Laura McShane

President of the Jungle 60 min

Objective:
Understand the need for leadership and government

Big Idea:
What character traits make a good president?

1. Warm Up / Anticipatory 20 min

Share

The President of the Jungle by Andre Rodrigues, Lisa Ribeiro, Paula Desgualdo, Pedro Markun
Translated from Portuguese *Eleição dos Bichos* (Animals’ Election) by Lyn Miller-Lachmann

Summary by Mel Schuit: As King of the Jungle, Lion decides to reroute the cool fresh water from the nearby river to flow into his area so he can have a swimming pool. The other animals, less than enthused about this abuse of power, decide to stand up for themselves. After a fruitless protest, during which the Lion essentially ignores them, they decide to hold a democratic election to get down to brass tacks and discuss the issues at hand. With bolded key terms throughout (that are never pedantic), there's a nice glossary in the back with definitions.

2. Investigation and New Learning  20 min
Compare the political campaigns of the four candidates - the campaign posters and the slogans for Lion, Snake, Monkey, Sloth.

Have students fill out a ballot with the four candidates. On the back of the ballot have students write down the explanation for their vote. Compare the campaign strategies - what is appealing and a strength for each animal? What do students think are negative about each campaign and candidate?

Count the votes. Are the results the same as the results in the book?

(Note: I have a small problem w/sloths and lions in same jungle - it doesn't happen - but this is still a great book!)

3. Review & Check for Understanding  30 min

Vocabulary:
- Ballot Box
- Campaign
- Debate
- Democracy
- Demonstration
- Election
- Government
- President
- Rally
- Vice President
- Vote
- Voter