



## We the Kids

*David Catrow*

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**We the Kids** David Catrow

## **The Barnes & Noble Review**

Remember sitting in elementary school trying to memorize the Preamble to the Constitution? Remember how baffling it was? The words were big, they didn't make a lot of sense, and how they applied to your life wasn't too clear. Lucky for us, award-winning book illustrator and political cartoonist David Catrow has taken the most important introduction in our country's history and made it easy to understand in a hilarious, inspiring new book.

*We the Kids* follows three adorable youngsters and one remarkable dog as they get ready for a camping adventure in the great outdoors. What makes this adventure different is that it is told through the Preamble. Just as the historical document starts out with "We the People of the United States," we're introduced to the children and their energetic pooch friend, who is standing by with a gargantuan, overloaded backpack. As the Preamble goes on, then, so does the story: They find themselves forming a More Perfect Union by finding their camping site, promoting the General Welfare by telling stories around a campfire, and securing the blessings of Liberty by settling down for a good night's sleep -- all in the backyard under the watchful eyes of two parents.

With bright watercolor illustrations and sweet, cartoonlike characters, Catrow provides an entertaining story that brings the Preamble to life. The dog's actions throughout the book are truly sidesplitting, but they also explain to young readers each line of the Preamble. A fun introduction from Catrow called "Big Words, Big Ideas." and a line-by-line explanation of the Preamble add to the book's pleasures.

For school reports and American holiday celebrations, this is one book young historians won't want to miss. (*Matthew Warner*)

## **We the Kids Details**

Date : Published April 15th 2002 by Dial (first published January 1st 2002)

ISBN : 9780803725539

Author : David Catrow

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, History, Nonfiction, Politics, Government, North American Hi..., American History, Military History, American Revolution, Historical, Academic, School, Kids

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## From Reader Review We the Kids for online ebook

### Mary Peble says

My toddler loves this book; consequently I've read it so many times that I will never, ever forget the preamble to the Constitution. This book is a lighthearted way for anyone to learn the preamble. The pictures are comical and yet relate well to the words.

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### Gregoirea says

elementary school book about constitution

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### Emily Siniard says

In this book, it is the preamble of the United States Constitution. The illustrations on each page, and the forward helps to explain what this means to children or even all readers.

I rated this book 5 stars because I thought this was a great idea for a book in the first place! Imagine students having to learn this without knowing what it means. In the forward, the author explains what it means to him and also breaks down each verse/phrase of the preamble in kid friendly terms. Then he gives the official preamble with drawings anyone can follow!

I would use this to teach a social studies lesson on the Constitution or civil rights! I would even let my students draw their version or write their version of the words once we have read the story once and are reading it a second time. I love that the author took the real version and broke it into friendly terms so he could understand it. I think this would be easier for everyone to understand!

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### Caitlin says

This book literally just states the Preamble of the Constitution. It does not add anything except illustrations. The illustrations are kids living out what is being said. You see them creating fair rules, setting up a place to live, and defending that place.

I love this book due to that it does not add anything with words but gives kids a new perspective of what it means in their lives. The illustrations are amazing and hilarious.

I would use this in a government class. This is a great way to introduce the preamble before going more in depth. Plus, students will love looking at the pictures and determining what it means in their lives.

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### Jackson Matthews says

Some adults could take a little reading of this, too!

### **Shari says**

Short book with silly illustrations that explains the big words in the preamble of the constitution.

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### **Sharon says**

D. Catrow takes a look at the preamble to the U.S. Constitution and breaks it down, illustrates it, and presents it in such a way that kids of all ages can understand and appreciate the simple, yet mighty words of our country's founding fathers and their representative principles. This one's in the LFL care of Eliot and Olive.

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### **Sara Cook says**

Fun introduction to the preamble of The US Constitution.

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### **Makaila Gilbert says**

David Catrow made the preamble of the Constitution of the United States into a picture book. On each page you find the next phrase in the preamble with illustrations that allow children to put meaning to all of those big words!

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### **Katie Wilkerson says**

Great book to read to 2nd graders on constitution day. It is about the preamble to the constitution. It has adorable, vibrant illustrations, information for the instructor at the front, and very few words throughout the story.

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### **Jeanie {coffee girl} says**

This weekend, I prepared for my first lesson to deliver to my U.S. History Teacher Methods class (HIST 4418). I am given the topic of Equality and I am to use the primary source, the U.S. Constitution. The lesson is only ten minutes, so at first I found it quite difficult to put something extravagant together. But then, I remembered all the picture books I read over the summer and how much I was able to pull from them in a short amount of time. I began some research and found, We the Kids by David Catrow.

The words of the book are the preamble of the U.S. Constitution. The illustrations, make this document come alive. It is through these pictures, students will come to understand the meaning of the introduction and have a few giggles. To assess the understanding of the preamble, students will use their own words or pictures to

describe the individual portions on a graphic organizer I created.

In addition, I have created a presentation to use with the book. In my 5th grade mock lesson, this is part of the background knowledge listed for the students. Each portion of the preamble has been translated into kid friendly language. This would be an incredible activity to complete with the class, have them discuss each phrases meaning and look up the words in the thesaurus to find words in which they can comprehend.

The idea is to read the book, show the illustrations created by David Catrow, and provide the kid friendly language up on the screen. These verbal and visual clues will assist students to comprehend the portion of the constitution we are studying and will be able to show understanding on the graphic organizer. Then, students will be prepared to learn who the people are in the phrase, "We the People" and how this word has evolved over time through the amendments made to the Constitution. Students will then be able to begin to process the concept of equality in both our history and what it means today.

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### **Hayden Delgado says**

We The Kids is a book that states the preamble to the constitution of the United States of America. It tells the story of three kids and their dog on a camping trip, wanting to make a difference in their community. Each page of the book contains a new picture as to how the children are writing out their own preamble. For example, they find themselves forming a more perfect union by finding their camping site. This book could be very beneficial for older elementary students are are starting to learn about the preamble of the constitution for the first time. The illustrations were one of the most important parts to this book because the authors use of watercolor and the cartoon like characters more of an interesting story line for students to read. Not only are the words of the preamble telling the story, but so are these amazing illustrations! I would recommend this to older readers and for a story time discussion with the class so that the teacher can also make it a lesson rather than students reading it individually first so there is no confusion.

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### **Elizabeth Kennedy says**

One out of twenty five books my daughter and I ordered at her most recent school book sale event. An excellent book that breaks down big concepts into bite-sized pieces that kids of all ages can appreciate and understand.

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### **Jana says**

I read this with my fifth grade students as an introduction to the Constitution. The illustrations are adorable and the students were engaged in the discussion of what each part of the preamble means.

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### **Leighanna Wright says**

Summary: We the Kids portrays a story of children who want to make a difference in their community. The

children replicate the different sections of the Preamble. With each new page comes a new picture of how the children are writing out their own preamble to the Constitution.

Evaluation: Based on the illustrations used in this book, the author is very enthusiastic about the preamble and constitution. The illustrations in *We the Kids* helps extend the information so students can better understand the preamble. For example, on page 4 the words say "provide for the common defense." If students do not understand these words they can look at the picture of the dog that is behind a fort and is protecting the children.

Teaching Ideas: I would use this book as a read aloud for students of all ages. This would be a great way to introduce the students to the preamble and the constitution. The students could also use the pictures to learn how to make inferences. For example, there is a photo of a dog that is protecting the children. The teacher could ask the student what they infer the dog is doing.

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