

New York Times Bestselling Author

PREET BHARARA

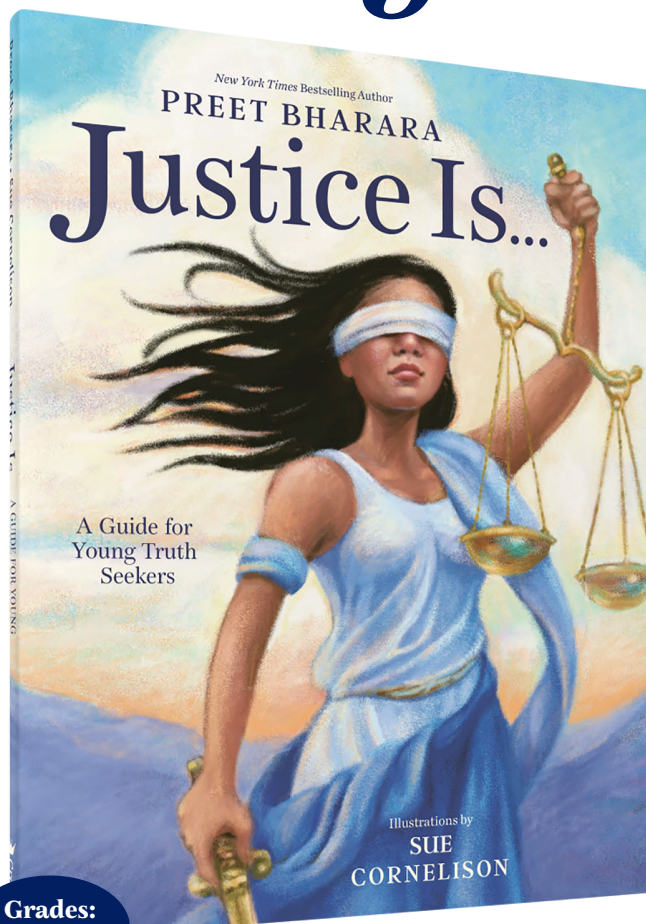
Justice Is...

A Guide for
Young Truth
Seekers

Illustrations by
**SUE
CORNELISON**

Justice Is...

HC: 978-0-593-17662-7 • EL: 978-0-593-17665-8 • GLB: 978-0-593-17666-5



Grades:
Pre-K-3

ABOUT THE BOOK

Introduce the concept of justice to young people with this picture book by *New York Times* bestselling author of *Doing Justice*, Preet Bharara.

In clear and simple language, Preet Bharara, former US attorney for the Southern District of New York, explains what justice is and what it takes to achieve it for even the youngest readers. Drawing on examples of historic justice seekers such as Ida B. Wells, John Lewis, Malala Yousafzai, and many others, this timely book is perfect for exploring the concept of justice. Inspire young readers to fight for justice in their world and to remain hopeful.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Preet Bharara served as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York from 2009 to 2017. Bharara oversaw the investigation and litigation of all criminal and civil cases and supervised an office of more than 200 Assistant U.S. Attorneys, who handled cases involving terrorism, narcotics and arms trafficking, fraud, cybercrime, public corruption, gang violence, organized crime, and civil rights violations. He is the host of CAFE's *Stay Tuned with Preet*, a podcast focused on issues of justice and fairness and a Senior Legal Analyst for CNN. In 2017, Bharara joined the NYU School of Law faculty as a Distinguished Scholar in Residence. Bharara graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College and from Columbia Law School, where he was a member of the law review.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Sue Cornelison is an author-illustrator who lives and works in St. Charles, Iowa. She found her shaking yet defiant voice very early, standing up to bullies and other childhood injustices. Today, she likes illustrating books that inspire children to be brave. She admires the courageous leaders in the book who, against all odds, stood up for what is right. Cornelison relishes spending time with family, coaching her tumbling and trampoline team, and playing wildlife photographer when she isn't working on her many projects. You can find her at suecornelison.com.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of the word *symbol*? What are some examples of common symbols? The cover of *Justice Is...* depicts Lady Justice, a blindfolded woman who represents justice. She holds a sword in her right hand and scales in her left hand. What do you think the blindfold, sword, and scales symbolize? If you were to give Lady Justice more objects to hold, what would they be, and why?
2. *Justice Is...* is a guide for young truth seekers. What does it mean to seek? Why is it important to always seek the truth? Why is knowing the truth necessary for justice to happen?
3. Author Preet Bharara served as US attorney for the Southern District of New York from from 2009 to 2017, and is now a law professor, training new attorneys. What is an attorney? Discuss the importance of attorneys in the justice system. Consider a world without educated, fair, truthful attorneys. How would justice suffer without these advocates?
4. Read the quotes in the front and back of the book, such as this one from Nelson Mandela: "It always seems impossible until it is done." Discuss the meaning of each quote, and offer examples from your own experience and from current national and world events that relate to these statements.
5. The book opens with this text: *Justice is important. It takes hard work... and an open mind.* What does it mean to have an "open mind"? Why is having an open mind necessary for justice to exist?
6. Accompanying the spread featuring the swearing in of Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the text reads: *Justice needs to hear every side of the story.*



- Do you agree? Why do you think this statement is illustrated with Supreme Court justices? Think of a time in your life when a situation called for knowing "every side of the story." Discuss the experience and try to recall if all perspectives were considered? Was justice served in this instance?
7. Ida B. Wells was a journalist and anti-lynching crusader. Why do you think it is necessary to investigate and report on wrongs in our world? Why are journalists, such as Wells, necessary? Why do journalists and investigators have to ask a lot of questions in the pursuit of justice?
 8. Malala Yousafzai risked her life so that Pakistani girls could have an education. She eventually won the Nobel Peace Prize for her bravery and ongoing activism. Malala's story is an example of how dangerous fighting for justice can be. How can education help to create a more just and peaceful world? Does Malala's story inspire you to be a justice activist in your own community?
 9. The following line accompanies illustrations of tenement slums, the Holocaust, slavery, and the Trail of Tears: *Sometimes people worry that there is no Justice in the world.* Do you think the world is just? How is hope necessary in the ongoing struggle for justice?
 10. What do we mean by "No one is above the law"? Discuss examples from our world today where this statement is being put to the test. When people are given special treatment because of their place in the world, wealth, or power, how is justice weakened?
 11. Now that you know what justice is, how does it appear in your everyday life? What is your personal definition of the word?

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

1. **Lady Justice.** The cover of *Justice Is...* depicts justice as a blindfolded woman, holding a sword on one hand and scales in the other. Refer back to the first question in this guide, making sure students understand the concept of symbolism. Provide drawing paper and art supplies and give students time to create their own personification of justice.
2. **Getting the Word Out.** In the front and back of *Justice Is...*, students can read a series of powerful quotes by some of the justice warriors featured in the book. Use these quotes as a starting point for a school-wide campaign to promote justice. To begin, have each student (or pair) choose one of the quotes or find their own. Have students design a poster that features the quote and a simple illustration. Give students an opportunity to hang the finished works in public areas of the school.
3. **Wall of Justice.** *Justice Is...* features many historical figures who worked for the cause of justice. Learning about these and other justice icons is important, but it is equally important for students to understand that people continue to work tirelessly to achieve justice in the world today. Create a classroom wall display of justice-related current events. Spend time each day discussing issues in the news that relate to justice, such as Black Lives Matter, United States Supreme Court decisions, and local stories that concern the fight for justice. Share stories of individuals in the news who are working to make the world more just. Encourage students to research and to stay up-to-date on what is happening in their town, state, and country. Students can bring in news clippings or printouts, report on the story, and add artifacts to the wall.
4. **Justice Under the Law.** One line in *Justice Is...* reads: *We the people must make laws to protect justice.* But how are laws made? Discuss how the United States Congress writes and passes laws. Guide students to locate their state and federal congressional representatives. Have students write to their lawmakers about a justice-related issue that is currently being debated in Congress.
5. **Finding Your Voice.** After reading *Justice Is...* readers understand that each and every voice matters. Create a *Justice Is...* podcast in which each student takes a turn interviewing a member of the class to discuss justice issues and what young people can do to promote the cause of justice in their world. Each student will have a turn being the interviewer and also the guest.

Common Core Correlations:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1;

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.4;

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.5;

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.10



Justice Is...

HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM



Directions: Choose one person featured in *Justice Is...* or a different activist you would like to learn more about. On your own or with a partner, research the person's life and how they have contributed to making the world a more just place for all. Fill in the boxes below to nominate your chosen justice hero to the *Justice Is...* Hall of Fame.

Name

Date of birth

Place of birth

Contributions to justice

should be in the *Justice Is...* Hall of Fame because

Justice Is...

HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM



Draw a picture of your nominee.

PRAISE FOR Justice Is...

“A **beautiful, relevant** picture book.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“A **heartening** . . . introduction
to justice-focused luminaries.”

—*Publishers Weekly*



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Guide created by Colleen Carroll, literacy specialist, reading teacher, curriculum developer,
and children’s book author. To learn more about Colleen, visit colleencarroll.us.



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