

READERS MAKE LEADERS

Readers Make Leaders Book List

Below is a selection of books featuring children as leaders. Some books explicitly focus on elections while others demonstrate other ways that children can make change in their communities. When picking your books for your event, consider the age of the children who are likely to attend. We've provided the reading level for each book to help guide your decision.

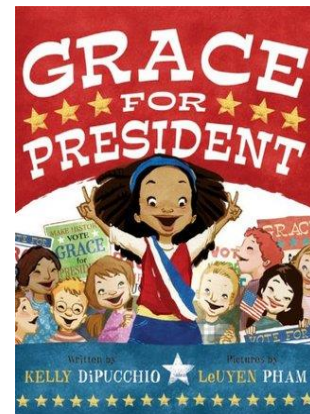
Don't feel wedded to this book list. If there is a book your team or your featured reader loves, read it!

No matter which book you read, don't forget to secure it in plenty of time before the event. Support a local bookstore, many of which have increased their online capabilities to stay afloat during the COVID-19 crisis, or consider ordering through [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org), an online retailer that supports independent bookstores.

Grace for President

By Kelly DiPucchio
Reading Level: PreK-2
Number of Pages: 40

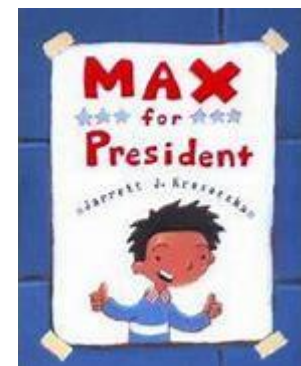
Description: Where are the girls? When Grace's teacher reveals that the United States has never had a female president, Grace decides to be the first. In this timely story, author Kelly DiPucchio not only gives readers a fun introduction to the American electoral system, but also teaches them the value of hard work, courage, and independent thought--and offers an inspiring example of how to choose our leaders.



Max for President

By Jarrett J. Krosoczka
Reading Level: PreK-K, 1-2, 3-5
Number of Pages: 40

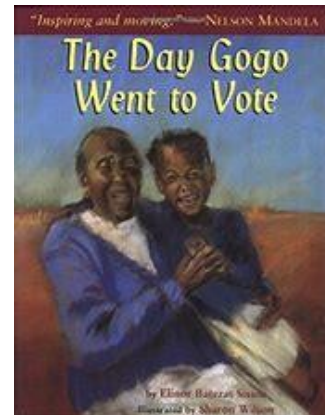
Description: Max thinks that he would like to be class president. So does Kelly. But there can only be one president. Who will the class elect? Full of laughs and suspense, Max for President is a lively story of good sportsmanship--and a great way for kids to learn a little about elections, too.



The Day Gogo Went to Vote

By Elinor Batezat Sisulu
Reading Level: PreK-2
Number of Pages: 32

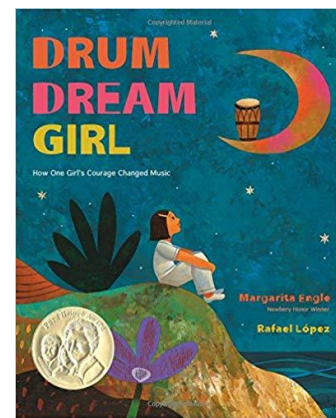
Description: Young Thembi accompanies her 100-year-old great-grandmother to the polling place in the first all-race elections in South Africa. Gogo is determined to vote and does so with a little help from her community. This story can help younger children understand the importance of the electoral process through its depiction of one woman anxious to vote for the first time in her life.



Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music

By Margarita Engle
Reading Level: PreK-3
Number of pages: 48

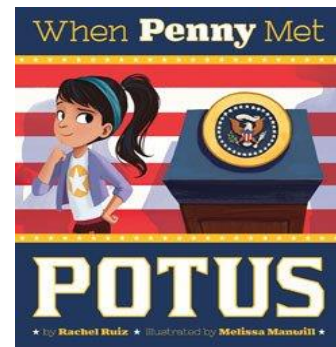
Description: Girls cannot be drummers. Long ago on an island filled with music, no one questioned that rule—until the drum dream girl. In her city of drumbeats, she dreamed of pounding tall congas and tapping small bongós. She had to keep quiet. She had to practice in secret. But when at last her dream-bright music was heard, everyone sang and danced and decided that both girls and boys should be free to drum and dream.



When Penny Met POTUS

By Rachel Ruiz
Reading Level: PreK-2
Number of Pages: 32

Description: When Penny Met POTUS is a unique and clever picture book about a young girl whose mother works for the president of the United States. Penny has heard the term POTUS over and over but doesn't know what it means--and her imagination runs wild. When she spends a day at the office with her mother, she asks a few questions, looks around, and tries to discover just who--or what--POTUS is.



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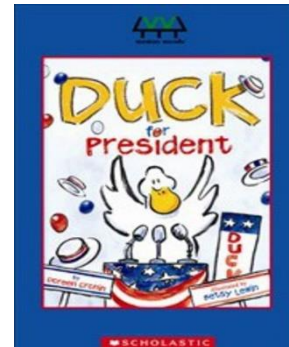
Duck for President

By Doreen Cronin

Reading Level: PreK-K, 1-2, 3-5

Number of Pages: 32

Description: When Duck gets tired of working for Farmer Brown, his political ambition eventually leads to his being elected President. My fellow Americans: It is our pleasure, our honor, our duty as citizens to present to you Duck for President. Here is a duck who began in a humble pond. Who worked his way to farmer. To governor. And now, perhaps, to the highest office in the land.



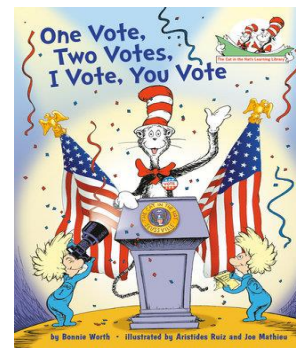
One Vote, Two Votes, I Vote, You Vote

By Bonnie Worth

Reading Level: K-2

Number of Pages: 48

Description: In simple rhyme, the Cat in the Hat introduces early readers to the concept and practice of voting—with a focus on the American presidency! Learn the basic principles of democracy, how political parties are formed, why Election Day is held in early November, and much, much more!



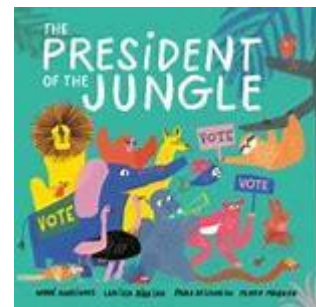
The President of the Jungle

By André Rodrigues

Reading Level: K-2

Number of Pages: 40

Description: Lion may be King of the jungle, but lately he only seems to care about himself. His subjects are fed up, so they decide to try something new—hold an election! In this fabulous and funny introduction to how elections work, the animals decide they are tired of their king and that it is time to vote for a president. This funny, non-partisan story features lively illustrations, a helpful glossary, and colorful characters who have an infectious enthusiasm for the election process.

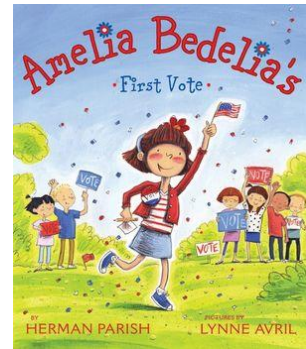


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Amelia Bedelia's First Vote

By Herman Parish
Reading Level: PreK-2
Number of Pages: 32

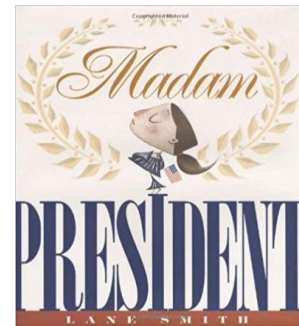
Description: Letting an elementary school vote on school rules? It probably won't end well, but Amelia Bedelia's first foray into the democratic process is a clever way to engage kids in a discussion of the upcoming Presidential election. Kids will learn about absentee ballots, run-offs, and the power of persuasion.



Madam President

By Lane Smith
Reading Level: 1-5
Number of Pages: 40

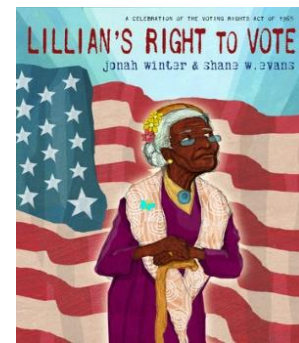
Description: A little girl imagines what her day would be like if she were Madam President. There would be executive orders to give, babies to kiss, tuna casseroles to veto (or VETO!)...and so much more! Not to mention that recess would definitely require more security. With deadpan wit and hilarious illustrations, best-selling picture book creator Lane Smith introduces readers to an unforgettable new character.



Lillian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965

By Jonah Winter
Reading Level: K-3
Number of Pages: 40

Description: As Lillian, a one-hundred-year-old African American woman, makes a "long haul up a steep hill" to her polling place, she sees more than trees and sky—she sees her family's history. This book vividly recall America's battle for civil rights in this lyrical, poignant account of one woman's fierce determination to make it up the hill and make her voice heard.



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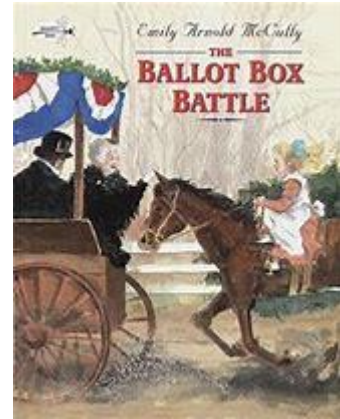
The Ballot Box Battle

By Emily Arnold McCully

Reading Level: K-2

Number of Pages: 32

Description: On Election Day in 1880 Cordelia listens to her neighbor Mrs. Stanton tell the heart-wrenching story of her childhood. Charged with the story's message, Cordelia determines to go with Mrs. Stanton to the polls in an attempt to vote--above the jeers and taunts of the male crowd. With scenes brought to life by McCully's illustrations, Cordelia's turning-point experience is sure to inspire today's young girls (and boys) everywhere.



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