



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

DUCK FOR PRESIDENT

By Doreen Cronin

SVPDP Literature Connections

By Jim Bentley

Summary from the publisher: “When Duck gets tired of his farm chores, he decides to run for election. He discovers being a farmer, a governor, and president of the United States is not very easy work.”

Authority

Lesson 1

- Do you think Farmer Brown has the *authority* to make the animals do their chores?
- Did it seem *fair* that Duck has to mow the lawn *and* take out the trash *and* grind the espresso beans when all the other animals only have one job each?
- Who used *power* in the story?
- Did Duck like having *authority*?
- Why do you think Duck wanted to have *authority* in the first place?
- Is having *authority* an easy job or a lot of work? How can you tell?
- What are some *rules* you think Duck might have made to make “a Kinder, Gentler Farm?”
- Do you think anyone used *power without authority* in the story?

Lesson 2

- The farm was Duck’s “local government.” What are some rules *you* would make for the farm?
- Farmer John made a rule that animals must do chores. Why was that rule needed?
- Farmer John made a rule that animals must do chores. What were some *benefits/good* things that happened because of that rule?
- Farmer John made a rule that animals must do chores. What were some *costs/bad* things that happened because of that rule?
- Do you think Farmer Brown’s rules were fair?

Lesson 3

- Who is a character in the story that has a *position of authority*?
- As Duck earned his *positions of authority*, how did he feel about each of them?
- Who do you think would have made a better governor: Duck or Farmer Brown? Why or why not?
- Do you think it would be fun to be governor or president? What would be the most fun part of the job?
- If you became governor or president, what do you think would be the least enjoyable part of the job?

Lesson 4

- What is a *benefit* of Duck being in charge of the farm?
- What is a *cost* of Duck being in charge of the farm?
- What is a *benefit* of Farmer Brown being in charge of the farm?
- What is a *cost* of Farmer Brown being in charge of the farm?
- Pretend you were an animal on the farm. Who would you have voted for?
- Why do you think Duck wanted an election on the farm?
- Duck seemed upset with Farmer Brown. Do you think there was another *solution* he could have tried besides an election?
- Do you think Farmer Brown did a good job of running the farm?

Lesson 5

- Pretend that Duck makes a new rule: “Animals do not do chores. Farmer Brown does all the chores. Do you think this will be a good rule or a bad rule? Why or why not?”
- Pretend that Farmer Brown makes a new rule: “Animals do all the chores and Farmer Brown does not do chores.” Do you think this will be a good rule or a bad rule?

Lesson 6

- What are some *powers* Farmer Brown has in the story?
- What are some *duties* a farmer has to run a farm?
- What were some *powers* Duck had in the story?
- Do you think it’s easy or hard work to be a good leader?
- Do you think Farmer Brown should have given Duck more jobs than the other animals?
- Do you think the animals should be able to *limit* Farmer Brown’s power?
- Pretend you were an animal on the farm. What are some *limits* you would want to place on Farmer Brown?
- Pretend you were Farmer Brown. What are some *limits* you would want to place on Duck?

Lesson 7

- Pretend that Duck has been elected president of the United States. He needs help. What do you think a good helper should do? Can you brainstorm a list of *duties* and *limits* for Duck’s helper?

Responsibility

Primary text connections

Lesson 1

- What are some *responsibilities* Farmer Brown has?
- What were some of the animals’ *responsibilities*?
- What might happen on the farm if the animals didn’t do their chores?
- What might happen on the farm if Farmer Brown didn’t fulfill his *responsibilities*?
- Duck *promised* “a Kinder, Gentler Farm” if elected. What do you think Duck would do to make the farm a better place to live.
- Duck was given a *responsibility* because people gave it to him. Would you have given him that responsibility? Why or why not?
- Farmer Brown gave the animals *responsibilities* in the form of chores. Do you have chores you have to do at home? Do you think they’re fair?
- Duck had three different *jobs*: leader of the farm, governor, and president. What do you think were some of Duck’s *responsibilities*?

- What do you think were some of Duck’s *beliefs* about sharing? Do you think she likes to share? Or do you think she thinks sharing is a bad thing?
- Find the page in the book that shows the list of chores (responsibilities) Farmer Brown gave the animals. What might happen if the cows and sheep did not carry out their responsibilities?
- What are the benefits of Duck carrying out his responsibilities?
- The governor of our state is _____. What are some responsibilities of our governor?
- The president of the United States is _____. What are some responsibilities of our president?
 - What are some benefits of carrying out these responsibilities?
 - What are some costs?

Justice

- What was unfair about the Voter Registration Form posted in the barn?
- A recount of the votes was demanded in each election. Do you think this was fair? Explain your answer.
- On the campaign trail Duck gave speeches that only other ducks could understand. Was this fair or unfair? Explain your answer.

Privacy

Primary text connections

- Do you think animals need privacy? Why or why not?
- On Election Day the voters filled out their ballots. What examples of privacy were a part of the voting process?
- Why are election results made public and not kept private?
- How does being president of the United States limit the privacy of the president and his family?

Verbal prompt

Explain why Duck decided to resign the presidency and go back to the farm.

Writing prompt

Describe some things you would do if you were president of the United States.

- Give examples in your answer.
- Speak or write in sentences as you explain your answer.