



# School-Home Connection

Your child is reading “Darnell Rock Reporting” by Walter Dean Myers. The story is about a boy who writes an article for his school newspaper suggesting that the unused basketball courts at his school be used as a garden where people who are homeless could grow food. The issue is brought before the City Council for a vote. You might ask your child to retell the story. Discussing the story with your child and working on one or more of the following activities together provide opportunities to explore and develop your child’s language skills.

## Current Community Issues

Discuss with your child a topic of interest or debate in your local community. What are the arguments for and against the idea? What impact would it have on your local community? On your own lives? Consider attending with your child a local town council meeting about the idea.

## VOCABULARY

### Related Words

The selection vocabulary includes terms such as *ordinance*, *violations*, and *issue*, as well as *agenda*, *funding*, *postpone*, and *effective*. You might want to talk with your child about related terms such as *bylaws*, *regulation*, *proposal*, and *variance*. Discuss the differences and similarities in meanings that these words have with the first three vocabulary words.

## Many Sides to an Issue

Talk with your child to identify a current issue at school. Ask what might be done to resolve the issue satisfactorily for most members of the school. Discuss how every issue has more than one side and why people have meetings and debates before issues are resolved. Help your child think of the pros and cons for each side.



### TIME TO READ

Encourage your child to read for at least 30 minutes outside of class each day.

