



# Teaching with Ketanji Brown Jackson

## From “Most Likely to Succeed” to the Supreme Court

### CONNECTION TO STANDARDS

Students will ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.1)

### DIFFERENTIATION FOR ESL

- Review these additional vocabulary words in context:  
*represent, talented, competitions, aim, honors, retire, inspire, confirmed, historic, opportunities.*
- Have each student choose a vocabulary word and write it in a new sentence.



Lexile: 840L  
Words: 789

GRL: TK

### BEFORE READING

**Build Background Knowledge:** Write the words Supreme Court on the board. Invite volunteers to raise their hands to share what the U.S. Supreme Court is and what it does.

- Tell students that the Supreme Court is the highest court in the country. The Supreme Court decides whether new laws agree with the U.S. Constitution, a list of the highest and most basic laws of the nation. A Supreme Court Justice is one of the nine judges that serves on the Supreme Court.

**Preview:** Show the book’s cover. Ask students if they know who Ketanji Brown Jackson is. Then explain that she is one of the nine Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court.

- Read the word “succeed”. Explain that to succeed means to do well at or achieve something. Invite students to share something they have succeeded at.
- Lead students in a brief picture walk of the book, exploring the illustrations and photos on each page. Have students identify one or two details in each illustration or photo. Point out the text features.

**Predict:** Ask students to predict some of the things they will learn about Ketanji Brown Jackson in the book. Have students support their predictions with evidence they discovered while previewing the book.

**Vocabulary:** Turn to page 23 (“Words to Know”). Review each vocabulary word and the provided definition. Strengthen understanding of words students do not know well by modeling how to use the word in a sentence. Create sentences with rich context clues.

**Skill Introduction:** Write “5 W’s” on the board. Explain to students that the 5 W’s are the five basic questions they should ask themselves when reading about a topic. Invite volunteers to share what the 5 W’s stand for. Then write them on the board:

1. **Who** is the text about?
2. **What** happened?
3. **When** did it take place?
4. **Where** did it take place?
5. **Why** did it happen?

Then explain that there is a sixth basic question, an “H”. Ask students to guess what the H stands for. Then add it to your list of questions on the board:

6. **How** did the event happen?

Instruct students to think about and ask themselves the 5 W’s and the H questions as they read the book.

## DURING READING

**Check for Understanding:** After you read each section, ask students to share or write down one important fact they learned about Ketanji Brown Jackson.

## Reinforce Vocabulary

- p. 4: Review the definition of *ancestry*. Invite students to share their ancestry with the class and what it means to them.
- p. 19: Go over the definition of *majority*. Ask students to use the word *majority* in a sentence based on their observation of the classroom. (Ex.: *The majority of students in this class are boys. The majority of students are wearing sneakers.*)

## AFTER READING

**Theme:** Explain that the main idea of the book is that Ketanji Brown Jackson’s Supreme Court nomination was historic. Invite students to share key facts from the text that support the main idea.

- Remind students that Ketanji’s high school classmates voted her “most likely to succeed.” Invite them to share what qualities and accomplishments Ketanji had in high school that may have prompted them to vote for her. Did their prediction come true?

**Skill:** Have students complete the “5 W’s and an H” worksheet.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## 5 W's and an H

Use information from the book to fill out the who, what, where, when, why, and how questions below.

1. **Who** is the book about?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. **What** is Ketanji's current job?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. **Where** does Ketanji live and work? (*Hint: It's the capital of the U.S. and where the U.S. government is located*). \_\_\_\_\_

4. **When** did Ketanji begin her current job?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. **Why** is Ketanji's job so special and historic?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. **How** did Ketanji get her job?

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\_\_\_\_\_