy to understand, captive history of the long-standing prewar prejudice against the Japanese Americans, the Japanese internment during World War II, and the experiences of the Japanese American infantry battalion, the most highly decorated unit in U.S. Military history. Also explores the problems the Japanese Americans faced after the war. Excellent photographs.
Grandpa's Mountain	Carolyn Reeder	Taking property away from people to make the Shenandoah National Park. The Great Depression	Carrie spends her summers with her grandparents in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. This particular summer they must all grapple with the decision of the government to clear all homesteads out of the area that is designated to become the Shenandoah National Park. Grandpa uses every legal means to try to stop the movement. Others are happy with the offer of a home and land near schools and hospitals to replace their poorer accommodations in the mountains. Economic themes as well.
Let it Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters	Andrea Davis Pinkney	Black Freedom fighters and civil rights.	This book is a compilation of short biographies about black women who fought for their rights and the rights of other people. The women covered in this book are; Sojourner Truth, Biddy Mason, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Mary McLeod Bethune, Ella Josephine Baker, Dorothy Irene Heights, Rosa Parks, Fannie Lou Hamer, and Shirley Chisholm. Illustrated by Stephen Alcorn.

Nothing But the Truth	Avi	First Amendment and Respecting Rules	Main character is suspended for humming during the playing of national anthem during morning school announcements. Case becomes about First Amendment and the truth as reported by various sources who witnessed the incident.
Public Defender: Lawyer for the People	Joan Hewett	Rules and Laws	Photo essay which describes the typical day of an Asian American public defender. Straightforward account of a public defender's work with clients charged with serious crimes.
Sleds on Boston Common: A Story from the American Revolution	Louise Borden	Bill of Rights	This is a folk story of four school children who want to go sledding on the Boston commons in 1774 where British troops are located, and how they deal with their predicament.
The Bill of Rights	Patricia Ryon Quiri	Bill of Rights	This book explains what the Bill of Rights is, and what rights these amendments bestow upon us. The author clearly paraphrases each of the ten amendments and discusses why and how they are continually interpreted by the courts.
The Eternal Spring of Mr. Ito	Sheila Garrigue	Bill of Rights	Sara, a World War II British evacuee in Vancouver, is powerless to stop the detention of her friend Mr. Ito, along with other Japanese Canadians.
The Fall of the Berlin Wall: The Cold War Ends	Nigel Kelly	Communist vs. capitalist government	This book explains how the Cold War began, persisted, and ended in a way that elementary students can understand.
The Giver	Lois Lowry	Rules and Values	Main character, Jonas, is given the assignment of being the receiver of memories no longer available to the people in society. Jonas and his mentor decide on a new system of laws in order to restore memory to the community.

The Journey: Japanese Americans, Racism, and Renewal	Sheila Hamanaka	Bill of Rights	Using details from a five-panel mural, the author depicts the plight of Japanese Americans in World War II.
The Printer's Apprentice	Stephen Krensky	Bill of Rights	This story presents the trial of John Peter Zenger, a 1700s New York newspaper publisher, whose landmark case significantly affected American journalism.
There's an Owl in the Shower	Jean Craighead George	Environmental Laws	Young boy brings home a spotted owl that is in trouble; however, the boy's father, a lumberman, lost his job due to the spotted owl legislation. Stimulates discussion on the cost and benefits of various environmental laws.
Through My Eyes: The Autobiography of Ruby Bridges	Ruby Bridges	Bill of Rights	This is Ruby Bridge's personal account of when, as a six-year-old African American, she integrated the New Orleans public schools in 1960.
When Justice Failed: The Fred Korematsu Story	Steven A. Chin	Constitutional rights violation	Fred Korematsu, a law-abiding American citizen, challenged the internment of himself and other Japanese Americans. His case is heard in the U.S. Supreme Court, and he loses his case. In 1983, evidence that had been suppressed by government lawyers was presented in San Francisco Federal Court, and the government had to admit its error in the Supreme Court case. Ultimately, the government apologized and made reparations to all of those internees still alive.