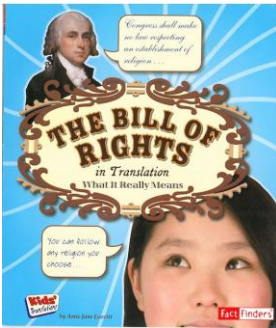




Grade 5 Sample Lesson

The Bill of Rights in Translation: What It Really Means by Amie Jane Leavitt



This book “translates” the Bill of Rights into modern language that students can readily understand. It allows students to make sense of this primary source document as it delves into specifics including examples of how each of the first 10 amendments to the Constitution could be applied in everyday modern life. In addition, it provides background information about the Bill of Rights, some of which will reinforce students’ recently acquired knowledge.

Vocabulary

Note that all vocabulary words are defined both on the pages in which they appear as well as in the glossary.

Book Talk

This book presents each of the first 10 amendments to the Constitution as well as a “translation” into modern language so the amendments can be easily understood. Some of the information presented may be familiar; listen for both new ideas and for facts you’ve already learned from other sources.

Read-Aloud

Chapter 1

Read pp. 4–5 and ask students

Q: How would your life be different if we didn't have a Bill of Rights?

Chapter 2

Read each of the amendments and their “translations” in chapter 2, stopping to answer any questions students have, especially about how the amendments apply to the lives of citizens.

Chapter 3

Before beginning this chapter, ask students to listen for both new ideas and ones they've already learned. As you read, you may want to keep track of new facts by recording them on a chart when students share them aloud.

Timeline

You may want to have students use the timeline in the book to add events to your classroom timeline.

Keep the book in an accessible place for students to use as a reference or to read independently.