GOVERNMENT AND YOU!

Sometimes it can feel like government is only for adults, but everyone is affected by the government no matter what their age! Write down five things you did today on the lines below. Then, by yourself or as a group, brainstorm ways that the government might have impacted those actions.

For example, did your food come in a package with nutritional information printed on it? That nutritional information is required by government policy. If you drove on a road, those are funded by the government.
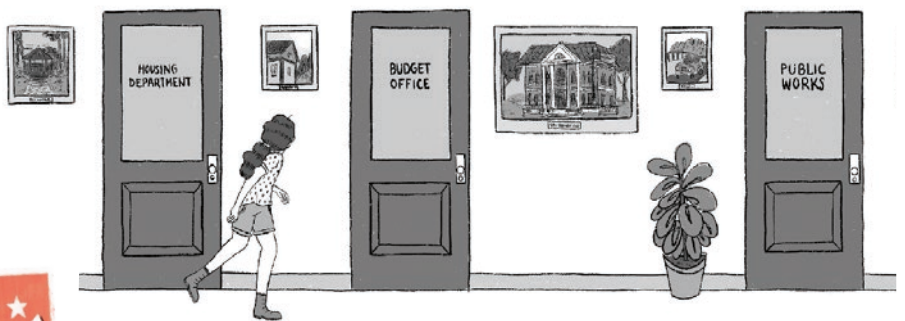
1. _____

_____

2. _____

_____

3. _____

_____

4. _____

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5. _____

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by **LEILA SALES**
illustrated by **KIM BALACUIT**

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WHO PARTICIPATES IN GOVERNMENT?

There are many ways to be involved in government even if you aren't a politician—or even an adult! Think about the people in your life and how they are involved in their communities, and see how many people you can find to fill out the following list. Remember, government doesn't just happen nationally—it also includes your local town or community, and even your school!
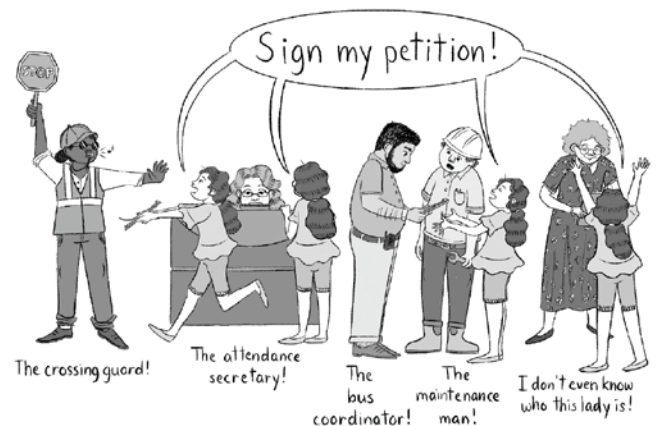
Write the name of someone who has:

1. Been elected or appointed to a role in a government: _____

2. Attended a rally or protest: _____

3. Signed a petition: _____

4. Voted in an election: _____

5. Attended a town hall or government meeting: _____

6. Been involved with an organization that works to

    improve their local town or area: _____

7. Called or written a letter to their government representative: _____

8. Donated money or time to a campaign: _____

Ask one of the people named above to tell you more about their experience. Why did they want to be involved in government? What was the result of their actions or campaign?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

The crossing guard! The attendance secretary! The bus coordinator! The maintenance man! I don't even know who this lady is!

Sign my petition!

by **LEILA SALES**
illustrated by **KIM BALACUIT**

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AMULET

CREATE YOUR OWN CAMPAIGN
(PART 1: IDENTIFY YOUR CAUSE!)

Sometimes fixing a problem is easy, but often, creating a change in your community takes many people and many actions to make it a reality. That's why people run a campaign, or a series of events or actions, in order to solve a problem. For example, as part of the campaign to save funding for the arts, Maddie and her friends collect signatures, hold a campaign rally, and meet with voters.

The first step to designing your own campaign is to identify your cause! As a group, brainstorm some things you'd like to improve in your community or school, and write them below. Then, choose one problem you'd like to create a campaign for and circle it.

...run a bus from school to downtown? It takes a long time to walk and gets really cold in the winter.

...stop people from smoking in parks? It gives me asthma attacks.

...get new books in the library? I've read like every one there, and the librarian says she doesn't have the budget to get more.

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by **LEILA SALES**
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AMULET

CREATE YOUR OWN CAMPAIGN
(PART 2: CREATE YOUR SLOGAN)

Many campaigns use a slogan, or a short catchy phrase, to help tell others what their campaign is about. For example, one of Janet's campaign slogans is "Janet for the Future" because she wants to help fund art programs in schools.
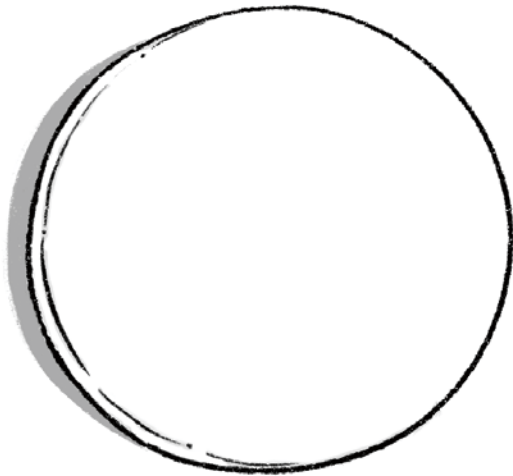
Work as a team to create a slogan for your campaign. Can you imagine seeing your slogan on a button or a bumper sticker? Try it out!

by **LEILA SALES**
illustrated by **KIM BALACUIT**

GARBAGE COLLECTORS FOR JANET FOR MAYOR FOR LAWRENCEVILLE FOR GOOD FOR GARBAGE!

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AMULET

CREATE YOUR OWN CAMPAIGN
(PART 3: SHOW YOUR STRENGTHS!)

In *The Campaign*, Maddie doesn't feel like she's smart because she struggles with many school subjects, but then she realizes that she's smart in different ways, like with art, organization, and motivating people. What are some things that you are good at? Are there ways that you could use these strengths to help solve the problem you identified in Part 1?

_____

_____

_____

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_____

Share your answers with people in your group. Are there people who are good at different things than you are? Can you think of ways you can partner up to help solve the problem together? Write some ideas below.

_____

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_____

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_____

GOOD WEIRD MADDIE!

Makes hilarious weird jokes!

Thinks up brilliant weird ideas!

Wears gorgeous weird clothes!

Draws awesome weird pictures!

The CAMPAIGN
by **LEILA SALES**
illustrated by **KIM BALACUIT**

CREATE YOUR OWN CAMPAIGN
(PART 4: FIND YOUR ROLE!)

It's time to start campaigning! There are many jobs to do in a campaign—now that you've thought about what your strengths are, you can choose a job that's right for you! Maybe you'll be a communications commander like Chloe, or an event coordinator like Lucas. With your group, assign everyone to a role, and then start planning! For example, if you are an Internet guru like Isabelle, what will your campaign's website look like? If you are the sign guy like Daniel, design a sign for your campaign.

See below for some examples of jobs, and then use the next page to come up with your plan!

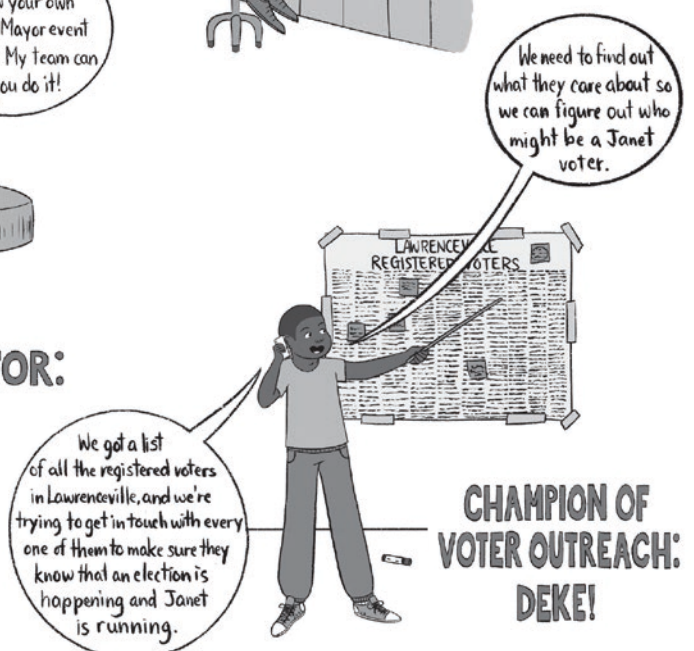

COMMUNICATIONS COMMANDER: CHLOE!

My team is writing about how great Janet is, how valuable arts education is, and how wretched Lucinda is!

We're getting those pieces published in the paper, on blogs, and on our website and social media pages.

EVENT COORDINATOR: LUCAS!

We're going to have rallies! We're going to have meet-and-greets!

Do you want to throw your own Janet for Mayor event at home? My team can help you do it!

DATABASE MANAGER: MICHAELA!

Once Deke's team talks to voters, my team enters their responses into this huge database so we can keep track of who's supporting Janet, who's undecided, who wants a lawn sign, who donated money, who can host a meet and greet...

It's all in here.

CHAMPION OF VOTER OUTREACH: DEKE!

We need to find out what they care about so we can figure out who might be a Janet voter.

We got a list of all the registered voters in Lawrenceville, and we're trying to get in touch with every one of them to make sure they know that an election is happening and Janet is running.

by **LEILA SALES**
illustrated by **KIM BALACUIT**

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CREATE YOUR OWN CAMPAIGN
(PART 5: GET TO WORK!)

Use this space to come up with a plan for your piece of the campaign!

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illustrated by **KIM BALACUIT**

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Accounts on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and some weird social media networks for old people

A slogan
GO FOR THE GOLD

Yard signs

AMULET