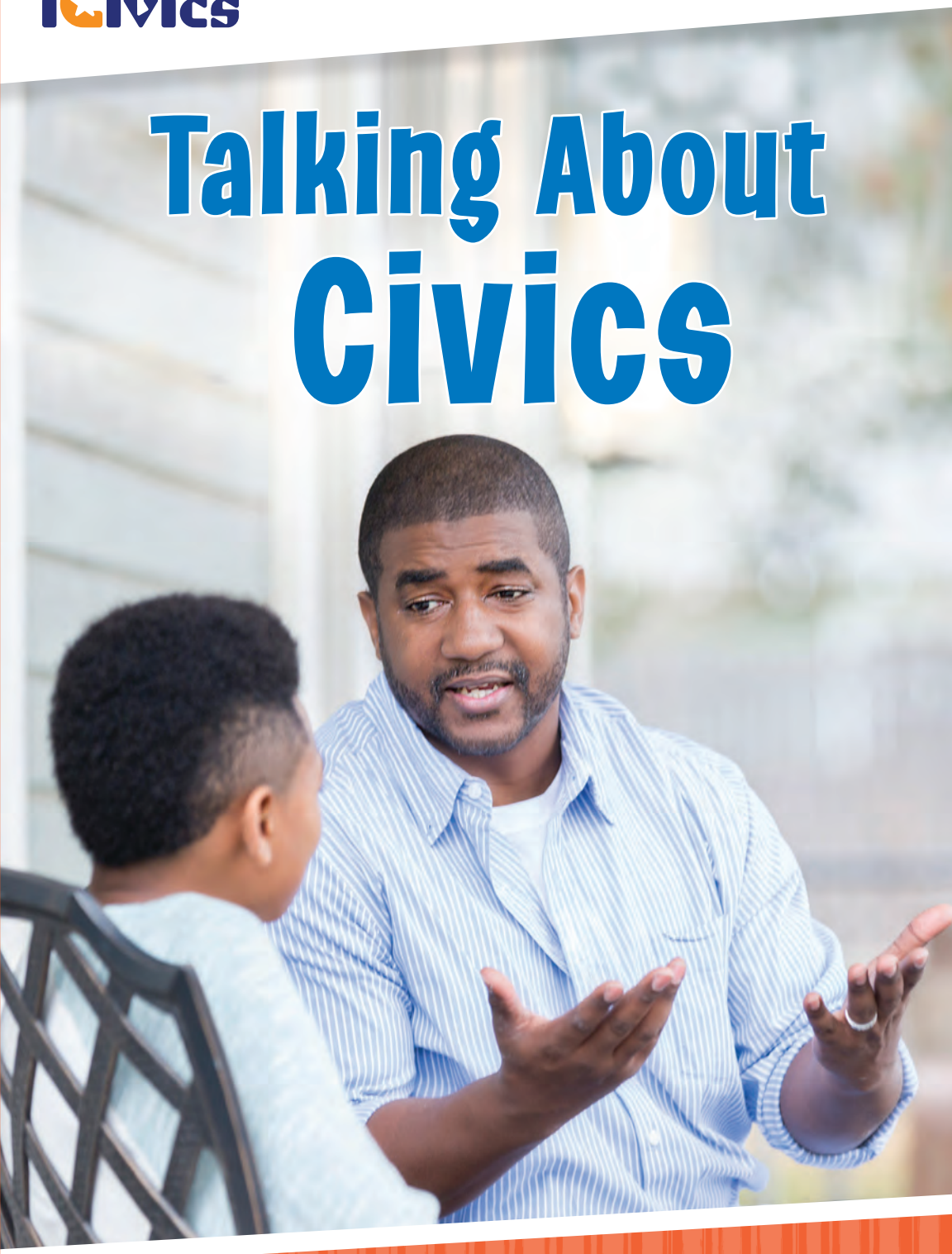
iCivics

Talking About Civics



Heather Price-Wright

TCM Teacher Created Materials

Table of Contents

We Need to Talk 4

Jump into Fiction:
Birthday Bash 6

Know Your Stuff 10

Keep Your Cool 18

Lifelong Learning 26

Glossary 30

Index 31

Civics in Action 32



For Review Only

We Need to Talk

So much is happening in the world at once. Different people have different opinions about how to respond. In your community, or even in your school, there are probably lots of issues on which people disagree. These issues may include who to vote for and what laws should be made. Our lives are full of important questions. Some issues are even bigger, such as how to prepare for the future. There are many possible opinions about all these issues.



Review Only



These questions are complex. They can also influence our lives in major ways. Because of this, it is sometimes difficult to talk about them without getting a little heated. Debate can be a healthy way to learn and draw conclusions. But as we see every day online and in the media, debates can also lead to anger and mistrust. They can shut down **dialogue** rather than make space for solutions.

Of course, not all civics topics are controversial and debate is not always needed. But when it is, we can engage in healthy, **constructive** conversations. That takes effort. We need to inform ourselves. We need to understand different perspectives. We need to listen to one another. We need to think about our **biases** and our deeply held beliefs. And after all that thoughtful preparation, we need to talk.

For Review

Jump into Fiction

Birthday Bash

Charlie could not wait for his birthday dinner. He was turning 12, and the whole family was gathering to celebrate. He and his dad had spent all day cooking his favorite foods—barbecued ribs, corn on the cob, and even homemade potato puffs. His older sister Angie was bringing chocolate cake. Aunt Susan and Uncle Mike would bring their famous rolls and potato salad. Mom even said he could have soda, which was a real treat!

Everyone was in a great mood when they sat down to eat. His mom said grace, and then Charlie immediately started digging in. His dad passed around the ribs, proudly telling everyone he had made the barbecue sauce from scratch.



For Review Only

"Did anyone watch the candidates for governor debate the other night?" Angie asked. She followed politics closely and loved to have lively talks about current events. "There were lots of interesting ideas! I'm not sure yet who I'll vote for."

To Charlie's surprise, Uncle Mike made an angry sound under his breath. "You can't trust any of that," he growled. "The media lets them say whatever they want. One candidate made it sound like we should all feel ashamed of our history. It's a disgrace!"

"I didn't hear anyone say that!" Angie retorted. "What I heard was that we need to be more open and welcoming to each other."



For Review Only

"Please," said Charlie's mom. "Let's talk about something else. It is a party, after all!"

But they kept going. Uncle Mike hissed, "We're not paying attention to what's right under our nose! It's bad for the country!"

Angie's eyes flashed. "You don't know what you're talking about!" she shouted.

Charlie had been listening wide-eyed. But now it was time to speak up. "Hey, everyone, I'm really glad you're here for my party. I want to know what you think. But maybe we can say things in ways that remind us that we like each other. All right?"

Angie looked at Charlie, smiled, and tousled his hair. "You're right, kiddo. Sorry. Guess I got a little caught up, didn't I?"



For Review Only

Uncle Mike was red-faced. "You caught me, kid. I wasn't really listening, was I? Start again?" he asked, looking at Angie.

"You bet, Uncle Mike," Angie said with a smile. "So, what did you think about the debate? I'd love to hear your thoughts."

"Me too, Angie, me too. I really do want to know what you think. I know I'm set in my ways, but as Sue here often reminds me, there are more opinions in this world than mine," he chuckled sheepishly.

Charlie looked around at his big, awesome family. They didn't always agree, but they knew what mattered. When all was said and done, they were better together. And together on his birthday was exactly where Charlie wanted to be!



For Review Only

Back to Nonfiction

Talking About Civics

We live in complex times, with people asking many questions about what's best for themselves and others. Some conversations can be difficult. So, how can we talk about civics in a way that helps rather than hurts? In this book, you'll learn how to research isues, develop strong arguments, listen to others, and debate in fair and productive ways.

For Review Only

123977

ISBN-13: 978-1-0876-1547-9

90000

9 781087 615479

TCM Teacher Created Materials

Lexile®: 720L