
The Four Freedoms: Freedom from Fear

Lexile®: 670L Guided Reading: P

ISBN: 978-1-937529-94-9 (LB)

ISBN: 978-1-937529-86-4 (PB)

About the Book

During Franklin Delano Roosevelt's four terms of office as President of the United States, he spoke about four universal freedoms. With the United States on the brink of war in 1941, President Roosevelt argued that Americans, and all people around the world, deserved to live free from fear – in particular from threats from other countries. *Freedom from Fear* explores how Americans continue to support and protect this value.

Before Reading

Brainstorm organizations that help ensure our safety, such as the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, local police and fire departments, etc. Have students identify family members that serve or have served in these organizations and discuss their motivations for serving. Using news reports, discuss recent events, such as national emergencies or threats, when the agencies were called into action and how they helped.

During-Reading Discussion

1. After reading chapter one, ask: *Why is it important to not give into fear after events such as the attacks of 9/11?* If there is a recent event that caused widespread fear, ask: *How did your family or other adults help when you were afraid? How did the schools and government agencies help people?*
2. After reading chapter two, ask: *What are some reasons people leave their home country?* Brainstorm motivations, such as threats faced by people during the holocaust, fighting over politics, and fighting over ethnic differences. Using current examples, discuss what it must be like to live in constant fear. If any students or their relatives are recent immigrants, allow them to share experiences if they wish to.
3. After reading chapter three, ask: *What kinds of things scared you when you were little? How did you deal with them?* Discuss how there are some fears, such as monsters under the bed, that you realize are groundless as you grow up. Discuss how some fearful things are left to adults to handle. But kids can help others deal with fear, too. Ask: *What can you do to help if you see someone struggling with fear, such as being bullied or made fun of?*
4. Ask: *In his speech, Roosevelt stated: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." What do you think this means?*
5. Ask: *What is the most important message from this book?* Have students identify author statements and photos that support their answers.

After-Reading Activities

Thanking Those Who Serve

Brainstorm ways to help people who are in service to others. Consider taking on a project, such as sending cards or letters to members of the armed services, raising money for the Red Cross, or volunteering for disaster relief programs or at a food pantry.

Care to Compare

Choose a country with continued strife and monitor events on a weekly basis. Have students bring in articles and create a bulletin board or chart that tracks the events. Create a Venn diagram that compares the life of that country's students to their lives.

Common Core State Standards

ELA- Reading Informational Text:
RI.4.1; RI.4.2; RI.4.3; RI.4.4; RI.4.5;
RI.4.7; RI.4.8