THE CONSTITUTION WITH CARL

Volume 7 - The Sixth Amendment - A Fair and Speedy Trial

A Fair and Speedy Trial

Central question: What makes a criminal trial fair, and what goes wrong when a piece is missing?





Rights are God given and protected by the Constitution. They are not granted by government. This book reads the Sixth Amendment the careful way: the words first, then the history, then what courts have said, and only then what is still debated. Those four parts stay separate on every page.

When the government accuses a person of a crime, it brings enormous power: investigators, prosecutors, and the threat of punishment. The Sixth Amendment answers that power with a set of safeguards that belong to the accused. The trial must be speedy and public. Where the jury guarantee applies, the jury must be impartial and drawn under the rules on page 7. The accused must be told the charge, must have the opportunity to cross examine the witnesses against him, may call witnesses in his favor, and must have the help of a lawyer. Take away any one piece and the trial changes. This book gives each guarantee its own honest treatment.

For ages 7 to 11. Level Up boxes reach to age 13.

START HERE

Meet Carl and the Four Strands

Carl the Cardinal is Advocate Carl in this volume. He stands between two courtroom tables, one wing extended as if presenting a point, a slim case folder under the other wing. The two tables matter. In a fair trial there are two sides, and the accused does not stand alone against the government.

The four strands, kept separate

Strand	What it is
THE WORDS	The amendment itself, in ORIGINAL WORDS, plus a PLAIN LANGUAGE EXPLANATION set apart from it, one guarantee at a time.
THE HISTORY	Evidence from before and around 1791 about why the words were added.
COURTS HAVE SAID	Named cases with years. This is interpretation by judges, labeled as interpretation.
STILL DEBATED	Real disputes that remain. Stated fairly, never as settled fact.

How to use this book

- Read the words aloud first. Then read the explanation.
- Write, draw, point, or dictate your answers. All of those count.
- An accusation is not a conviction. Being charged starts a case. It never settles one.
- Activities are document based. No activity asks a child to play an accused person, and there is no mock courtroom in this book.
- Family Talk is where the family viewpoint lives. It is never presented as a court holding.

MEET CARL BOX

Carl in this volume is Advocate Carl. An advocate is someone who speaks and works on behalf of another person. Carl carries a blank case folder because a real defense is built from the charge, the evidence, and the witnesses, not from guessing.