



## Questions for Classroom Discussion

### **The Election: in simple terms**

- **What are key features of our electoral process that even young students should know?**

- ⇒ Consider the true purpose of an election, which is the way we peacefully allow citizens to choose political leaders and create a continuous transfer of power in our country
- ⇒ Consider the criteria used to determine who can vote (such as citizenship and age requirements) and how other characteristics (gender, race, education) cannot take away the right to vote
- ⇒ Consider the basic fundamentals of American democracy, as well as the rights and responsibilities of citizens... and how voting and our electoral system is an important part of this

- **What are elements of our electoral process that might be confusing to young people, or unnecessary for them to know?**

- ⇒ Consider how specific candidates or even specific offices are not the key part of our electoral process (rather, elections are simply a way to give power to the people and create a peaceful transfer of power)
- ⇒ Consider how some of the partisan issues of the day (immigration, gun rights, foreign policy, etc.) can actually be a distraction to someone trying to learn the basics of our voting system
- ⇒ Consider how confusing terms and details of the voting system (“exit polls” , “electoral college” , “absentee ballots” , etc.) are not necessary to understand right away and can actually distract from the larger issue

- **How can details of our electoral process be displayed and presented to young students so that they can gain an understanding of it?**

- ⇒ Consider how a children’s book or user-friendly pamphlet can simplify a complicated idea and make it less intimidating for young students to learn about
- ⇒ Consider how a more engaging and fun scenario can actually be used to teach about a more serious and complicated scenario (such as how a story about a lion running for king of the forest can be used to teach about our presidential election)
- ⇒ Consider how various text features— headings, subtitles, captions, drawings, bold or highlighted words, etc.—can be used to simplify large amounts of information or complicated concepts