

PS 39 Diversity and Inclusion Book of the Month: March
Theme: Women's History

Book Title: Sonia Sotomayor
A Judge Grows in the Bronx/La juez que creció en el Bronx
By Jonah Winter

Grade Level: 2nd / 3rd

Discussion Questions:

- Author Jonah Winter compares Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor to a blossoming flower throughout Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx. Why?
- This is a bilingual book, meaning that it is written in two languages—English and Spanish. Why did the author feel it was important to write this book in both languages? Do you know anyone who is bilingual?
- Why do you think Sonia's mother did not attend school past the third grade when she was growing up? What kind of sacrifices did she make for Sonia and her brother? Do you think Sonia would be where she is today if she didn't have her mother's support? Why or why not?
- Discuss the meaning of the term "role model." Who were Sonia's role models while she was growing up? And who were her role models later in life? Do you have a role model?
- How did you feel when you read about Sonia's home and childhood, and why? Why was Sonia described as a "special" judge because she grew up in the South Bronx? In what ways did her childhood help her become a person who fights for justice?
- Sonia's Puerto Rican culture is referenced throughout her story. What role does her culture play in her life?
- Sonia had to overcome many hurdles when she was young, like the death of her father and being diagnosed with diabetes. Did these obstacles stand in her way, or did they make her a stronger person? What helped her to cope?
- Nancy Drew books and a television show called *Perry Mason* encouraged young Sonia to become a judge. How? Do any books or television shows cause you to think about your future career or job? Why did Sonia change her mind about becoming a detective?
- Sonia's excellent grades in school enabled her to attend prestigious Princeton University. But what happened when Sonia arrived at Princeton? How did she feel?
- Even after being nominated for the Supreme Court, Sonia still encountered some "bumps in her path." What were they? And how did she handle these bumps?
- Why do you think President Obama chose Sonia to be the first Hispanic nominee to the Supreme Court of the United States. Why was she "the perfect choice"? And why do you think Sonia chose to speak about her mother during her announcement ceremony? Are you inspired by Sonia and her journey to the Supreme Court? How did you feel when you found out that there has never been a Latina(o) Supreme Court Justice?
- Hard work and determination are two of the most obvious themes in this book. What are some other themes you can identify?
- What words would you use to describe Sonia Sotomayor?