

SHARED READ

TAKE NOTES

Establish a purpose for reading. When you are reading for information, identify how the author organizes the information. Preview the text and write your purpose for reading.

As you read, make note of:
Interesting Words

Key Details

A WORLD WITHOUT RULES

Essential Question



Why do we need government?

Read how government and laws help to protect us every day.

You may sometimes wonder if rules were made to keep you from having fun and to tell you what to do. But what if we had no rules at all? Nobody would tell you what to do ever again! Sounds great, right? Well, let's see what it's like to inhabit a world without rules. You just might change your mind!

A Strange Morning

Let's start at home. Your alarm clock goes off. Why hurry? Without rules you don't have to go to school. **Eventually** you wander downstairs and find your little brother eating cookies in the kitchen. Since there are no rules, you can have cookies for breakfast! But you wonder if you should have something sensible like a bowl of cereal. You reach a **compromise** (KOM•pru•mize) and crumble the cookies over your cereal. In this new world, you will not have to brush your teeth anymore. No one will report you. Of course, the next time you see the dentist, you may have a cavity.

A Community in Confusion

Now, you step outside. You decide to go to the playground because there's no law saying you have to go to school. No crossing guard stands at the corner to help you across the street. Without traffic laws, cars zip by at an alarming speed honking at each other, and there is not a police officer in sight. There is no safe alternate way to cross the street. Besides, once you see the playground, you may decide it is not worth the risk of getting hit by a car. Broken swings dangle from rusty chains. Trash cans overflow with plastic bottles, snack wrappers, and paper bags. A huge tree branch lies across the sliding board. As a result of all state and federal services being gone, nobody is in charge of taking care of the playground.

NARRATIVE NONFICTION

FIND TEXT EVIDENCE

Read

Paragraphs 1-3

Cause and Effect

Underline the sentence in paragraph 1 that tells what the effect would be if we had no rules. **Draw a box** around the words in paragraph 3 that tell what causes cars to zip by at an alarming speed.

Ask and Answer Questions

What happens to a playground with no state and federal services?

Reread

Author's Craft

How does the author's use of cause-and-effect text structure help you understand what would happen without rules?

SHARED READ

FIND TEXT EVIDENCE

Read

Paragraphs 1-2

Cause and Effect

Circle the words that tell you why you would not find a place to play soccer.

What is the effect of not having an army?

Latin Roots

The Latin root *commun* means "together." Underline the word that contains the root. Write the word.

Reread

Author's Craft

How does the author use headings to organize information?



Now think about trying to do all the other things you love. Want to go to the beach? The lifeguards will not be there to keep you safe. Want to play soccer in the park? Your state and local governments are not around to maintain the parks, so you'll never find a place to play. Feel like eating lunch outside? As a result of pollution, the air quality is so bad that you will probably have to wear a gas mask every day.

Have you ever thought about our country being invaded by another country? Remember, the government runs the army. Without the government, there is no army to protect us if another country decided to take over our country.

Back to Reality

Thankfully, that **version** of our world isn't real. We live in a **democracy** (di•MOK•ruh•see) where we have the **privilege** (PRIV•uh•lij) of voting for the people whom we want to run the country. Our elected government passes **legislation** (lej•is•LAY•shuhn), or laws, meant to help and protect us. If the country outgrows an old law, then the government can pass **amendments** to the law. Community workers such as crossing guards, police officers, and lifeguards all work to keep you safe, while government agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency have made a **commitment** to inspect the air and water for pollution. And don't forget the armed forces, which were created to protect our nation.

Our government and laws were designed to keep you safe and ensure that you are treated as fairly as everyone else. Without them, the world would be a different place.



NARRATIVE NONFICTION

FIND TEXT EVIDENCE

Read

Paragraphs 3-4

Headings/Pronunciations

Why is "Back to Reality" a good heading for this section?

Draw a box around the words that have pronunciations. Which of these words has the fewest syllables?

Evaluate Information

Use the information in the text to tell why government agencies are important.

Reread

Author's Craft

How does the author use reasons and evidence to show that we need rules?

Summarize

Use your notes and the headings to orally summarize, or retell, the important events in "A World Without Rules."