

A Guide for Parents and Teachers to

LIBERTY PORTER

First Daughter

by Julia DeVillers
illustrated by Paige Pooler

About the Book

Meet Liberty Porter. She's a regular nine-year-old girl with a lot going on. First of all, her dad has just started a new job. And she has to move to a house in a new city. Oh, and the really big thing? Her dad? His new job is president of the United States. That's right. So the house is the White House, and the city is Washington, D.C. That means Liberty Porter is going to be First Daughter and she is super excited! This is the start of an amazing adventure for Liberty, for the Secret Service who follow her everywhere (ha!), and for her dog, Franklin. Join Liberty as she turns life in Washington (and the rest of the country) upside down!

About the Author

Julia DeVillers is the author of books for kids and teens including *How My Private Personal Journal Became a Bestseller* (now a Disney Channel Original Movie (*Read it and Weep*); *Princess of Gossip* with Sabrina Bryan (of the Cheetah Girls & Dancing with the Stars); *Girlwise: How to be Confident, Capable, Cool, and in Control*; *Trading Faces* (with identical twin sister, Jennifer Roy); and the forthcoming *LYNNVisible*. Her books have been featured in the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and all the major teen magazines.

Julia holds a master's degree in journalism from Ohio State University and a bachelor's degree in communications from the State University of New York at Oswego.

She lives in Columbus, Ohio, with her husband, two children, and maltipoo. Visit Julia's website at www.girlwise.com for more information!



A Note from the Author

Dear Teachers and Parents,

Welcome to the White House—Liberty Porter's White House, that is!

Liberty, of course, is a fictional character, but I tried to include accurate historical research about the White House and First Families. I wanted to give readers a glimpse of what it really might be like to be a First Daughter and live in the White House.

LIBERTY PORTER, FIRST DAUGHTER highlights themes of family and friendship, pride and patriotism. And it's all written with a sense of humor and kid-friendly fun.

This guide includes activities that can be used in classrooms, homeschools, and for independent study. We hope you enjoy!

Sincerely,

Julia DeVillers and her twin sister, author and teacher Jennifer Roy

Fun "First Kid" Activities



Liberty Porter can't believe it. Her father has been elected president, which makes Liberty the First Daughter! Readers get to go along with Liberty from the inauguration to White House move-in day. Although Liberty is fictional, her feelings and thoughts can capture a child's imagination and spark the thought, "What if I became the 'First Kid'?"

First Kid Feelings

Liberty feels excited, nervous, and "sickish" at the beginning of the book. Ask your students how they would feel if they knew the whole world was going to be watching them? Have students write a paragraph using at least three adjectives (describing words). Put adverbs in front of the adjectives to make each paragraph even more descriptive.

★ Examples: extremely excited; very anxious; horribly embarrassed

First Food: Bar Graph

Liberty lists her top five favorite foods. Take a survey of students' answers to this question: "What food would you have the White House chef make on your first day as First Kid?"

Create a classroom bar graph showing the answers.

Ruffles or Rottweiler?

Liberty's family is given Secret Service code names. Have students choose code names for themselves and write them down on "Hello, my name is..." labels. Stick the labels on and hold a discussion circle. Have each student explain why (s)he chose that particular name. You can even have the class use those names in the classroom that day!

Poster of Prestacular Activity

Ask the question: "If YOU were the First Kid, what would you be most excited about? (Possible answers include own movie theater, meeting important people, having a parent as president, chocolate shop, etc.)" Have students write their answers—(colored pencils or markers look nice!)—on a poster and display it.



Language Arts

Character Web

Liberty's new life includes many new people! Have students make a character web for one of those characters. Include words that describe his or her personality, physical appearance, job/position, and any other defining traits.

Language Arts continued . . .

Fab Vocab

Liberty has her own way of making up words. Together as a class, create a Liberty dictionary of her unique words (i.e. patriotic, pres-tacular). Have the class participate as you write down the definition and part of speech for each word. Then have the class work together to put the words in alphabetical order. Finally, students can copy the work onto their own pages to make Liberty dictionaries!

Extension: Invite students . . . to create their own word to include in the dictionary.

Setting Sensations

Have students imagine that they are in the crowd at President Porter's Inauguration Day. In a paragraph, ask them to write down what they see, hear, smell, etc. Explain how sensory details add to a reader's experience to make him/her feel like (s)he is actually there.

Character Names

Liberty's first name means "freedom." Discuss how that name is appropriate for her character. Have students write a paragraph about one of these supporting characters telling why his/her name fits:

- ★ Miss Crum
- ★ S.A.M
- ★ Mrs. Piffle (James's mother)
- ★ Chief Usher Lee
- ★ Franklin



Interview

Have your students become re-PORTERS, imagining that they are interviewing President Porter. Have them write down five questions they would ask. (Note: President Porter is not affiliated with either the Republican or Democratic Party; you can discuss with your class the two-party system.)

If you like, have the students make up possible answers to the questions. Their answers may reflect their family's ideals and community ideology . . . or just be silly. Let creativity—not politics—rule this critical thinking activity.

A First Dog's Tale

Have students write a scene from Franklin's (Liberty's dog) point-of-view. Remember—dogs have a heightened sense of smell and hearing!

A Banner Idea

The President of the United States has to deal with many issues that affect the world. But children can make a big impact on some of these issues. Challenge your students to come up with one idea to help

Language Arts continued . . .

solve a problem (i.e. environment, poverty, education, economy). Big or small, their ideas count! Write down the ideas on a banner titled “Kids Can Change the World!” and drape it across your classroom door. Extension: select one viable or particularly creative idea and submit it to a local newspaper or if possible, implement it!

Letter Writing

Have students write letters to the current First Children. Follow a letter-writing format. Mail them. (Perhaps a form response will arrive at your class mailbox!)



Creative Arts

The Seal of Your Classroom

The seal of the president is on the carpet of the Oval Office. First, explain the definition of “seal” (as opposed to the mammal) to your students. Then divide the class into small groups and have each one draw or paint a seal representing your classroom community. They should include a symbol, motto (special saying), and colors. Seals can be designed on poster paper, mural paper, or fabric and displayed.

Act Up!

Have students perform a scene from the book as a Readers Theatre. Extension: Dress up as a character and act out a scene. (i.e. Liberty’s ‘disguises’, S.A.M, James). For more information on conducting a Readers Theatre, visit: http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=172

Liberty Arts!

Using a map of the layout of the White House as a guide (www.whitehousemuseum.org) have students draw their own maps and label, color in, or decorate the rooms Liberty mentions in the book.

Have students create shoebox dioramas depicting the Oval Office, Lincoln’s bedroom, Liberty’s bedroom (fictional), or other White House rooms.

Create a comic strip using the book’s characters.

Design a website for Liberty Porter supPORTERs.

Compose an inaugural song for the Porters.

I’m Monumental!

Liberty sees the Washington Monument and imagines her own monument. Have students draw a picture or build a structure (i.e. papier mâché, recyclables, cardboard boxes) of their own. Share with the class—by oral presentation or written paragraph—what the monument is called and why it represents that student.





History

Five Fun Facts

Liberty enjoys trivia about former presidents and their families. Have students research a past president that interests them and write down five fun facts. Display all the students' trivia and give them plenty of time to read and learn everyone's fun facts.

In Lincoln's Bedroom

The Lincoln bedroom is one of the most famous rooms in the White House. Discuss the Emancipation Proclamation and Abraham Lincoln's role in ending slavery.

First Pets—From Sweet Lips to Bo

Liberty has an interest in the pets of former presidents' families. Have students choose an animal who resided in the White House and research its term in residence; who its owners were, the dates it lived there (approximate), and any other interesting stories about that pet. Have students write (and illustrate, if desired) a short essay on their White House pet. Display the essays—with the students' help—in the pets' chronological order. Make a time line out of tape for even more clarity.



Discussion Questions

Theme

A major theme of the book is that it is okay to be yourself. Discuss with the class the struggles Liberty has . . .

With Miss Crum's expectations

With trying to be A+ perfect

With staying a "normal" kid in abnormal circumstances

Friendship

James is meant to be a good influence on Liberty. How does Liberty become a "good influence" for James?

Foreign Relations

Liberty will have to meet leaders from many different countries and cultures. They may have different customs and clothing and speak a different language. What could Liberty do to make foreign guests feel welcome? Do you know someone from a different culture? What about that person is interesting? What do you have in common with him/her?

How does being friendly, honest, and polite contribute to a better global community? School community? What else might help?



Math

How many years are in one presidential term? How many months? How many days? Some presidents serve two full terms. What strategy could you use to find out how many years, months, and days are in two terms? (Double the numbers, multiply by 2.)

How many miles away from the White House is your school? How long would it take to drive there? In what year would you be eligible for the presidency? (Must be 35 years old).

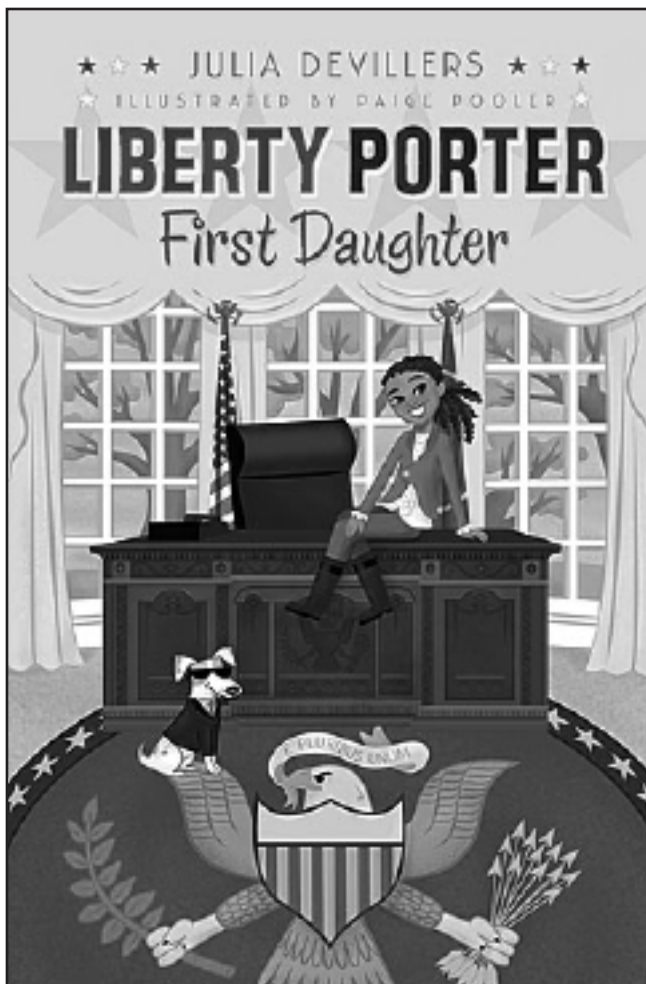
Find out who was president the year you were born. What about your parents? Grandparents? You will need to know their current age or the year they were born.



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