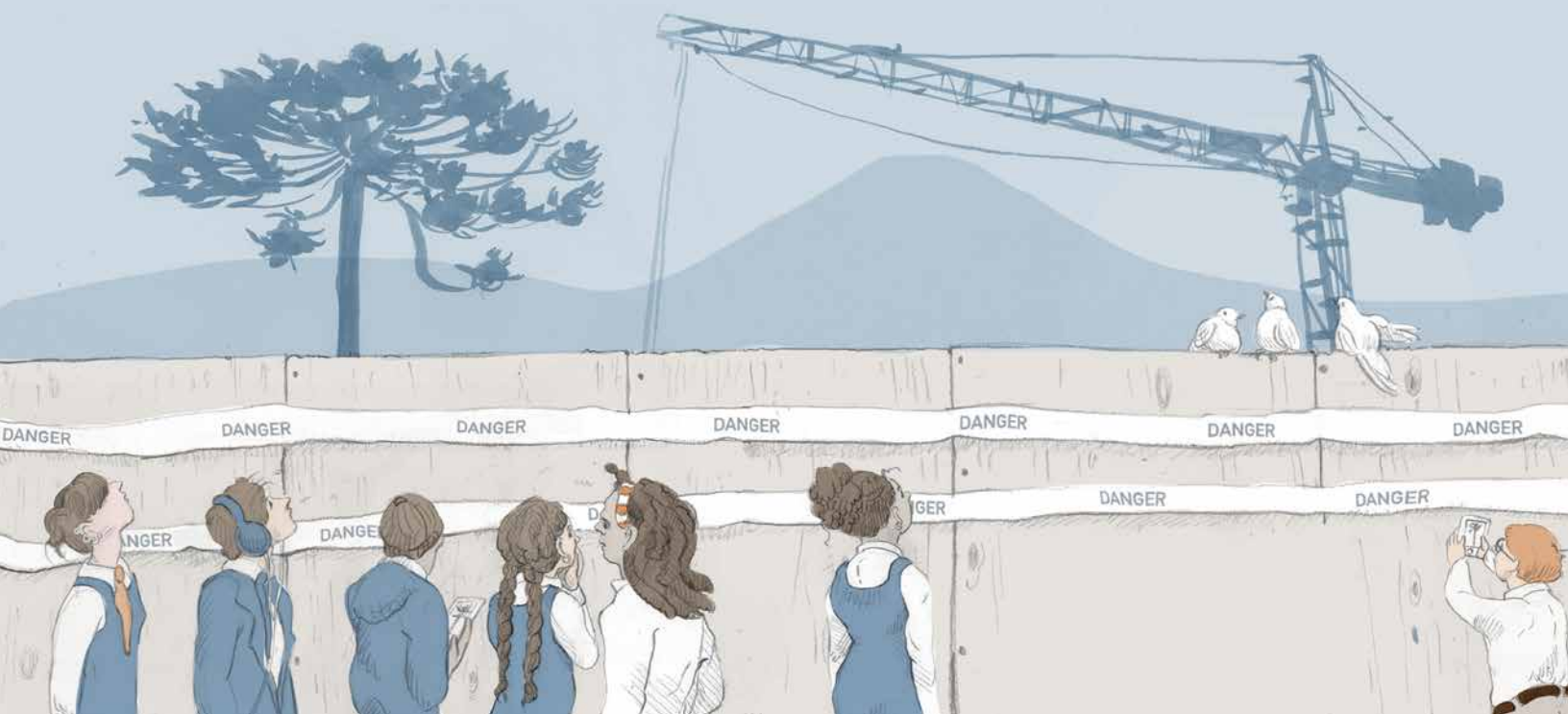


A SMALL HISTORY *of a* DISAGREEMENT

A Discussion Guide
(Grades 4–7)

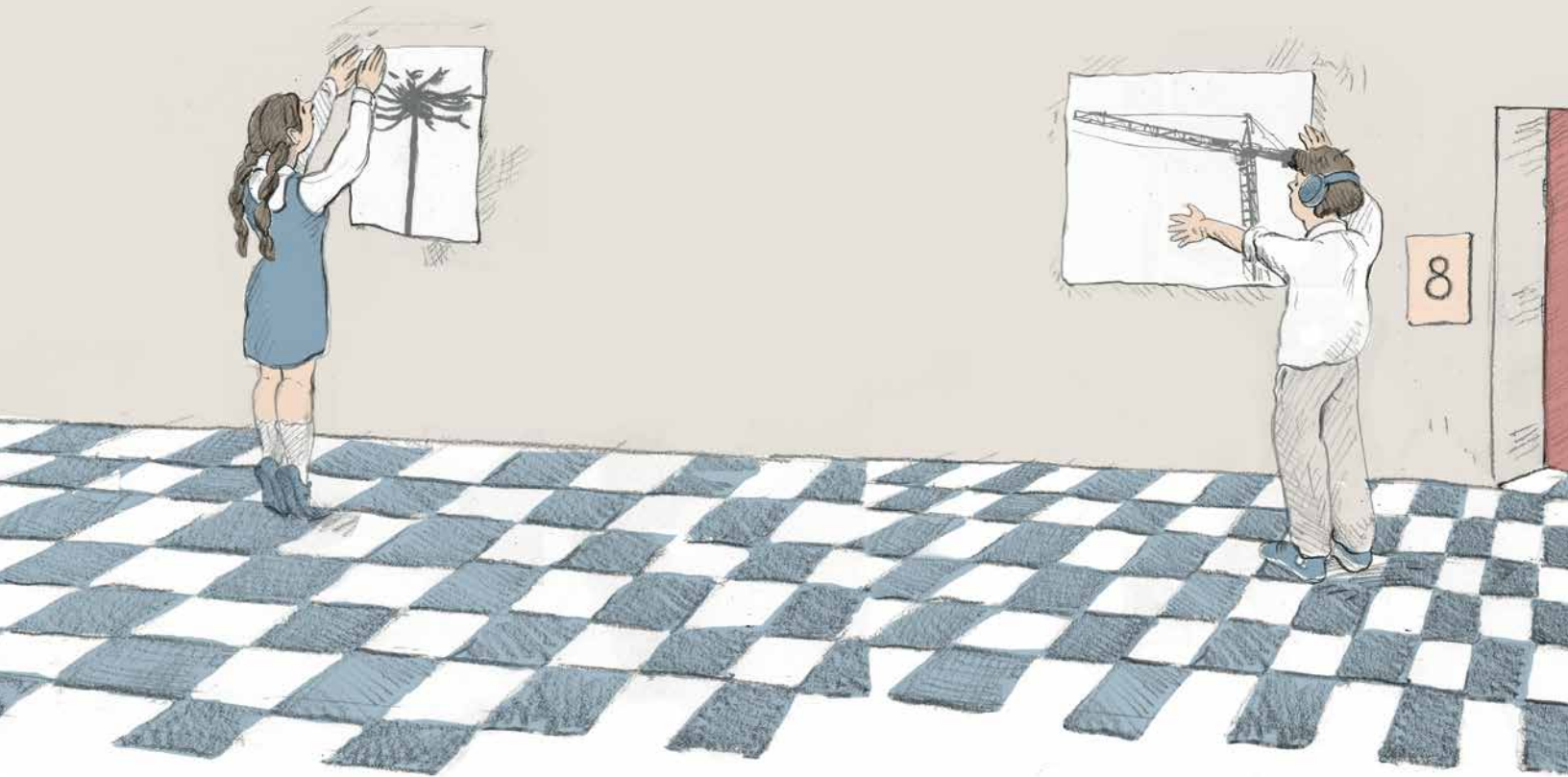


Before reading:



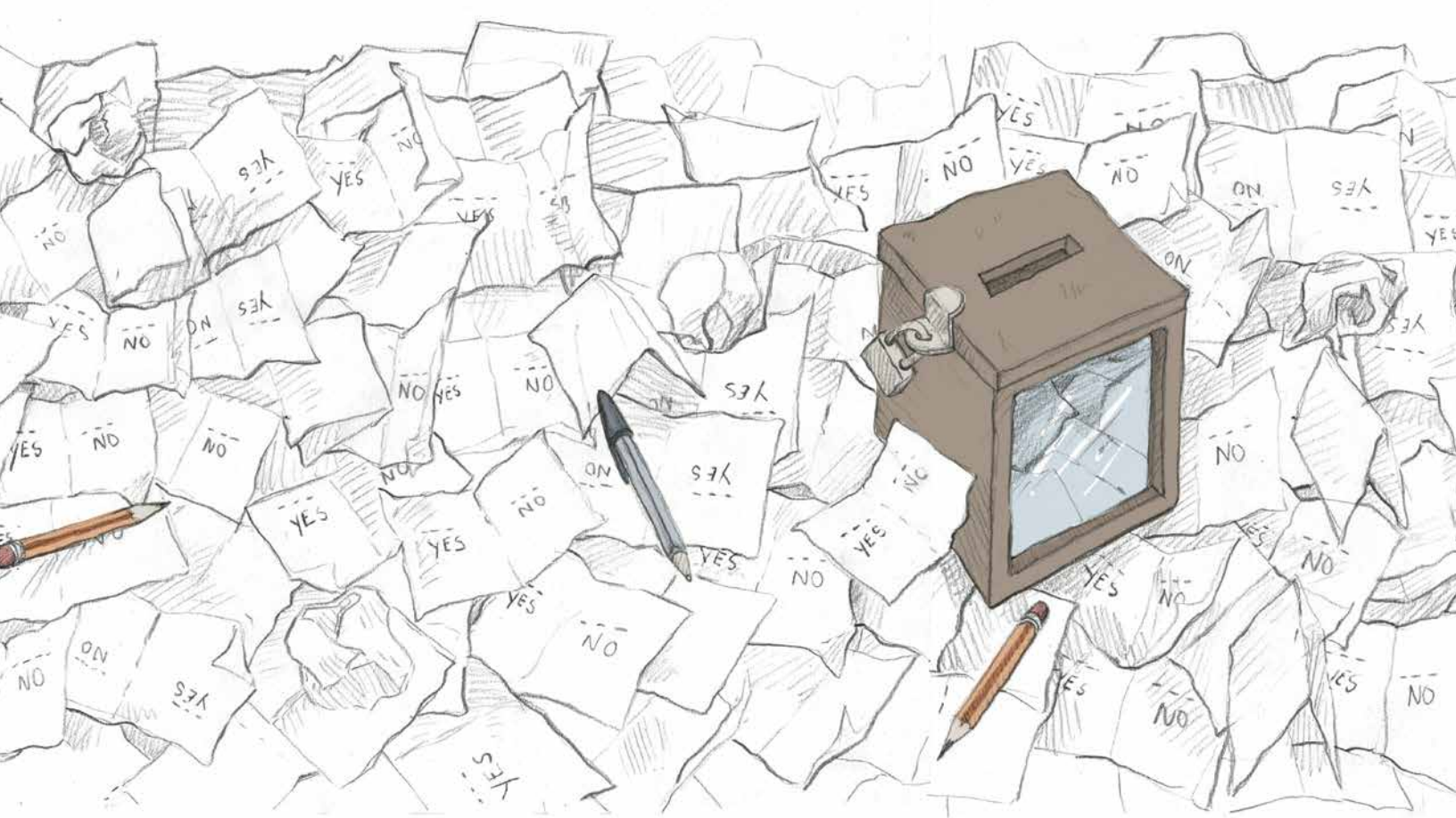
1. Review and discuss the title and cover illustration.
2. Make connections between the title and the cover illustration.
3. Identify the cause-and-effect relationships on the cover.
 - What is a **disagreement**?
 - What are examples of things that you may disagree with your friends on?
 - How do you handle disagreements?
 - Is a disagreement a fight?
 - How are fights and disagreements different?
4. Make predictions.
 - Who is in the cover illustration?
 - Where does this story take place?
 - What are the characters doing?
 - How does the illustrator let you know that the students are talking?
 - Why are they holding signs?
 - What do you think they are saying?





After Reading:

1. Discuss how “disagreement” is described in the book.
2. What is Claudio Fuentes’s purpose for writing *A Small History of Disagreement*?
3. What did you learn about disagreements between members of a community?



Essential Questions/BIG Ideas

What is the meaning of freedom?

How do we define freedom?

What is the relationship between freedom and responsibility?

What are your basic freedoms?

How are they protected?

How do we exercise freedom in our homes, at school, and in our communities?

How do the characters in the story exercise freedoms?

Vocabulary

Go back to the book and find these **vocabulary words** from the story. Jot down the inferred meanings based on the context clues. Many of the words have multiple meanings. The context will determine how it is used in the story.

Inferred Meaning from the Story	Definition
Millennial	
Developer	
Proposal	
Redevelopment	
Protest	
Debate	
Position	

Inferred Meaning from the Story	Definition
Civics	
Argument	
Undecided	
Plebiscite	
Campaign	
Modify	
Integration	
Threatened	
Monkey Puzzle Tree	

Making Connections to the Text

Go back to the story and think about the following questions:

What do the “**Developers**” and “**Millennials**” each stand for?
What are their positions? Use details and evidence from the story.

What are the pros and cons of each?

Construction of a new building

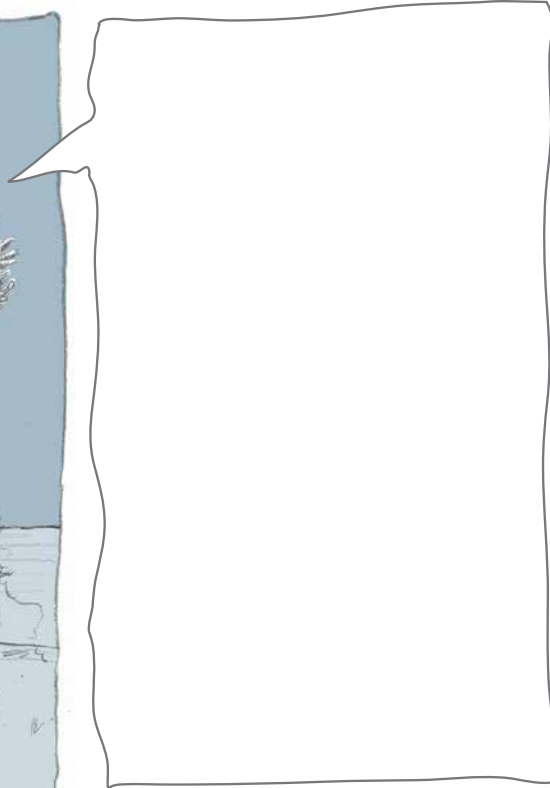
Pros	Cons

Saving the Monkey Puzzle Tree

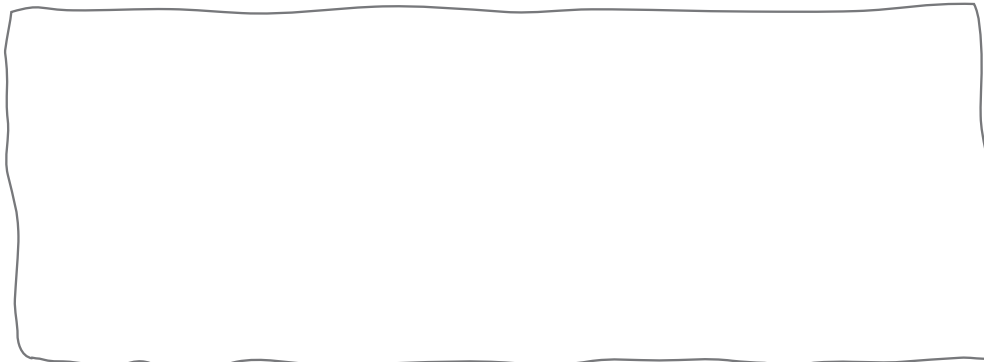
Pros	Cons

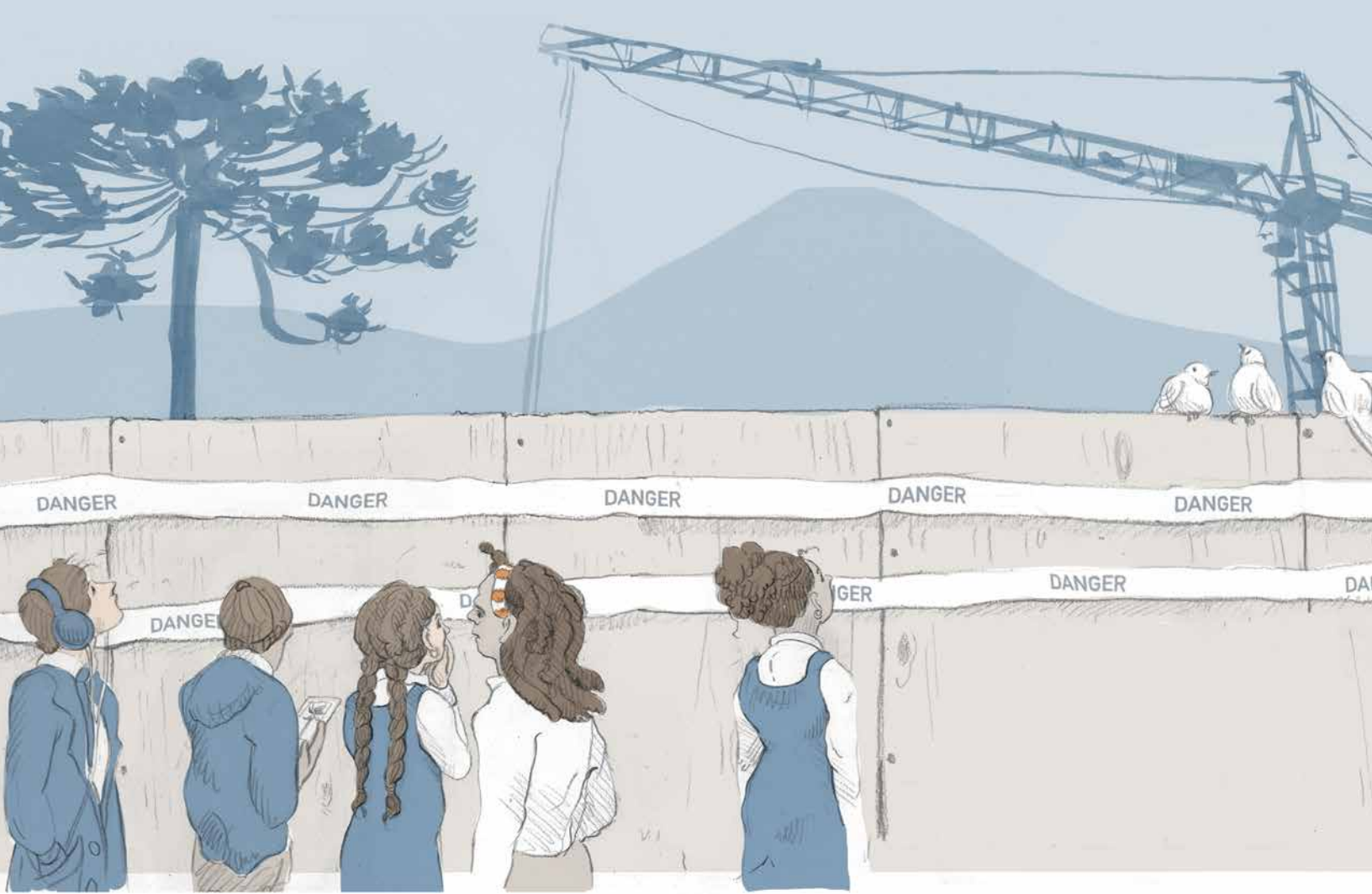
Where do you stand on this matter? Why?

What would the tree say?



What would the building say?





Setting

Where does the story take place?

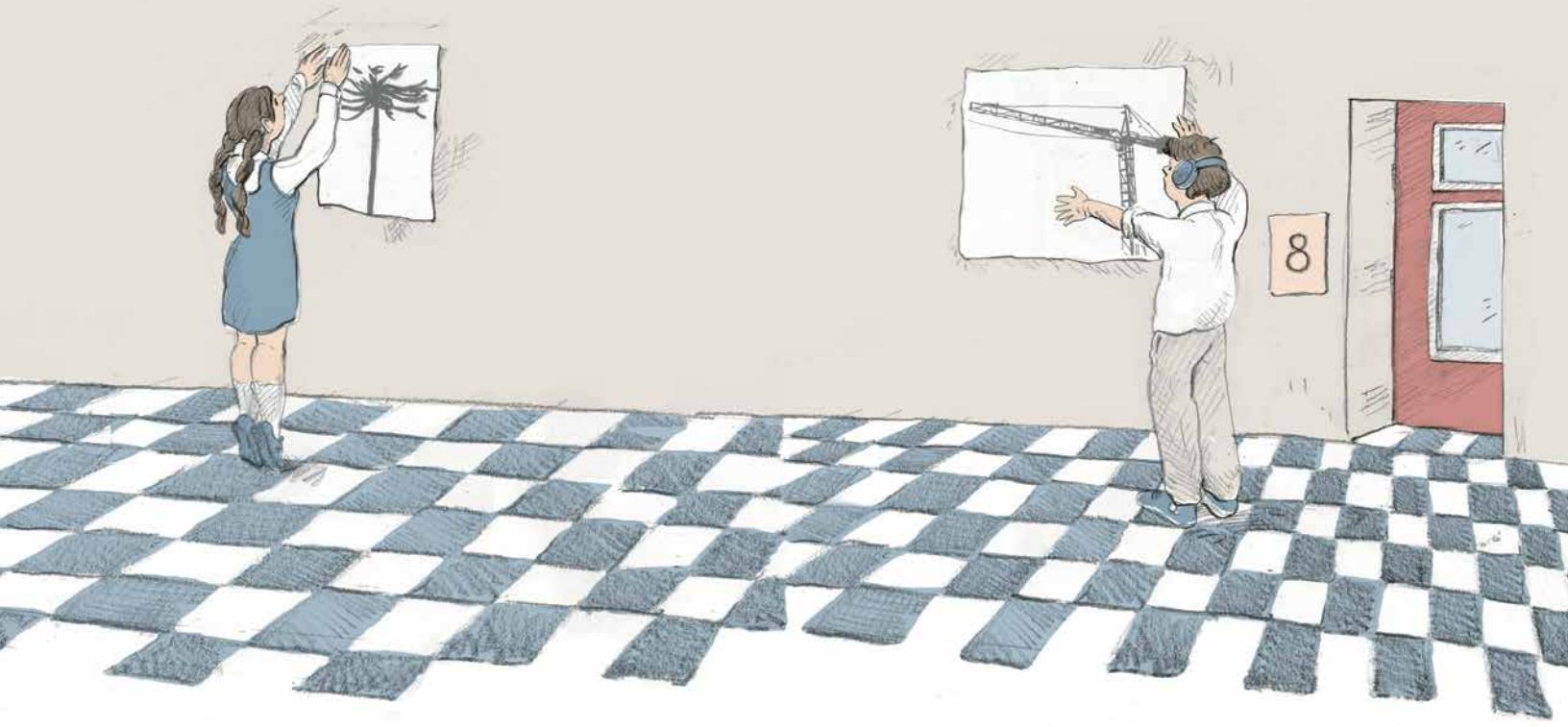
How does the setting affect the characters in the story?

What are the different points of view?

How do the events in the story build on one another?

Create a visual timeline of the events showing the changes from beginning to the end of the story.

Use words to describe the process.



Conflict

Conflict comes in many forms. It is how we deal with this conflict that changes the course of our lives. Think about conflict on a personal level and make connections to the book and characters.

Describe the various types of conflicts in the story:

Person vs Person

Person vs Society

Person vs Self

Person vs Fate

Person vs Nature

How does conflict lead to change?

What problem-solving strategies can individuals use to manage conflict?



How does an individual's point of view affect the way they deal with conflict?

What personal qualities have helped you to deal with conflict and change?

How might it feel to live through a conflict that disrupts your way of life?

How does conflict influence an individual's decisions and actions?

How are people transformed through their relationships with others?

What is community? What are the individual's responsibility to the community as well as the community's responsibility to the individual?

Explain what problem-solving strategies each of the characters use in the story.

- Principal
- Social Studies Teacher
- Students

Research and define the five freedoms of the US Constitution:

Religion, speech, assembly, press, and petition

What freedoms of the Constitution were discussed in the book? Explain using evidence from the story.

How are the five freedoms of the Constitution important in your life? Brainstorm ways in which you have already used each freedom and ways in which you could use these freedoms in the future.

Religion	Speech	Assembly	Press	Petition

Is coming to a resolution an easy process? Explain.

How did disagreeing affect the school community?

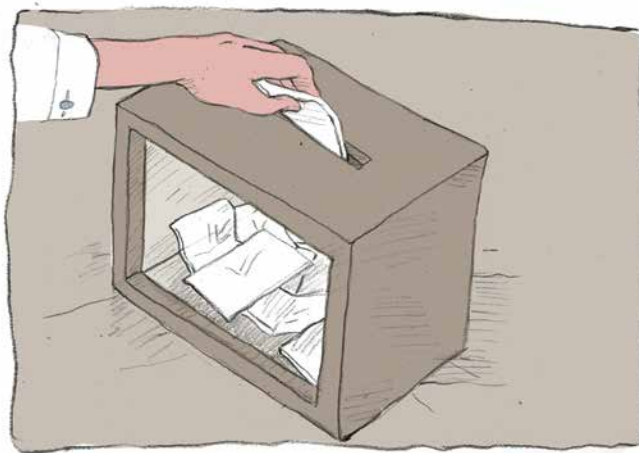
How did the school community use individual freedoms to accomplish something important?

How did the community compromise?

Find examples from the book using illustrations and words, such as:

“The developers had strong, rational arguments.”

“The millennials were passionate and touched hearts.”



Explain how individuals received the chance to voice their own opinion in the story.

How can we make sure that everyone has an opportunity to voice their opinion?

Explain how voting was an equal opportunity for **everyone** in the school community.

Why bother voting?

What would have happened if one less person voted? How would the outcome have changed?

Text to World Connections

The First Amendment

What is the importance/meaning of the First Amendment?

Explain the reasons why free speech is essential to self-government and promotes a peaceful and stable society.

How would your life be different if you did not have the protection of free speech?

Why is it important to stand up for what you believe in?

How can we stand up for what we believe in?

How did the students and teachers in the book deal with conflict and use each of the freedoms (listed below) in the story?

Speech

Assembly

Press



Search local and world news to find current or past events where people in a community use freedoms of the Constitution in negative and positive ways.

Did the protest produce a positive or negative outcome?

Create a PowerPoint Presentation.





The First Amendment freedoms are broad, but there are rules against certain actions. Where would you draw the line between what should be protected and what should not?

Read each of the following scenarios. Do you think this action/issue is protected by the First Amendment? Why or why not?

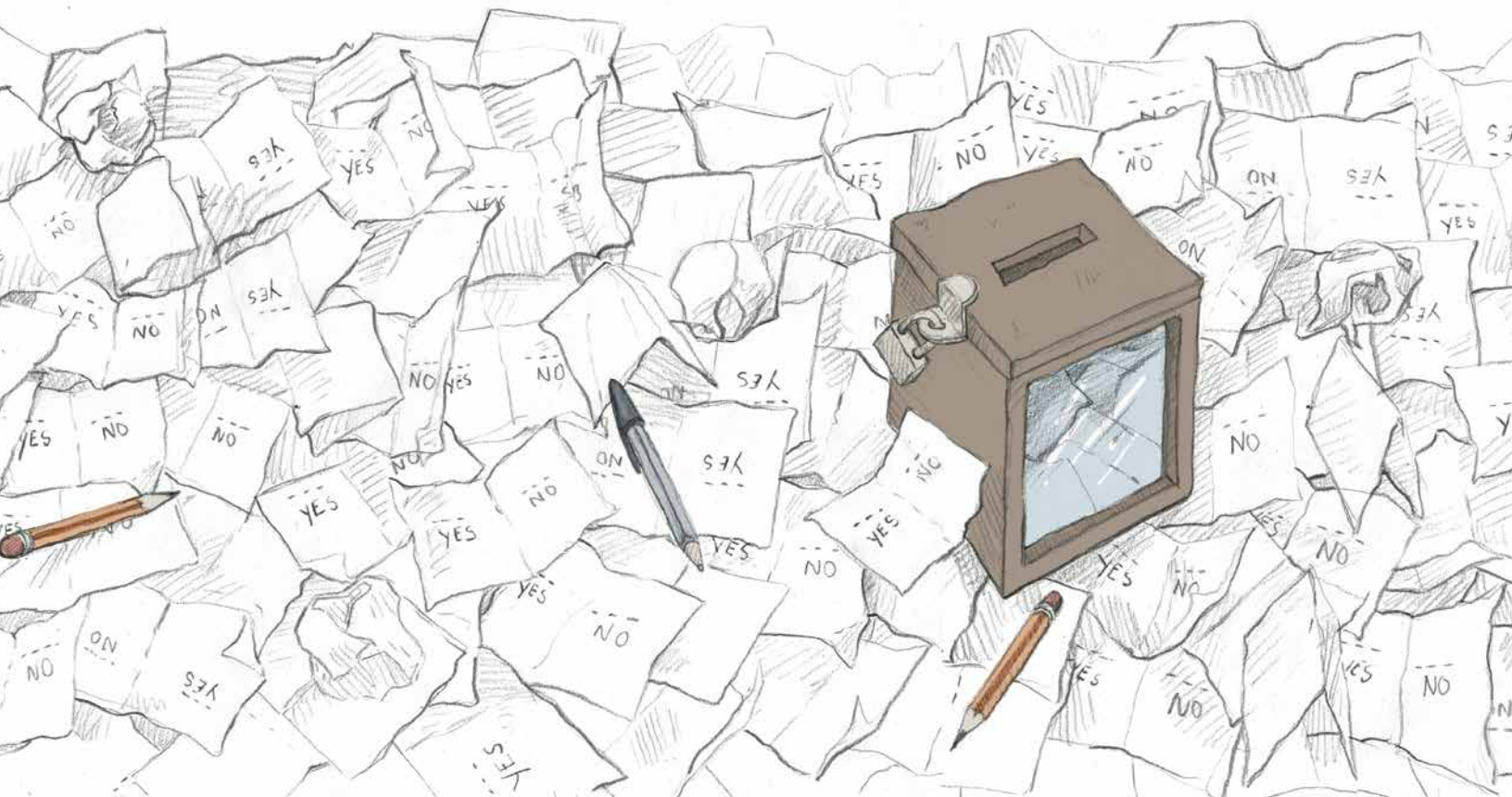
- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| (1) An athlete refuses to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance with the rest of his team. He says it is against his religion. He stays quiet while the rest of the team recites the pledge.
Is this allowed? | YES / NO |
| (2) A group of college students who do not agree with the United States going to war in a foreign country gather in a public park and burn an American flag as a symbol of their protest. Is this allowed? | YES / NO |
| (3) A newspaper receives top-secret information that shows that the government has been lying about communicating with other foreign governments. The newspaper publishes the documents to reveal the truth to the public.
Is this allowed? | YES / NO |

(4) A group of white supremacists and racists gather in Washington, D.C. and march to the U.S. Capitol. They have a permit for their event and march calmly while chanting and carrying signs that are degrading and offensive to other races. **Is this allowed?**

YES / NO

(5) A group of people with terminal illnesses, including several teenagers with epilepsy, believe that marijuana could help ease their suffering. They organize a petition to gather signatures from voters who believe that the state should pass a law allowing doctors to prescribe marijuana to their patients as a form of medical treatment. **Is this allowed?**

YES / NO

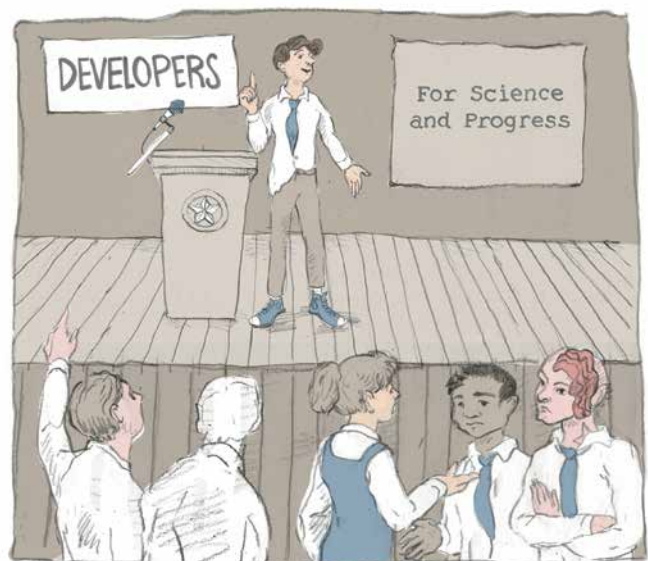




Debate

Engage in a class or small-group debate, presenting arguments on both positions before voting on a final ruling.

- Choose a topic from the list below
- Pick sides
- Research the topic
- Work as a team
- Practice public speaking
- Use critical thinking skills
- Vote



Possible Topics

- Year-round education is better for students.
- All students should be required to volunteer in the community.
- Junk food should be banned from schools.
- All parents should be required to attend parenting classes before having a child.
- Students should be held legally responsible for bullying in schools.
- Children under fourteen should not be allowed on social media sites.
- Zoos should be abolished.
- It is sometimes right for the government to restrict freedom of speech.
- All citizens should be required to vote.
- Sports stars are paid too much money.
- Grades should be abolished.
- The voting age should be lowered.
- Individuals who illegally share music online should be put in jail.

