

Title: Rules All Around Us

Content Area:
Social Studies

NC SCOS or Common Core Objective(s):
5.C&G.2 Analyze life in a democratic republic through the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

Rationale/Relationship to Text:

Catherine makes Rules for David at home because he has special needs. David welcomes the Rules. In a democratic society there are rules in schools, in communities, in the individual states, and the nation to make life safe. There are rules in sports so that the game is fair. How is a rule like a law? How are rules different from laws?

Instructions/Procedures:

- (This may be done in small groups. Each group should be given one topic.) Students write rules they follow in their homes, school cafeteria, and classroom. Then, students write laws for the town, state, and the nation. Students should distinguish between federal law and state laws. What happens when people break rules or laws?
- Catherine also articulates rules to live by. Sometimes it is because she wants to do the right thing (e.g., “At someone’s house, you have to follow their rules.” “Homework First” “Saying you will do something means you have to do it...”). Other times, her rules are things she has learned about life: “A good conversation takes two people.” What are some rules you have for yourself in your family life and your school life? Example: When Mom has a headache, don’t make noise. At the family reunion, adults get their plates first. Open the door for older people and ladies.

Alternative Ideas:

- Students will then brainstorm the rules that we have as a school, community, state and nation. The students may be asked to present the rules in a creative way.

For example, students could create the following:

- drama
- powerpoint or presentation
- song
- virtual avatar
- poster, etc

Discussion: What would happen there were no rules? What would happen if there were no consequences? Suppose it was okay to shoplift at Walmart. What would happen? Suppose there was no speed limit on the interstate. Suppose there was no tardy rule for school? Suppose you were never required to stay in your seat in the classroom. Suppose you could stay up as late as you want. Suppose your little sister was not given a rule about staying out of the street. So what are the basic reasons for rules?

Materials:

computer availability
internet access
poster, markers, pens, etc

References:

Lord, C. (2006). *Rules*. New York: Scholastic.

