

“We the People...”

Written by Elliot Guerra and Kathy Stout

Based on the play “We the People...” by Pat Cook and Bill Francoeur

Music Directed by Katharine Sun Cho

“God bless America.”

Drafted  
April 2018

*Lights up.*

“Hamilton” Cold Open w/ six students

Six Students: Alejandro, Justin, Maya, Christopher, Jordyn, Leeyah, Taleen

*Curtain Opens. Pre K 3 and Pre K 4 are dressed as colonial founding fathers.*

Please stand...

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. God Bless America.

Please be seated.

*Pre K 3 and Pre K 4 sing “You’re a Grand old Flag.” They take their seats. Curtain closes. In front of the curtain students walk out onto the thrust.*

Caelyn

Well, I personally believe it’s a good idea, and we should really put some thought into it.

Zion

Of course. I think we all agree on that.

Caelyn

Though sometimes I wonder if Sam is up to it. She never seems to go along with anyone of us. It drives me crazy!

Emma

Don’t worry about Sam.

Zion

After all, the student council chose us for a reason. Even though we’re all different, she thought we were the right ones to pull this off.

Emma

I think the idea to put on a patriotic play for the school is a great idea.

Caelyn  
But where do we start?

Emma  
We certainly have a lot to cover.

All (*improvised.*)  
Hi Sam, been waiting for you. Well if it isn't Sam!

Sam  
Sorry I'm late. I could give you a bad excuse, or do you just want to get started?

Caelyn  
I vote we officially get started. All in favor.

All  
I!

Emma  
Good. Let's get this show on the road.

Sam  
Nobody cares about patriotism anymore.

Caelyn  
I disagree, Sam. I think this will be good for the school.

Sam  
But how is some play going to hold anyone's interest?

Emma  
Sam, I think you'd be surprised. They enjoyed Julius Caesar and Our American Cousin.

Zion  
One question.

Caelyn

Yes?

Zion

How are we going to pull this off?

Sam

Exactly!

Caelyn

Well, we'll have to use our imagination.

Emma

Maybe we could each say a few words about America. This great country of ours...

Zion

The United States. The land of the free.

Caelyn

The noble experiment!

Emma

Made up of people from all over the world.

Sam

It's "old glory." Purple mount majesties... Above the fruited plain. All that stuff?

Emma

It's the constitution.!

Caelyn

All right let's take a look at the constitution, its here in this book... Oh what's the use? *(They all check phones.)* Here we go. "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution of the United States of America.

Zion

That's a mouthful.

Emma

Let's take a little at a time—break it into phrases.

Zion

We're gonna need help. But I like where we're going. I'll get some more students.

Caelyn

Good idea, let me see... "We the people...."

*Blackout. The curtain opens. Kindergarten is dressed like Wild West explorers and sing "This Land is Your Land." Curtian closes. Students walk on thrust. Lights up.*

Adam

Alright, so what do you have so far, fill us in.

Emma

Ok, where are we... "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union... aha, establish justice!"

Sebastian

It's such a broad area.

Adam

Exactly.

Jay

Are we talking bout lawyers? (*Shudders.*)

Emma

Lawyers are only a small piece of the puzzle.

Adam

You're right. We can't show justice in our play by only talking about one thing.

Emma

Let's start with the basics. Justice is a fundamental part of our three branches of government.

Sebastian  
Executive.

Jay  
Legislative

Emma  
And judicial! The legislative makes the laws, the executive signs the laws and the judicial upholds and interprets the law.

Sebastian  
Justice is more than that. A big part of it is that everyone in this country has a right to be tried in a court of law.

Adam  
You have the right to an attorney

Jay  
Equal representation for all.

Sebastian  
And treating everyone equally.

Emma  
Yes, all true but what would a day at the judicial branch be like... hmm...

*Blackout. The curtain opens. The Second Grade is dressed in robes, shirt, ties, ascots and collars.*

1. Here ye, here ye- this gavel I do crunch
2. We Supreme Court Justices must all break now for lunch
3. We are the Supreme Court- the highest in the land
4. Our work is very serious...our outfits are quite bland
5. All morning we've been listening to the most important cases
6. We've asked important questions and we've made important faces

7. Later we will gather here to make a final call
8. but not before we take our lunch- SANDWICHES FOR ALL!
9. Hey wait a second, justices, where did our lunches go?
10. We left them all piled here right before the show
11. They were here alright, but now they have been taken!
12. Someone took my BLT? no may extra bacon?!?
13. Who would rob the highest court of their BLT's?
14. Isn't it quite obvious? It was Mr. G!
15. Lets not be so quick to judge before we are so sure
16. But he's been taking lunches since we were pre-k 4!
17. That's very true but we must here all sides before ruling
18. The case of missing BLT's has got this justice drooling
19. We must look at the law and hear from every side
20. Only then will we discover where our lunches hide
21. Call the bailiff, call the clerks- this court is back in session
22. Call up Clarence Thomas- he'll teach this thief a lesson!
23. We did not get these high seats by speaking while we're angry
24. But it's so hard to rule a court when you're feeling hangry
25. Justices! Over here! There's something you must see
26. What's that in the distance? Is that my BLT?
27. And here is mine! I even found my side of extra ranch
28. I guess this is just another day in the Judicial Branch.

*Curtain closes. In front of the curtain:*

DJ

First grade really knows how to bring the justice

Matthew

Yeah, good thing they found those sandwiches or Mr. G would have found himself in a world of trouble! Don't mess with the first grade.

Enzo

Ok guys, but what's next in the constitution? Emma says we have to follow it. This is our shot and I almost got eaten by a bear last play so let's make it count.

DJ

Lets see, "we the people in order to form a more perfect union establish justice...ensure domestic tranquility."

Enzo

Ensure? Isn't that like...a protein shake for the olds?

DJ

No- well yes- but it's also a promise.

Matthew

Yeah it's saying that all people deserve tranquility

Jake

I hear you- I was meandering through Ikea the other day and I found SO much domestic tranquility, it was bananas.

DJ

I'm not sure our forefathers were thinking of affordable Swedish furniture, but there are only good ideas in the brainstorming process- what else?

Jake

It sounds to me like they're saying that Americans work hard and for that work they earn the ability to find joy

Matthew

Yeah, I know of some workers who could probably explain this well- let's go get the second grade!

*A factory whistle blares. The curtain opens.*



## Grade 2 – Workers - Ensure domestic tranquility.

*Blackout. In front of the curtain.*

Autumn

What's next, what's next? Ladies, it is our turn, we have to come up with something or the show is going to be ruined!

Kate

Relax Autumn, remember we're following the Constitution.

Lara

It says here- provide for the common defense.

Kate

Well that's easy enough- support our troops, right?

Emily

Yeah but it's more than that. It says provide- which means that we all participate in our own common defense.

Kennedy / Rocco

In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility—I welcome it. I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it—and the glow from that fire can truly light the world.

And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.

My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man!

Lara

Wow! Rocco that was awesome.

Emily  
President Kennedy's inaugural address.

Rocco  
Thank you girls. Now that's good chowder Bobby.

Emily  
Rocco, I think you've lost it.

Rocco  
Sorry I'm still in character. How about we hear from those brave Americans who have answered Kennedy's call to do for America rather for themselves.

Emily  
Sounds like a job for fourth grade.

Lara  
Let's do it.

Autumn  
Sounds like a plan! The fourth grade!

## Grade 4 – Soldiers

*The soldiers sit and the lights grow darker and blue. Single spotlights illuminate the speakers.*

Lincoln / Christopher  
Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Washington / Collin  
February 16, 1778 "It is with great reluctance I trouble you on a subject that occasions me more distress than I have felt since the commencement of the war. For some days past there has been little less than a famine in the camp. Bare and starving as they are, we cannot enough admire the incomparable

patience and fidelity of these soldiers. I am, on my part, putting every engine to work, that I can possibly think of, to prevent the fatal consequences.

General George Washington

Civil War Soldier / Arjun

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.

Mother / Sofia

How it all came about, I don't know. But our country was at war a'fore we knew it. Mr. Lincoln, he said a country divided against itself cannot stand. My William put great stock in what Mr. Lincoln said that day. And well, he done up and enlisted. August 1862, it was. He looked so smart in his uniform. He was so proud, and we was so proud of him. He wrote us when he could, but that weren't often. He never let on how bad it was for him. And I wrote him back every change I could. (*Points off*) That's his gravestone yonder. Oh, he ain't in it, but we put up a stone just the same.

World War 2 Soldier / Rohan

We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

Modern Day Soldier / Chloe

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

Housewife / Paige

You have to understand, we all had to make sacrifices during World War Two. That was what it was all about, what it was all for. And when we stopped to think what our boys were going through over there.. well, it was little enough for us to do without. Oh, there were scrap iron divers, rubber drives, paper dives—everything went for the war effort. And we were rationed over here—we had these ration books. We were only allowed so many eggs, so much meat, that kind of thing. It was so scary. I mean, you'd

sometimes go to bed and wonder that maybe when you woke up, you wouldn't be free anymore.

Lincoln / Christopher

It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—

World War 2 Soldier / Rohan

that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people,

Modern Day Soldier / Chloe  
by the people,

Civil War Soldier / Arjun  
for the people,

Lincoln  
shall not perish from the earth.

*Blackout. Curtain closes. In front of the curtain.*

Abigail  
That was beautiful.

Jayleen  
Yeah that last scene was powerful, it reminds us that serving the country and thanking our troops isn't just saying support the troops or watching a plane fly over the super bowl.

Michaela  
No doubt.

Jayleen  
It's the home stretch guys- what's next?

Isabella

We the people blah blah blah establish justice yadda yadda...promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty

Abigail

That's a mouthful- promote the general welfare *and* secure the blessings of liberty?

Michaela

I heard that welfare is just another word for handout.

Jayleen

You're a monster sometimes you know that.

Isabella

We're a Catholic school, be a person please.

Michaela

Ok ok so the general welfare...like the wellbeing of all people

Abigail

Something that we have to fight to promote

Jayleen

Even when we face an uphill climb.

*Brad, Gabriella and Julianna enter.*

Gabriella

Like passing the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment, the civil rights movement, the women's right to vote!

Abigail

Ok, all good ideas but guys, this our scene.

Michaela

Yeah scram!

Julianna

Hey Gabriella has a good point. The general welfare of the people often comes not from government ideas but the people themselves.

Isabella  
We're listening.

Julianna  
Like, you see how we are all disagreeing right now?

Brad  
Like that's a first.

Julianna  
Well in our own country we have disagreed on lots of things, but it is the people, not laws that change people's minds.

Jayleen  
Right, the people have been inspired by those Americans that have fought for the welfare of others.

Isabella  
Dorothy Day, Cesar Chavez!

Gabriella  
Brad!

Brad  
Yeah?

Julianna  
Come on do the speech.

Brad  
Nah, come on.

Gabriella  
No, we really need you to inspire the world, just like Dr. King.

Brad  
Nah, I'm too nervous, forget it...

Abigail  
What speech?

Gabriella  
Only the most amazing speech ever, come on Brad.

Julianna  
It's like the whole point of the evening, the student council is counting on us to put on a show.

MLK / Brad  
Nah, I'm not gonna do it... *(he suddenly bursts into the speech brilliantly)*  
I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I HAVE A DREAM TODAY!

*The students all clap.*

Julianna  
Now that's inspiring.

Gabriella  
You see, disagreeing with the status quo, fighting for justice, that's the most American thing about a democracy, we have.

Michalea  
Dissenting is often patriotic!

Isabella  
Hey- I think the third grade was getting a rally together- I'm sure they could explain this one!

Abigail  
Great idea- lets get the third graders out here.

*Over the speakers we here Martin Luther King, Jr. over the Jimi Hendrix version of "The Star Spangled Banner."*

## Grade 3 – Civil Rights

Gabby R.  
Well, we did it.

Schona  
We went through the entire preamble of the constitution!

Gabby R.  
And we hope that it serves as a reminder of how great this country is.

Schona  
What's next?

Gabby R.  
The history of the world in under one hour!

Schona  
Maybe next year. so there you have it, a show the Student Council can be proud of.

Gabby R.  
Woah, Schona, what are you doing?

Schona  
I'm tying a bow on the thing.

Gabby R.  
Uh, excuse me, we were gonna have the big ending speech. Remember?  
Who runs the world?

Schona  
Squirrels!

Gabby R.  
What? No, girls!



Schona  
Right. Right. Ahem.

Susan B. Anthony / Schona  
It was we, the people; not we, the white male citizens; nor yet we, the male citizens; but we, the whole people, who formed the Union. And we formed it, not to give the blessings of liberty, but to secure them; not to the half of ourselves and the half of our posterity, but to the whole people - women as well as men. Susan B. Anthony, 1873

Gabby R.  
Nice!

So now, there you have it. Well folks.

Lauren and Shlok come out. Shlok holds a piece of paper.

Lauren  
Wait! Wait! We have a great idea.

Gabby R.  
A great idea for what?

Shlok  
The show, the student council Show, we are going to use a famous American document!

Schona  
Yeah, we know, the U.S. Constitution.

Lauren / Shlok  
The Declaration of Independence.

Gabby R.  
We don't have time!

Lauren  
No, no it's gonna be great! Show them Shlok!

Shlok

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands, which have connected them with another,

Gabby R.  
I appreciate the effort but...

Lauren  
Get to the good part Shlok

Shlok  
Ok, OK. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.-- That to secure these rights, Governments, Oh forget it. I'm exhausted.

Lauren  
Well, I guess this our show.

Gabby R.  
A show we can all be proud of, Made for the people,

Schona  
By the people

Gabby R.  
Of these united states of America.

*Blackout. Two spotlights rise.*

John Adams / Justin  
My dearest friend, whether I stand high or low in the estimation of the world, my conscious is clear. I thank God I have you as a partner in all the joys and sorrows, all the prosperities and adversities of my life, to take a part with me in the struggle...  
John Adams in a letter to his wife, Abigail Adams. 26 April 1777

Mrs Adams / Kaitlyn  
Should I draw you the picture of my heart, you would know with what indescribable pleasure I have seen so many scores of years roll over our heads, with an affection heightened and improved by time. Nor have the

dreary years of absence in the smallest degree effaced from my mind the image of the dear untitled man to whom I gave my heart. You could not be, nor did I wish to see you, an inactive spectator...

Abigail Adams to her husband John, 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 1782

John Adams / Justin

Oh posterity, you will never know how much it cost us to preserve your freedom. I hope that you will make a good use of it, for if you do not, I shall repent in Heaven that I ever took half the pains to preserve it.

*Blackout.*

The End

Gabriella  
Juliana  
Schona  
Gabrielle  
Sarah  
Isabella  
Michaela  
Jayleen  
Abigail

