

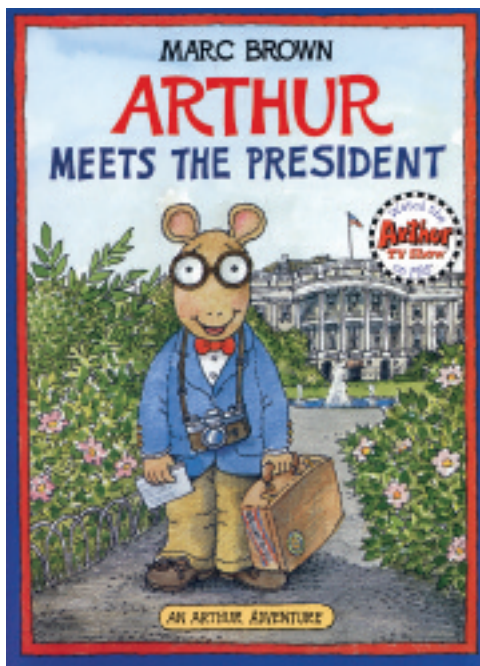
How Can I Make the Country Better?

Overview

Students will learn about the office of the President of the United States, how it encourages ordinary citizens to shape the nation by exhibiting good citizenship. Students will identify ways in which they might exhibit good citizenship, and how their individual acts shape the whole nation.

Preparation

1. Obtain a copy of the book, *Arthur Meets the President* by Marc Brown. Check with teachers, school libraries, or public libraries. You may also consider purchasing a copy of the book from your local bookstore and donating it to the classroom or school library.



Little, Brown and Company Books for Young Readers
part of the Hachette Book Group USA (HBG)

2. Download the “I Can Make America Better” Handout www.lawday.org, and make copies for the students.

3. Contact a local lawyer, judge, or legal professional to share the book with students. For names of legal professionals who might be interested in coming to the classroom, please check with your local or state bar association.

Procedure

1. The legal professional should introduce the lesson by asking students if they know the name of the President of the United States. Where does the President live? What does the President do? What would you do if you had the chance to meet the President and his family? What would you say to them? What questions would you ask them?

2. Lawyers or judges should explain to students that they will be reading a book about meeting the President of the United States, read the story to students, then debrief with discussion questions.

Arthur Meets the President Discussion Questions

- What did Arthur do when he had the opportunity to meet the President?
- What questions did he ask?
- Arthur realized something important during his meeting with the President—what?
- Do you agree with Arthur’s conclusion that “we can all help make America great by helping others?” Why?
- How can we all make America better, as Arthur suggests? Record students’ ideas at the front of the room.

3. The teacher will distribute copies of the “I Can Make America Better” Handout to students, and ask them to complete the stem sentence by stating a way they think they can exhibit good citizenship and make our country better. Below their completed statement, *K-3* students should draw pictures that represent their ideas while *Grades 4-5* students should write a paragraph explaining why it is important for them to make our country better as they have outlined.

4. Create a Law Day display with students’ completed drawings and explanations.

Lesson adapted from the State Bar of Texas’ Law Focused Education, Inc. program website, www.texaslre.org.