



{ How do we make the world more just? }

Justice, Justice

All her life, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the first Jewish woman named to the Supreme Court of the United States, remembered the “sting of prejudice” she felt when her family experienced injustice. She internalized the teaching of the first-century sage Rabbi Hillel: “That which is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow humans. That is the whole Torah – the rest is commentary.” This call to empathy underpins all of Jewish law. Perhaps that’s why Ruth displays another Jewish teaching in her court chambers: “Tzedek, tzedek tirdof – Justice, justice you shall pursue” (Deuteronomy 16:20).

HANDS ON!

Make an “I Dissent” Collar

At the end of this book, we learn that Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wears a specific collar with her robe when she disagrees with the court’s ruling. Make your own “dissenting” collar.

Supplies:

Paper doily (8 ½ inch round)

Scissors

Draw a circle in the center that will fit around your neck. Cut a slit through the doily to the circle, then cut out the circle.

For the full RBG effect, put on a black shirt. Carefully open the collar to place around your neck. It should stay in place by itself, but if you like, you can use a small piece of tape to secure the opening.

Now you can make it clear when you dissent!

Inquiring and Inspiring

Do you find this book inspiring? If so, you have something in common with Justice Ginsburg. Before she became known as the Notorious RBG, young Ruth found inspiration in books -- especially books about groundbreaking women like Amelia Earhart. Books were a window into the kind of world Ruth wanted to live in, and soon she got to work helping to make that world a reality. To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/idissent.

Finishing the Work

Even Justice Ginsburg can’t change the world all by herself. Tikkun olam, Hebrew for “repairing the world,” is an enormous job. As it says in the Talmud, the core collection of rabbinic writings: “It is not your responsibility to finish the work [of repairing the world], but nor are you free to desist from it.” Justice Ginsburg has helped make the world fairer than it used to be, but there’s more to work to do. What can you do to change the world?

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

IN this story, Ruth thinks many rules are unfair and works to change them. Can you think of any rules that you would like to change? Why?

RUTH’S children receive confused looks when they say that their mother argues before the Supreme Court while their father makes dinner. Why are people confused? What do you think about it?

IF you could talk to Ruth, what questions would you ask her? What advice do you think she might give you?