

Activity 3: Anybody, Somebody, Nobody and Everybody

This is a story by an unknown author about four people named “Everybody,” “Anybody,” “Somebody” and “Nobody” with an important job to do. Read the story, then discuss using the questions below.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry because it was Everybody’s job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn’t do it. The result was Everybody blamed Somebody, when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Questions

- Who are the main characters of the story?*
- What is the author trying to say by using indefinite pronouns in this way?*
- How would you summarize what happened in the story?*
- How does this story relate to your community?*
- Explain a situation or incident in your community, school or life that relates to the story.*
- What are some of the “important jobs” in a community or at school that people expect others to accomplish and then complain (or blame someone) if nobody does them?*
- Select one or more of the following examples of “important jobs to be done.” Read the story again with one of the following as the “important job.” (picking up litter in your community, cleaning up a polluted stream, removing unwanted trash from a public park, turning off lights when leaving a room, reducing traffic problems, saving an historic building from being demolished, protecting a local woodland, constructing a biking/hiking trail from your neighborhood to the shopping area or school, planting trees to shade a parking lot, constructing a corner playground or garden on an empty lot).*
- What is the moral of the story?*
- Who is responsible for making things happen in your community?*
- Why is it important to learn about your role in local government?*
- Explain the quote “Democracy only works when you participate.”*
- What are some actions you can take to improve your community?*