



Book of the Month

Presented by ADL's Education Division

About the Book of the Month: This collection of featured books is from our Recommended Multicultural and Anti-Bias Books for Children. Intended for educators, parents and other caregivers of early childhood and elementary aged children, these books promote respect for diversity, teach about bias and prejudice, encourage social action and reinforce themes addressed in education programs of [A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute](#), ADL's international anti-bias education and diversity training provider. Reading the children's books listed on this site with your children and incorporating them into instruction is an excellent way to talk about these important concepts in your classroom.

Grace for President

Kelly DiPucchio (Author), LeUyen Pham (Illustrator)

When Grace's teacher reveals that the United States has never had a female president, Grace decides to be the first. And she immediately starts off her political career as a candidate in the school's mock election. But soon she realizes that she has entered a tough race. Her popular opponent claims to be the "best man for the job"—and seems to have captured all the male votes. So Grace decides the only thing to do is concentrate on being the best person for the job.

ISBN: 1423139992

Publisher: Hyperion Books for Children

Year Published: 2008

Grade Level: K-2



Key Words

Discuss and define these words with children prior to reading the book. Do not focus on students' retention of all the words; instead make sure they understand the words enough to follow the story and remind children of their meanings as they come up in the book. You can also post the words and point out to students when they appear in the story.

- campaign
- candidate
- constituents
- democracy
- election
- electoral votes
- podium
- polls
- president
- representative
- slogan

Discussion Questions

Pre-reading questions: What is the title of the book? What do you think the book might be about? Does the picture on the cover give us any clues as to what the book is about?

As you read the book aloud, ask a few discussion questions periodically throughout the reading of the book to check comprehension and keep the students engaged.

After reading the book aloud, ask the following questions:

- How did Grace feel when she discovered there had never been a President who was a woman?
- Why do you think she felt this way?
- What were some of the campaign promises made by Grace and Thomas?
- Why was Thomas so sure he was going to win?
- Was there something important about Wyoming, the state that Sam represented?
- Were you surprised by what Sam did at the end? Why?
- What did the story show about Grace's personality/character?
- How would you explain in a few sentences what this book is about?
- How do you feel about there never having been a female President?
- Why do you think there has never been a President who is a woman?
- What was your favorite part of the book? What part didn't you like?
- Do you think that the United States will ever have a female president? What makes you think so? When do you think it may happen?

Extension Activities

Below are activities that you can do with children in order to extend the learning from the book.

1. Other Injustices: Write A Persuasive Letter

Ask students to think about other things they think are unfair or unjust, either in the world/country, in their community or in school. Remind them that Grace thought it was unfair that there has never been a woman President and she decided to do something about it. Brainstorm a list of ideas that they come up with and then have each student can select one and write a persuasive letter (to their parents, to their school, to their mayor, congressperson or President) about what they think is unfair, why and what should be done about it.

2. Create Your Own Campaign

In pairs or individually, have students imagine themselves running a campaign for an election in their school. Ask them to consider the following in order to develop their campaign: (1) What issues are important to you? (2) What will you try to do or what changes will you try to make in the school if you win? (3) What is your campaign slogan? (4) Draw your campaign posters and (5) Write a short speech that you will deliver to your classmates to convince them to vote for you.

3. Act Out Your Favorite Scene

Select a favorite scene from the book and have the students act it out, either working as a whole class or in small groups, depending on the scene and the amount of people needed. First brainstorm the different parts of the book or scenes that students like (e.g. when Grace first found out there has never been a woman President, when Thomas and Grace were campaigning, the actual voting in the election). Ask students to think about what might have happened right before and after that scene and act those parts out as well. If possible, write dialogue for what the main characters and other might say or use the actual dialogue from the book. Students can then act it out for the class, other classes and/or invite parents in to watch it.

ADL Resources

The following are curriculum and resources on gender and sexism.

Curriculum Resources

Moving Beyond Gender Barriers in Our Lives, www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/lesson-plans/moving-beyond-gender-barriers-in-our-lives

Toys and Gender, www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/lesson-plans/toys-and-gender

Websites

Anti-Bias Education

www.adl.org/what-we-do/promote-respect/anti-bias

Provides training program offerings for pre-K through 12th grade school communities—educators, administrators, youth and families—which focus on the development of an inclusive culture and respectful school climate by addressing issues of bias and bullying.

Creating an Anti-Bias Learning Environment

www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/creating-an-anti-bias-learning-environment

Provides tips for the classroom educator to create an anti-bias learning environment.

The Question Corner

www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/question-corner

A collection of answers to frequently asked questions about anti-bias issues faced by early childhood professionals and family members interested in promoting respect for diversity among young children. See [How Can I Prevent Gender Bias in Young Children?](#) and [What Are Examples of Books for Young Children That Break Gender Stereotypes?](#)

Children's Books

Below are links to lists of recommended anti-bias and multicultural books for the indicated category.

Gender & Sexism: Sexism, [www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?tid\[171\]=171&tid\[175\]=175](http://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?tid[171]=171&tid[175]=175)

Gender & Sexism: Biography and History, [www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?tid\[171\]=171](http://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?tid[171]=171)