



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

AUTHORITY AND POWER
Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse
By Kevin Henkes

Teacher's Guide
By Katherine Randall

Activity Description

The teacher will introduce the concepts of power and authority by creating sentence strips with the definitions from the glossary of *Learning About Authority: A Foundations of Democracy Activity Book*. The teacher will read aloud *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* by Kevin Henkes to facilitate a classroom discussion of authority and power and to identify individuals that exercise power and authority in the story and in their everyday lives. Students create a sentence strip about an example from the story in which someone uses power with authority or power without authority. Next, they will create a sentence strip about their own lives. Examples are provided below.

Suggested Grade Level

Primary grades 1 and 2

Estimated Time to Complete

20–30 minutes

Objectives

Students will

- learn the concepts of power and authority;
- discuss what characters in *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* have power with authority and power without authority;
- learn what people in their own life have power with authority and power without authority.

Materials Needed

- Copy of *Learning About Authority, a Foundations of Democracy Activity Book* published by the Center for Civic Education, ISBN 0-89818-186-0 or 978-0-89818-186-9
- Copy of *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* by Kevin Henkes, published by Greenwillow Books in 1996 for read-aloud, ISBN 0-688-12897-1
- Sentence strips with definitions of Authority, Power, Power with Authority, and Power without Authority. (See samples that follow.)
- Blank sentence strips for students

SENTENCE STRIPS

Authority is the right to use power to control the behavior of others.

Power is the ability to control or influence others.

Power with authority is using power with the right to do so.

Power without authority is using power without the right to do so.

SAMPLE STUDENT SENTENCE STRIPS

When Mr. Slinger takes away Lilly's purple purse he is using power with authority.

The boy down the street won't let me walk home and uses power without authority.

The crossing guard told me when to cross the street and used power with authority.

My sister changed the channel on the TV without asking and uses power without authority.

