

Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx

Written by Jonah Winter; illustrated by Edel Rodriguez

This text shares the story of Sonia Sotomayor, the first Latin American Supreme Court justice. The story is offered in Spanish and English, expanding the audience's accessibility.

Possible Strategies for Instruction Comprehension

- Set purpose for reading.
 - Readers increase their focus, engagement, and comprehension when they decide why they are reading the text. By reading this book, students will gain information about Justice Sonia Sotomayor. This text could be connected to the following themes:
 - January: Poverty in America Awareness Month
 - March: Women's History Month
 - April: Celebrate Diversity Month
 - May 1: Law Day
 - September 15–October 15: Hispanic Heritage Month
 - November: National Diabetes Month; World Diabetes Day (11/14)
- Analyze how visual elements integrate and contribute to the meaning of text.
 - Readers interact with and respond to the drawings and photos within a text, which are an integral part of conveying meaning, tone, beauty, and understanding.
 - Before reading:
 - Begin with a picture walk through the text and ask, "What do you notice? What do you wonder?"
 - "Based on reading the pictures, what do you predict will happen?"
 - During reading:
 - How might the illustrations contribute to the tone and meaning of the story?
 - While planning, you can use a sticky note to mark interesting elements of the illustrations that could spark conversation or add visuals to new vocabulary.
- Summarize text; include important details.
 - Readers condense the text to its bare essentials: the gist, the key ideas, or the main points that are worth noting and remembering.
 - The gist: "Organize your thoughts about Justice Sotomayor's journey in 20 words or fewer, capturing the most important parts in your own words."

Expand Vocabulary

- Use prior knowledge and context clues.
 - As readers, we use clues and information to determine the meaning of the words.
 - Some words from the text to consider: *unexpected, abandoned, blossoms, private school, public housing project, wages, Puerto Rico, culture, merengue music, abuelita, encyclopedias, detective, unstoppable, diabetes, courtroom, lawyer, judge, subways, luxuries, inferior, poverty, prejudice, nominate, Supreme Court Justice, senators, dynamo*
 - The [Use Prior Knowledge to Predict and Connect with Text Meaning recording sheet](#) could be used to model this skill for and with students, and then to provide an opportunity for students to try it on their own.
 - If a student doesn't find a clue in the text, suggest a different strategy from the CAFE Menu to figure out the word's meaning:
 - Use reference tools.
 - Ask someone to define the word for you.

Additional Resources

- [Sesame Street: “Sonia Sotomayor: ‘The Justice Hears a Case.’”](#)
- [Bronx Children’s Museum: A Dream Big Read Aloud](#)
 - [Resource Guide](#)
- [Anti-Defamation League’s Book of the Month: *Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx*](#)
 - Page 3 includes three amazing extension activities:
 - Write and illustrate additional pages of the book.
 - Write biographies of important women for Women’s History Month.
 - Understand the use of metaphor.