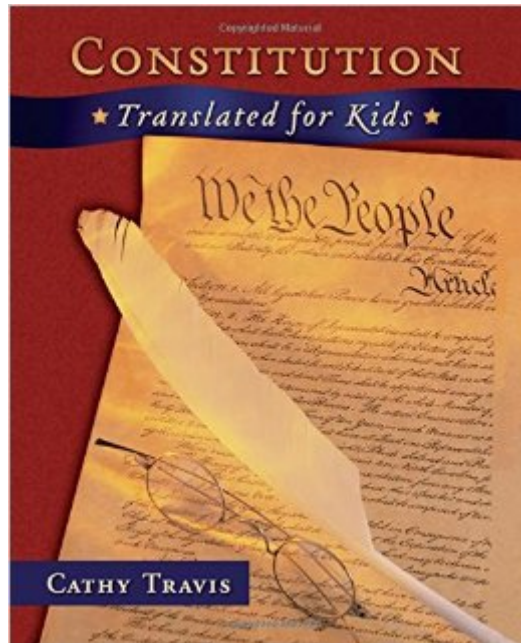


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Constitution Translated For Kids



Synopsis

Constitution Translated for Kids - winner of the 2011 Gelett Burgess Children's Book Award for Education (Government and Politics), the "Mom's Choice Award" and a "Best Books Award" - is a simple, widely acclaimed, non ideological translation of the entire U.S. Constitution, side-by-side with the original 1787 text. Teachers hail the accompanying free Teacher's Guide as an extraordinary resource to teach the Constitution to all ages.

Book Information

Paperback: 108 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (32 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #180,181 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Modern #31 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Law & Crime #49240 in Books > Reference

Customer Reviews

This book is an excellent resource guide for all school-aged children, and adults as well! The author took a very important document and put it into language that everyone in today's society can relate to. It should be in the hands of EVERY school child in America!

The book starts ok, with each page divided into two columns, with the original Constitution language printed on the left and the author's translation on the right. Good format. Note to publisher for the second edition: America is NOT a democracy (p. 11, p. 82). America is a republic. Another note: the phrase "promote the general welfare" does NOT mean "take care of each other." (p17) This book is a bit dated. Written in 2006, it is clear the author has issues with Bush 43's election in 2000. "Selected, not elected" she keeps saying. (p. 55, pp 73-74) I have a quibble with some of the author's translation choices. For example, she always translates the Constitutional language of "impeach/impeachment" or "expel" as "kicking someone out of office" (pages 18,19,20,49,20). She translates "repealed" as "thrown out" (p. 47). That seems nit-picky, but it sets the tone for the book.

Does Cathy Travis not... like? the Constitution? Her irreverence and her clear bias against originalism seems to point that way. As the book goes on, it loses whatever claim it could have made on scholarly writing and devolves into an opinion piece. In discussing the 17th Amendment, she calls it "just... the right thing to do." Oh, boy. Here is a direct quote on the 19th Amendment (p. 77): "Misconceptions about what women can do were even worse [my comment: even! worse!] when the country was founded. Women generally were not allowed to own property, vote, or participate in government. Even the thought of women voting upset the traditional power structure, and it was very scary to most men.... Nobody ever wants to give up power." On page 37, and again at page 69, Cathy Travis shows a flawed understanding of the Second Amendment, which is an individual right. At press time in 2006, this amendment was understood to be an individual right to self defense, as well as a right to defend the community or state (militias). The best way to understand the 2nd Amendment is to read the Federalist Papers and the Anti-Federalist papers -- the Anti-Federalists were astute enough to demand the Bill of Rights as a protection of INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS against government malice, malpractice, malfeasance, or mischief. The last section, Student Exercise in Democracy, reminds us that "the Constitution is not finished" and suggests that kids come up with ideas they would like to add. Yikes. The point of studying the Constitution is to understand that government power is LIMITED. Parents of high achieving students may want to keep looking for a book on the U.S. Constitution. The Federalist Papers (Signet Classics) The Anti-Federalist Papers and the Constitutional Convention Debates (Signet Classics) Cornerstones of Freedom: The U.S. Constitution (Cornerstones of Freedom: Third)

This book is a great asset in helping your children understand the difficult, and sometimes confusing, language of the Constitution. I wish this book had been published when I was in school. It should be made available to any school-aged child. It is beautifully written, and I definitely recommend it to everyone!

I stand in total awe at the exceptional job author Cathy Travis has done in translating our Constitution into a uncomplicated way that anyone can read and understand. We open up this outstanding book to read some comments on Democracy by such great ones as John Adams, President George Washington and President Theodore Roosevelt. Our author then speaks to adults giving a rundown of what to expect in this work and she gives a brief message to children as well. She takes us through the birth of a Democracy and the governing of our Constitution; at this time we begin our journey into one of the greatest documents ever written and it is one of great

enlightenment. Ms. Travis uses two columns in this book, on the left is the complete text of the United States Constitution and on the right is her easy to understand translation of the same. As I read this I smiled at finally having a full understanding of the document that governs my life and gives me my liberties. Well done; Bravo! I feel this book should be in every home in America; it is truly a God send for young and old alike. You will truly understand exactly what are the rights of, "We the people." I give this work my highest recommendation.

Author Cathy Travis prefaces her large-format hardcover with a message to parents and teachers about her reasons for writing this book--to demonstrate how the Constitution affects modern political events. The preface to kids encourages young readers to help show adults what the Constitution actually says. As a twenty-something with a dual degree in engineering and economics, I consider myself fairly well-versed in politics and history, but I learned a lot in just the first few pages of this book. From the introductory timeline, I read that 1776 was just the start of a "bloody, devastating war for independence [which lasted] for seven years." Had I been asked, I would have been unable to fill in most of this timeline. I don't remember "bloody" and "devastating" being covered in my 5th grade American history education, nor would I have put the war at nearly a decade! My memory of history class was that we Americans were moral and right and had no choice but to do the right thing. Plus, now I can impress my friends with the fact that, "The U.S. Constitution is the shortest, and oldest Constitution, of any government in the world." The bulk of the book is a two-column presentation of the Constitution with the original text on the left and a modern, 5th grade reading-level translation on the right. Forget the schoolkids for a moment--every adult needs to take a few moments to read this book and get familiar with both the original document and the last two centuries of amendments to what was always intended to be a living document. The book concludes with coverage of the branches of the U.S. government and a comprehensive glossary. While the text is non-partisan overall, Travis does a service to readers both young and old with a final chapter that provides the historical context for each of the amendments. Another concluding chapter is a detailed examination of some of the proposed amendments, complete with arguments for and against each one. Don't leave this book for just the grade school students to enjoy!!

We studied Constitution in boy scouts. I didn't get it, though, especially the amendment stuff. This book makes it easy to get, all of it.

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