



Nancy Edwards, Mom For Mayor, 2006, Cricket Books

Nancy Edwards is a teacher and has been a teacher of the deaf for 30 years. She prides in living five blocks from Lake Huron. She has written two books and has received one award for an article written for Humpty Dumpty magazine. She has taken some of her ideas for this book from real life experiences with her family and her home town local elections.

The title of her other books is Glenna's Seeds.

Annotation:

Eric wants to save his park from the bulldozer. He has loved this place since he could walk. He sees all his growing up memories being destroyed. He is not happy and enlists his best friend to help him figure out a plan to save the park. Since a grown up acting as the Mayor is behind the parks destruction plan, he decides to get his mom to run for mayor. He sees this plan as the only way to get the grown ups on the City Council to stop this plan and to save his park. Eric's plan might have worked, but sometimes things don't always work out like we plan them to.

Genre: Fiction- humorous

Point of view: First person

Theme: My interpretation of the title MOM For Mayor, is that all moms can fix anything- even save a park if they are in the right place to do it.

Conflict: External- It is a struggle between the main character and the City Council and Mayor to save a park from being changed into a housing development.

Conflict Resolution: The main character tries to have his mother become Mayor of the city to change their minds about developing the current park land into a housing development. She wins a seat on the council, but the park land is changed anyway and the current Mayor builds another park for the kids at another location.

Characters:

Eric Clark-The main character is a young man, who is in the Fifth Grade at school.

Liz Clark- She is a tax accountant and is Eric's mother who runs for Mayor.

Mr. Clark- Eric's dad.

Jonathan- Eric's best friend

Caitlin- She is a fifth grade girl who is also the niece of the current Mayor.

Roger Bishop is the current Mayor.

Setting: small town in Michigan.

Interest level

IL-3-6 and RL 4.5

Booktalk:

When Eric realizes that his City Council and Mayor have sold off his special park and are going to turn it into a condo neighborhood, he is furious. He enlists his best friend Jonathan to help him come up with a plan to stop these grown ups from changing his park forever. Jonathan points to a newspaper article that is part of a current events board at school and suggests that Eric change things by being in charge of them. Eric realizes that he can't because he is only a 5th grader, but maybe one of his parents can. He secretly sets the ground work for his mom to run for Mayor, but fails to ask her to get her permission. After mom finds out what her son is up to, she sets the rest of the story into motion. Eric learns many lessons on civics and government and also learns some of life's lessons such as how to get along with others. He also learns how to be a more responsible student.

Discussion questions

Pre- Have you wondered how and why grownups make the laws that can change your playgrounds into apartments or favorite woods into a highway?

During-How does Eric's mom learn of Eric's plan for her to run for Mayor and what changes her mind to run?

Post- Was it easy for Eric's mom to go through the process of running for election?

Chpt 1 pg 3 Why is Lennox Field so important to Eric?

Pg 4. What is going to happen to it?

Chpt 2 pg 7 What did Eric forget to bring to school? Pg 12 How do Eric and Jon decide to help save the park?

Chpt 3 pg 16 Who does he think should run for office to save the park? Pg 17 How does he ask her?

Chpt 4 pg 22 What does this fortune cookie tell him? Pg 24 what is the first thing his mom has to do to run for office?

Chpt 5 pg 27 Where do Jon and Eric go for help with the election rules? Pg 26 What is it they need from the City Clerk?

Chpt 6 pg 33 What secret is Eric keeping from Jon? Pg 38 What is Eric supposed to keep in a box?

Chpt 7pg 40 What does Eric's mom discover? Pg 44 What does Eric feel like after his is discovered?

Chpt 8 pg 47 What did Caitlin tell Eric about the city's plan for a park? Pg 48 What happens to her foot?

Chpt 9 pg 52 What list does Eric have? Pg 55 What does Eric's mom tell about her plans? How does he feel?

Chpt 10 pg 60 What does Eric discover at the park the next day when he is heading to school? Pg 65 Where does Eric's mom intend to go to talk about the park?

Chpt 11 pg 67 Who spoke first at the Council meeting? Pg. 70 What is Liz Clark's proposal?

Chpt 12 pg 75 What does Eric's teacher say about Charlotte's Web? _pg 77 Who is at war and what is it over?

pg 78 Who is Eric's partner on a class project? Pg 81 Who is a really good person in Caitlin's opinion?

Pg 82 What does Eric do to the IN The News picture on the bulletin board?

Chpt.13 pg 84 What does Mrs. Murphy want Eric to do in front of the class? What did he do to earn the honor of speaking in front to the class? Pg 90 What does Eric learn about Mr. Bishop that is so surprising?

Chpt 14 pg 92 Why was the start to this summer different for Eric and Jon?

Pg 95 What lesson did Eric learn from having a school project with Caitlin?

Chpt 15 pg 105 Summer's over and the next school year starts with a visit from someone special at lunchtime. Who is this visitor and why would this upset Eric?

Pg 107 Why is it so important to Eric that Jessica and Caitlin are neighbors? Pg 109 Why does Eric climb a tree and what happens?

Chpt 16 pg 112 How does Eric explain what he was doing in the tree? Pg 117 How does mom react to Eric's broken leg?

Chpt 17 pg 119 What does Eric see on Mr. Duncan's desk? Pg 121 What happens to Eric in Mr. Duncan's class? What is he able to tell his dad? How does his dad react to his news?

Chpt 18 pg 124 Where does Eric's mom find him? What had happened to him?

Pg 125 Who comes over to help with dinner and listen to election results on the news? Pg 126 Who wins the election? Pg 128 How does Eric's dad react to his news about school? Pg 130 How does Caitlin react to the election outcomes at school the next day?

Chpt 19 pg 132 how do Eric and his dad spend their time together now that mom has more meetings to attend?

Language;

Pg 3 audience- people watching you

Pg 5 screeched- loud noise

Pg 7 squishy- soft to feel

Pg 8 desperate- wanting something in a big way

Pg12 elections- to vote for a candidate

Pg 13 government – to be in control of a group of people

Pg 19 council- a group of people to set rules

Pg 25 petitions- written request that lots of people sign

Pg 28 licenses- legal paper

Pg 46 democracy- form of government that is run by all of the people.

Pg 65 cronies- older people who may not understand the ways of the younger generation

Pg 71 campaign- an organized way to get the people to support your ideas

Novel Content-

Indiana Standards –Social Studies 3.2.1,3.2.2,3.2.3,3.2.7: 4.2.3,4.2.4: 5.2.1,5.2.4,5.2.7,,5.2.9,5.2.10, 5.2.11

Anticipation Statements:

Would you agree or disagree that running for office in your local government requires special training in politics to run for an office?

Would you agree or disagree that all city governments are organized the same?

Would you agree or disagree that each one of us has a civic duty to vote?

Would you agree or disagree that you should always be responsible, work hard, and tell the truth no matter how hard it may seem at the time?

Read alouds-

pg 5 Jon tells Eric why his park is being sold and how he learns about it through the newspaper. This points out to Eric that he needs to be more involved with what is happening in his city.

Pg 68 Eric addresses the City Council in an attempt to keep his park from being turned into a residential community of condos.

Read alikes Only one was found for this age level.

Hope Was Here by Joan Bauer

Curriculum Connections- Learning more about your local government and your responsibility as a citizen. These activities would help tie into the Ind standards for Government.

Resources-

Book Activities-

Hold an election in your classroom for classroom offices or job positions. Have your students make campaign posters and speeches. You can plan a unit on elections that could be taught at the same time we have our 2008 Presidential election. You could have the students doing some of the same jobs that real election officials do in the different precincts.

Ind Stds- Social Studies 3.2.7, 4.2.3,4.2.4,; 5.2.11,5.2.10

Write a new ending for the story we just read. Think of some events you can change to write a new ending. You must use all the vocabulary words from the story spelling list and you may draw pictures if you wish for any scene to help tell your new ending.

Ind Standards- writing 3.5.1,3.5.2,;4.5.1,4.5.2; 5.5.1,5.5.5,5.5.6

Bibliography

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