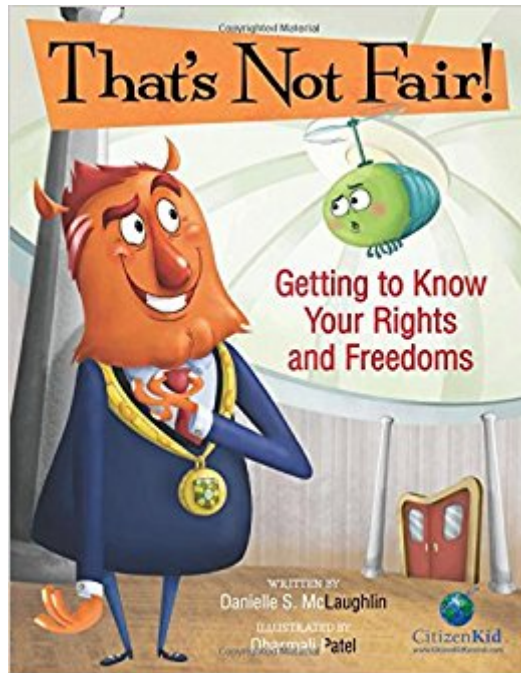


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# That's Not Fair!: Getting To Know Your Rights And Freedoms (CitizenKid)



## Synopsis

This unique addition to the CitizenKid collection, written by Danielle S. McLaughlin, provides an accessible exploration of the rights and freedoms of citizens in a democracy through a series of six short stories starring Mayor Moe and the councillors of a sometimes wacky city. In each story, the councillors are first presented with a problem, and the group then makes a decision to address the problem with a new law, only to discover later there were unintended consequences. There is one councillor, Bug, who objects to each decision being proposed by commenting, "That's not fair!" --- a sentiment familiar to children, who have an innate sense of justice. The topics are child-friendly: Should you be allowed to search someone's bag because you think they have something of yours? Does it make sense to have a law that states people can say only nice things? Conclusions for each story include an extended discussion of the rights and freedoms featured in the story, along with three questions to ponder: Why did the councillors make their decision? Did the new law achieve its purpose? Were there any unexpected results? There are no right answers given. Instead children are encouraged to look at all sides of each issue, which engages their critical thinking skills and fosters empathy for other points of view. This book would be perfect for sparking spirited discussions on civics lessons and inspiring children to become involved citizens. The bright and humorous illustrations by Dharmali Patel keep the interest level high. A Note for Parents and Teachers and definitions of the rights and freedoms covered in each story are included at the end of the book.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 830 (What's this?)

Series: CitizenKid

Hardcover: 44 pages

Publisher: Kids Can Press (April 5, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1771382082

ISBN-13: 978-1771382083

Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.5 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #141,883 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in [Books > Children's Books](#)  
[> Education & Reference > Law & Crime](#) #62 in [Books > Children's Books > Education &](#)

Reference > Government #39559 in Books > Reference

Age Range: 7 - 11 years

Grade Level: 2 - 6

## Customer Reviews

When is a good age to introduce kids to the concept of individual rights and freedom? Hopefully principles of respect for others and self-determination will be instilled very early, but getting to nuts and bolts legislative questions might come later. Danielle McLaughlin can make a case for the preteen years being good time. Her book *That's Not Fair! Getting to Know Your Rights and Freedoms*, with illustrations by Dharmali Patel, introduces questions of civil liberty in a humorous, easy-to-understand that will be appreciated by students as young as 7 or 8. McLaughlin sets these stories in a fictional city with an activist mayor and city council. Each story follows a similar storyline. A problem arises, the mayor and/or members of the city council come up with a legislative solution to the problem, their rule or law steps on someone's rights, and they backtrack to make sure to treat everyone fairly. The townspeople cover such topics as freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, unreasonable search and seizure, public safety, and freedom of the press. At the end of each chapter, the readers is asked to think about how the mayor or council addressed the problem, whether the solution worked, and what were the consequences of the solution. The solutions never are as simple as they seem. Together the townspeople realize that "Treating everyone the same way isn't always fair. . . . Sometimes we have to be treated differently to give everyone the same opportunities." McLaughlin encourages her young readers to think about freedom and the law with both the effectiveness and the consequences in mind, and to speak up if they think a law is unfair. She writes, "It is only when some brave person . . . says, 'That's not fair!

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