

Laura McShane

## President of the Jungle 60 min

Objective:

Understand the need for leadership and government

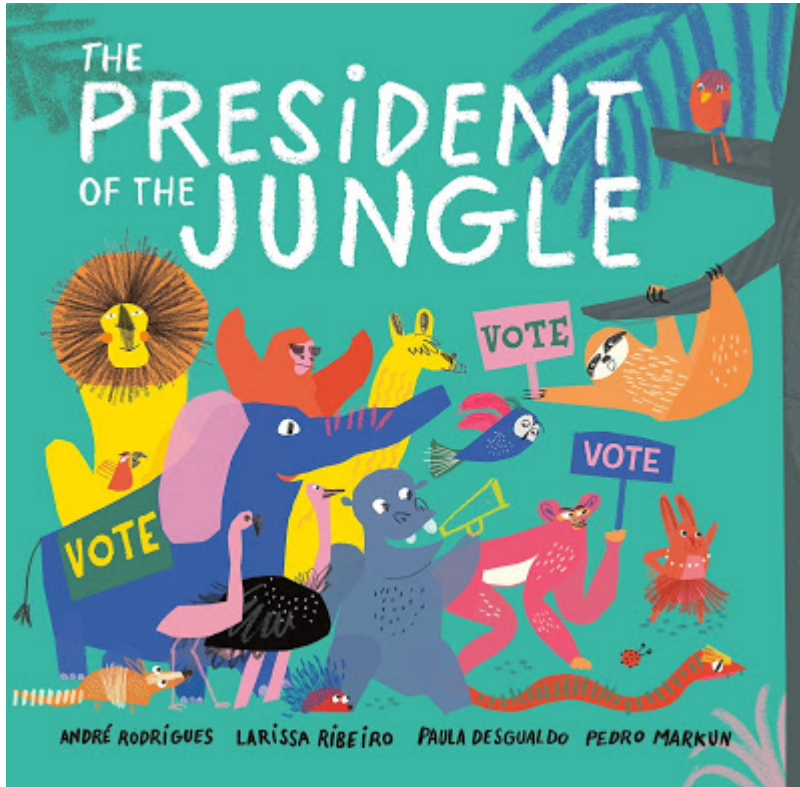
Big Idea:

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