The Corner Decision

Why laws and local leaders matter

4.C.1.3.A "Examine why citizens are expected to respect the law and institutions of authority."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two reasons people follow laws, and circle two actions public officials take to help the community.

A Safer Street by Maple School

1. At the corner by Maple School, cars must stop for a red light. One morning, a driver is late but stops anyway. Children crossing the street can count on drivers following the same law. If each driver decided when to stop, a child could step into traffic. Respecting this law protects people, even when obeying it is inconvenient.

2. After families report cars blocking the school entrance, the city council considers a local no-parking law for that spot. Council members listen to residents and vote. The law tells drivers where they cannot park. A police officer may give a ticket if someone breaks it. The council and police have different jobs, but both help make the street safer.

3. An adult disagrees with the new no-parking law because parking is already hard to find. The adult still follows it and speaks at a council meeting to suggest another place for cars to park. Respecting the council does not mean staying silent. It means using a fair way to ask for change instead of ignoring a law whenever it feels inconvenient.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does the late driver stop at the red light?

2. Why is it important that the council listens and votes before making the no-parking law?

3. How can the police officer help people follow the no-parking law?

4. Why does the adult follow the new law while asking the council to change it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your town passes a law requiring bicycle lights after dark. In three sentences, explain why people should follow the law, how a public official could help people follow it, and one respectful way to ask for a change if you disagree.

ANSWER KEY

The Corner Decision

GRADE 4 · 4.C.1.3.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two reasons people follow laws, and circle two actions public officials take to help the community. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does the late driver stop at the red light?	**Stopping protects people crossing the street, even when the driver is late.**
2	Why is it important that the council listens and votes before making the no-parking law?	**Listening and voting give residents a way to be heard before the council makes a law for everyone to follow.**
3	How can the police officer help people follow the no-parking law?	**The officer may give a ticket to someone who parks where the law says not to park.**
4	Why does the adult follow the new law while asking the council to change it?	**The adult respects the law while using a fair way to suggest a change.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Bike riders should use lights after dark so drivers can see them and avoid crashes. A police officer could explain the law to riders. If I disagreed with the law, I could speak at a town council meeting while still using a light.

Accept other passage-based explanations that connect following laws with safety or a fair process. For the open task, accept a different appropriate public official or respectful way to request change.