



SOFIA VALDEZ, FUTURE PREZ

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ILLUSTRATOR: DAVID ROBERTS

**** REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! ****

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

Every morning, Abuelo walks Sofia to school... until one day, when Abuelo hurts his ankle at a local landfill and he can no longer do so. Sofia misses her Abuelo and wonders what she can do about the dangerous Mount Trashmore. Then she gets an idea: the town can turn the slimy mess into a park! She brainstorms and plans and finally works up the courage to go to City Hall — only to be told by a clerk that she can't build a park because she's just a kid! Sofia is down but not out, and she sets out to prove what one kid can do. The story stars Sofia Valdez, a community leader who stands up for what she believes in. It's a story of persistence, vision, and the power of community organizing and political action. (booksof wonder.com)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

I was raised in southern Illinois in a town so small I knew everybody and their pets. And they all knew me. I was one of six kids and we spent our summer days traipsing through the fields and forests hunting for adventure. We laughed so hard we blew Orange Crush or Grape Nehi Soda out our noses. I was a big reader as a kid and LOVED Nancy Drew and Trixie Beldon Mysteries. Then I moved on to Agatha Christie books and then the classics. Don't tell anyone, but my secret ambition is to star in a Broadway musical and I am often tempted to break into song and dance at very odd moments. I attended Southern Illinois University and studied Biology and Computer Science. After that, I worked for a computer software company. I helped people with their computer problems and did some technical writing. I didn't know at the time, but tech writing was great training for writing for kids because it taught me to be a fierce self-editor. Now, I live in Chicago with my family. (www.andreabeaty.com)

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

I was born in Liverpool, England. I worried a lot as a child about everything. I was happy at school until I was 11 years old and then I went to high school and it. I left school when I was 16 and went to Art School. My brother used to read to me at night, *The Far-away Tree*; *The Whishing Chair* and *Fantastic Mr. Fox* were among my favorites. I loved music. I went to college in Manchester to study fashion design, and while I was there I shared a house with two children's book illustrators. I was very inspired by their work, I think the seed was sown then that took me away from a career in fashion design and into illustration. I lived in Hong Kong for a year after graduating and found a job as a Milliner. It was while making hats that I started to do some fashion illustration for local newspapers and fashion magazines. I illustrated my first book in 1997, and I have illustrated over 70 books since. (www.walker.co.uk)

SOFIA VALDEZ,
FUTURE PREZ

TOPICS & THEMES:

- Civic responsibility
- Bravery
- Community

Tips for every book!

POWER PHRASES:

I WONDER...

I NOTICE...

TELL ME MORE...

DIGGING DEEPER:

"Tell me more, why do you think that?"

"How do you know that?"

"Why do you think they feel like that?"

"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

Use these prompts before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- (Show front and back continuous cover) What do you notice about this cover?
- Do you think this book is fiction or non-fiction? Why do you think that?
- What questions do you have about this story?

DURING THE STORY

Use these prompts while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content:

- (p. 2) Look at this illustration. Why do you think her Abuelo is dabbing his eyes with a kerchief? What is he feeling? Why do you think that? ↗ [?]
- (p. 6) What does the author mean when she says “most people like good, but Sofia liked better.”
- (pp. 7-8) Why are the words written like this on these pages? (Point out the use of slanted text as well on p. 11)
- (p. 24) What feeling do you think the illustrator is trying to show us on this page? What elements of the picture convey that feeling? ↗ [?]
- (p. 28) What do you think the clerks plan is? Why do you think she wants to help Sofia?
- (p. 30) How was Sofia feeling about speaking in front of this group? What words does the author use to help us know how Sofia is feeling? ↗ [?]
- (p. 37) Why do the the people of Blue River Creek think Sofia Valdez could be President some day? Do you agree? Why or why not?

AFTER READING

Use these prompts after reading the story to help students understand what they just read:

- What is the big idea that Andre Beaty wanted us to understand from this book?
- What characteristics do you think Sofia has that would make her a good president?
- Do you still have any unanswered questions? What are they?

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- (p. 20) Why is Sofia so heart sick? Can you think of a synonym for heartsick? What is something that keeps you awake at night? How do you calm yourself?

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- (p. 24) Turn to a neighbor. Discuss what you think the word “kibosh” means. Think together of a sentence using the word “kibosh” in a sentence. Share back to the group

SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

- Let’s take a picture walk through the book. We’ll stop on a few of the pages to look closely at the illustrations and point out significant details. (pp. 35-36 and pp. 37-38 are great pages for looking at details)
- Do you think Sofia was brave? Why or why not?
- When is a time you were afraid to do something? Did you do it anyway? What helped you overcome your fear? How did you feel after? ↗ [?]
- Do you have a connection with Sofia? What is it?

- Do you notice something in your community that needs to be changed or improved? How do you think you could go about making a change?

Suggested Optional Activity:

- Can you think of a job or project that needs lots of people helping to make it a reality? Create a sign that would inspire people to join you in your cause! (*p. 16 and 36 are good for reference*)

2. WRITING ACTIVITY

On p. 19 there are posters above Sofia's bed. Who do you think these women are? Why do you think Sofia has their posters in her room? Is there someone you admire? Write them a letter telling them why they inspire you!

3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

There were many wonderful components of Sofia's citizen park. Draw a picture of a park that you would love to play in. What activities would there be? What beautiful features would you include? (*p. 38 for reference*)

COMMON CORE LINKS

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1, 2.3, 2.7, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.7