

Children's Literature Across the Curriculum Ideas

Created by students at the University of North Carolina Charlotte

Title: *House Mouse, Senate Mouse.*

Author: Peter W. Barnes and Cheryl Shaw Barnes

Publisher/Date: Rosebud Books, 1996.

Grade Level: 3-5

Summary: Miss Tuftmouse's second grade class has written a letter to Congress because they would like to request a law declaring a National Cheese.

Reading/Writing Connections

1. Read the book to the class and discuss if they agree that American cheese should be the National Cheese.
2. Talk about the author, Peter Barnes, and discuss if they would or would not like to be a broadcast journalist who reports on the White House and Congress for CNBC.
3. Have students write in journals about how they would like to live in the White House and describe how that lifestyle would be different from their own.
4. Allow students to make a list of things that they would like to be made into laws by Congress.
5. Introduce other books about our government and discuss how our government was formed.

Vocabulary/Spelling

bill	Capitol Hill	chamber	committee	compromise
confident	Congress	Constitution	document	government
House	Library of Congress	nation	President	Rotunda
Senate	Senator	states	unease	warmhearted

Library Connections

1. Share other books on our government, our country, and how it was formed:
 - a. *A More Perfect Union-The Story of our Constitution* by Betsy and Giulio Maestro. This book discusses how our Constitution was developed on a level that is understandable to children.
 - b. *Those People in Washington* by David Flitner. This book briefly discusses the history of the United States and how our government was formed. It is an easy yet informative book for students. It also describes the three parts of government formed by the Constitution: Congress, President, and The Supreme Court.
2. Help students find books or movies that describe our government.
3. Find more books by these authors such as Woodrow, the White House Mouse and Alexander, the Old Town Mouse.
4. Allow students to research material on our former presidents.

Science/Mathematics Connections

1. Have a group of students research an important contribution in our history in the United States, state which president was in office at the time, and whether the invention or event was against the law or not (ex. our country's first flight in an airplane, the famous civil rights riots in the 60s, etc.).

2. Graph various positions and the numbers of people serving in that position. Include such things as number of women in office, number of minorities in office, number of Senators (100-2 per state), Congressmen (435-number set by law), number of presidents in all, number of judges, etc.

Social Studies/Mathematics Connections

1. Study various countries and describe what form of government they have.
2. Invite either your mayor, congressperson from your area, or even a judge or lawyer to come into class to answer questions about our government and our laws.
3. Describe how even within our country each state has different laws, pick a few surrounding states, and research differences in their state laws and our own (ex. Drinking ages are different, speed limits, gambling-legal in some states but not in others, etc.).
4. Look at a map of North Carolina and discuss which were our first 13 colonies.
5. Discuss the founding of our country and where it happened.
6. Make a poster board listing the steps required for a bill to become a law.
7. List the duties of our President (ex. Serves as Commander in Chief, serves as a role model for country, etc.).

English/Language Arts Connections

1. Discuss why so many words in the book were capitalized. Explain difference between common and proper nouns.
2. Role play the story with different students playing a part of each character in the book.
3. Present books from other countries such as England (ex. *The Wizard's Daughter*) or other folklore books that are under a parliamentary system of government and compare and contrast it to our presidential system of government.
4. Practice letter writing by letting students write letters to friends, family members or Congress. Include proper greetings and closings and the correct format of a letter.

Art Connections

1. Build a miniature White House out of a large box and paint it white. Cut it in half like a doll house so you can look inside at all of the different important rooms. Make puppets of the Clinton family who live in the house.