

★ **Event Kit** ★



**A patriotic new picture book
from best-selling author and illustrator**

Lane Smith

From the office of the President

Being president is a very important job.

There are babies to kiss, lunches to approve, and executive orders to give! With all these responsibilities, the president must be someone who is very gifted, exceptionally graceful, and remarkably fearless. In other words, me!

You've already read all about *my* critical day-to-day responsibilities as commander in chief, in *Madam President*. But there is one responsibility more crucial than creating your cabinet or tackling press conferences . . . the presidential party!

Inside this event kit you will find everything you need to host your own presidential party. This kit also includes special *Madam President* bumper stickers that can be used as take-aways, so your customers can bring the presidential spirit home with them after the event!

We hope you will enjoy the *Madam President* event kit, and give it your executive stamp of approval!

Sincerely,

Madam President

Madam President
(And all the diplomats
at Disney Hyperion Books)



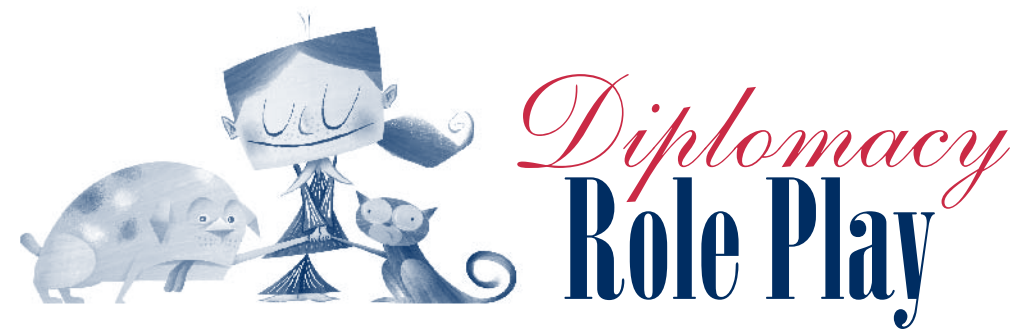
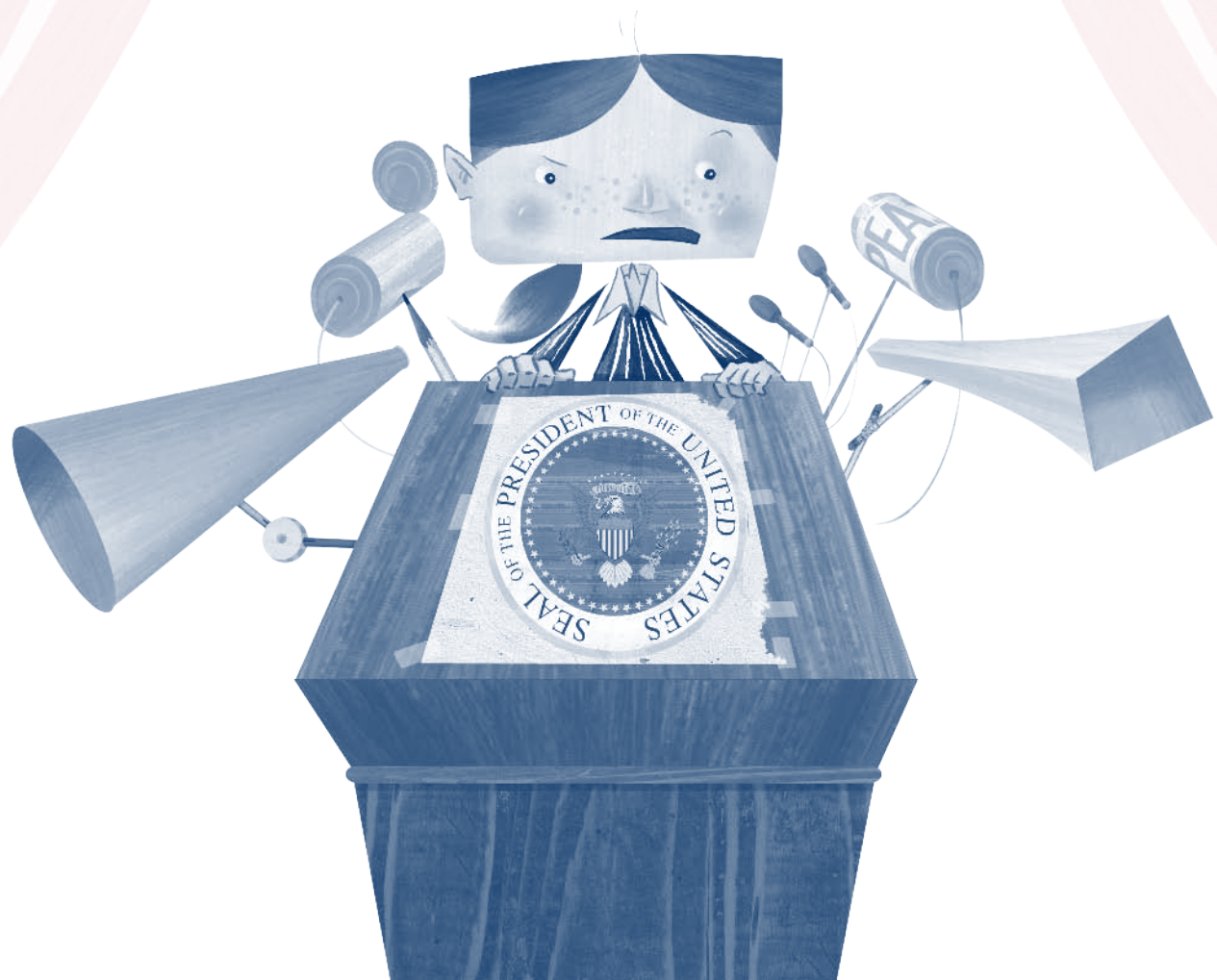
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Event Planning

Creating a Platform

- ★ **Decorations:** Red, white, and blue, of course! Flags of every size and shape are a necessity! After your “presidential party,” be sure to make space to show off the flags created by your “caucus members.”
- ★ **Refreshments:** Many bakeries have patriotic symbols that they use on cupcakes or sheet cakes. If you want to avoid cake crumbs, blueberry muffins can be an excellent substitute. Be sure to put a couple scoops of vanilla ice cream in a bright red fruit punch to continue your color theme.
- ★ **Activities:** There are a number of reproducible activities included in this kit. Create stations for the Make Your Own Flag, The Presidential Cabinet, and Word Search activities.
- ★ **Group Activities:** Diplomacy Role Play will need space for the actors to improvise. Fill-in-the-Blank can be used either as a group activity or as a take-home gift.



Cut the following role-play situations into individual strips and put them into a hat. Have the kids pair up and draw a situation to resolve.

Presidents must be good at diplomacy and negotiating, or they might not be president for very long.

A bully has taken over the playground at recess. You and your friends want to play soccer. What do you do?

Presidents must be good at diplomacy and negotiating, or they might not be president for very long.

Your teacher wants you to stay indoors and study, but you'd rather go out and have fun. What do you do to convince her to let you play?

Presidents must be good at diplomacy and negotiating, or they might not be president for very long.

Your best friend has a grilled cheese sandwich for lunch, and you've brought boring tuna fish. How do you convince her to trade?

Presidents must be good at diplomacy and negotiating, or they might not be president for very long.

One of your classmates wants to play kickball at recess, but you'd rather play softball. How do you convince your classmates to play the sport you want to play?

Presidents must be good at diplomacy and negotiating, or they might not be president for very long.

Your two best friends are fighting over who gets to sit next to you at your birthday party. How do you resolve their fight?

Name Badges

Copy and cut these sheets and distribute to your guests.



My Presidential To-Do List

If you were president for one day, what would you do? Create a to-do list of all of your presidential responsibilities, in order of importance. Put an "A" in the box next to the most important things, like homework; place a "B" next to things that are not quite so important but still have to be done, and "C" next to those that can wait a little while.

1. *Run the Country*
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

The Presidential Cabinet

No, it's not made of wood. Instead it's made up of people who do important jobs. Create your own personal cabinet, with Madam President as your inspiration.

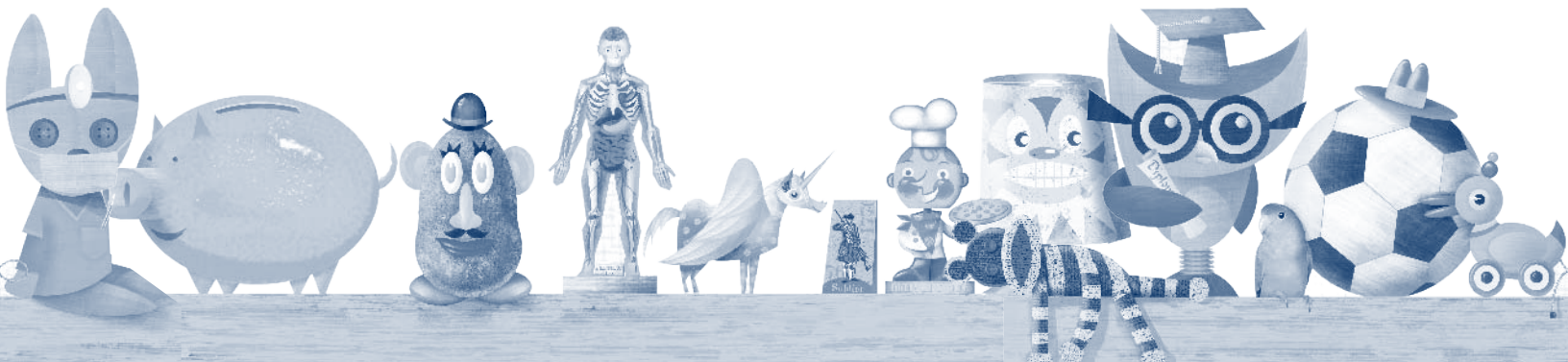


The current cabinet includes the following:

- Secretary of State
- Secretary of the Treasury
- Secretary of Defense
- Secretary of the Interior
- Secretary of Agriculture
- Secretary of Commerce
- Secretary of Labor
- Secretary of Health and Human Services
- Attorney General
- Secretary of Homeland Security
- Secretary of Veterans Affairs
- Secretary of Education
- Secretary of Energy
- Secretary of Transportation
- Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Your cabinet includes (What is most important to you? What do you need help with?):

Secretary of _____	Secretary of _____
Secretary of _____	Secretary of _____
Secretary of _____	Secretary of _____
Secretary of _____	Secretary of _____
Secretary of _____	Secretary of _____
Secretary of _____	Secretary of _____
Secretary of _____	Secretary of _____



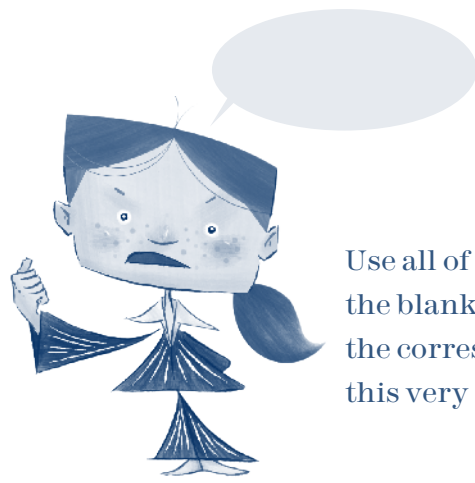
Fixing the World Essay Contest

Presidents are good at helping people. Think about what is happening in your community and in the world. What would make it a better place? Pick one problem or issue that you care about and write a short essay about how you would help if you were president.



Blank writing area with a vertical red margin line on the left and horizontal blue lines for writing.

Presidential Fill-in-the-Blank



Use all of your creativity and silliness in this activity! Fill in the blanks in the story below with any word you choose from the corresponding category listed. When you are done, read this very silly story out loud to a friend!



As President, the first thing I do when I wake up is _____ and exercise on my _____.

Ah, that feels so _____! For breakfast, I always enjoy scrambled _____ and toast

with my favorite drink of _____ juice. The trip to the office is short, since it is just down

the hall. However, I always try to _____ all the way, just to make it more interesting. In my

_____ Oval Office, my daily brief is ready for me on my _____.

What?!? There's a crisis in _____? Get my Secretary of _____ in my office right now!

Meanwhile, I see a bill on my desk to outlaw _____. As soon as I sign this, we'll fly on Air

Force One to _____. After we get there, I have to admit I've never seen such _____

_____. Fortunately, my diplomacy skills come in handy as I tell everyone to _____,

and then I kiss the babies.

Back home, I have a meeting with the President of _____, and we discuss how to

_____ our countries. We meet in the _____ garden and _____ for the

cameras. Photo ops are so _____.

Back in the West Wing, it's time to wind up the day and approve tomorrow's schedule. I can't

believe it! _____ is coming to receive a medal for _____! It's all in a day's work

when you're president!



★ Presidential Word Search ★

E	G	M	Q	S	L	I	N	C	O	L	N	W	B	L	A	C	T	V	R
W	I	A	C	U	P	J	Y	C	L	I	N	T	O	N	T	A	W	F	O
B	F	S	V	R	Q	V	A	S	V	E	T	O	Y	S	D	R	F	T	O
E	O	J	E	F	F	E	R	S	O	N	V	J	U	M	K	T	L	A	S
L	R	G	Q	N	W	T	S	Y	U	I	R	E	O	A	P	E	L	P	E
R	C	R	Z	X	H	O	C	V	H	V	U	B	L	D	N	R	M	C	V
V	J	A	C	K	S	O	N	Q	E	D	S	E	Y	A	B	E	N	D	E
U	E	N	M	X	A	R	W	T	I	V	H	T	M	N	N	V	A	S	L
Y	J	T	M	O	N	R	O	E	E	R	L	U	A	B	I	D	N	O	T
D	E	M	O	I	A	H	A	T	R	E	M	R	D	B	X	A	B	I	E
E	T	R	C	N	C	H	O	O	V	E	R	A	I	A	O	R	N	E	D
N	A	D	A	M	E	M	E	E	S	T	O	H	S	O	N	M	A	M	Q
N	Q	I	J	A	W	A	S	H	I	N	G	T	O	N	Y	B	M	L	X
E	A	Q	V	E	T	O	P	A	U	L	R	H	N	T	S	A	U	I	A
K	W	I	L	S	O	N	J	O	N	N	E	G	E	O	R	G	R	S	M
O	A	V	L	R	E	A	G	A	N	F	F	I	C	E	V	E	T	O	H

Find the following past presidents!

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|--------------------------------|---------|
| Washington | Lincoln | Roosevelt (yes, there are two) | Reagan |
| Adams | Grant | Truman | Clinton |
| Jefferson | Cleveland | Eisenhower | Bush |
| Madison | Roosevelt | Kennedy | |
| Monroe | Wilson | Nixon | |
| Jackson | Hoover | Carter | |

☆☆☆ Extra points!

See how many **VETO**es you can find as well!

Answers on page 14



Make Your Own Flag

Do you want to be president? You have two choices: either be elected to the presidency of the United States or start your own country! If you create your own country, say, in your backyard or another handy location, think about what your country stands for! What would be your motto? What would you call your personal country? Create a flag in the square below and make sure it represents what your country stands for!



★★★★★ An Interview with *Lane Smith!*



Question: *How did the idea for Madam President come about?*

Lane Smith: It was June 2006. I was at the American Library Association convention in New Orleans, nearly a year after Hurricane Katrina, and the area was still in disarray. I was there to talk about *John, Paul, George & Ben*, so I had our founding fathers in my thoughts. I wondered what Washington or Jefferson would've done. This got me to thinking about the massive responsibilities a president has to contend with. I began to jot down ideas. I began with, "A president has many duties..." Of course, after several rewrites the tone became lighthearted and comical. My books always turn out that way. But I'm proud to say it also has many sweet moments. A first for me.

Question: *Why did you make your heroine a girl?*

Lane: I didn't want to make a heavy-handed statement about gender: "Girls can be president, just like boys!" I thought it would be fun and more impactful to make the president female and never mention it.

Question: *What do you think is a president's most important duty?*

Lane: Keeping the peace. Also ordering waffles in an authoritative way.

Question: *Which executive privilege would you, Lane Smith, most like to have?*

Lane: That veto power is pretty neat.

Question: *If you had a veto stamp of your own, where would you apply it first?*

Lane: On my income taxes. No more taxes for Mr. Lane!

Question: *Do you have a favorite illustration in the book? What's the story behind it?*

Lane: I like the page with all the kids going to class, and the secret service agent (a cat in sunglasses) is keeping an eye on Madam President from behind a tree. That cat is modeled after our Persian cat, Pretzel. She's a real goofball. Truth be told, she would make a terrible secret service agent. The president would be trying to get through crowds on her way to Air Force One and Pretzel would be in a corner, distracted by a string.

Question: *This is your second book with a presidential subject. What draws you to this topic? (Pun intended.)*

Lane: Ha. Good one. I've always loved history, but when my wife and I moved to a part of Connecticut rich with Colonial history, the subject started to seep into my work.

Question: *What would you do if you were president? Keep in mind that naming Jon Scieszka as an ambassador has already been done.*

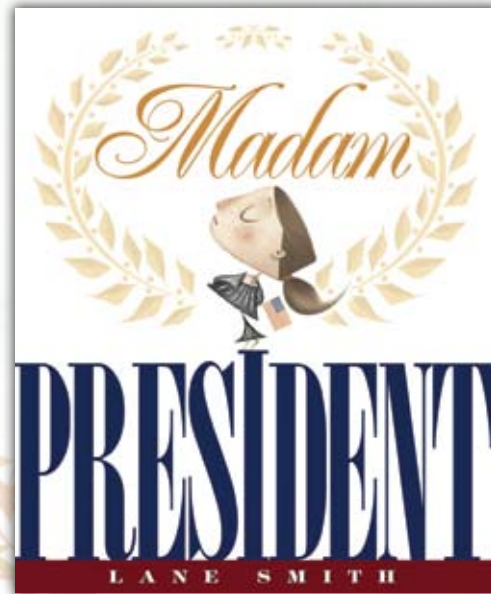
Lane: Darn! Someone beat me to it. Has anyone made the Stinky Cheese Man an ambassador? Maybe Ambassador to France? Le Petit Homme du Fromage? The book is dedicated to my wife, Molly Leach: Secretary of Design. She designs all my books. If president, I would officially give her that position in my cabinet.

Question: *What do you wish I had asked that I didn't?*

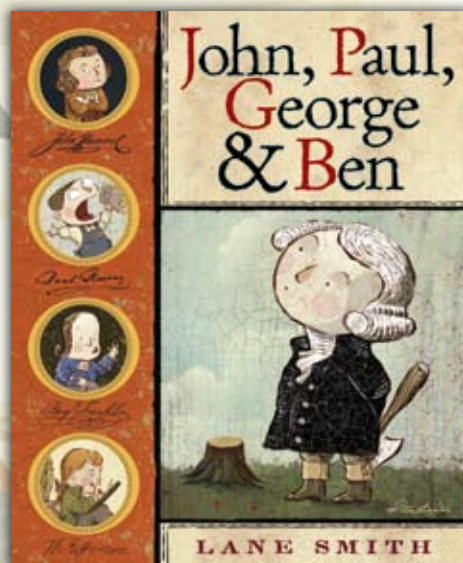
Lane: Lane, is that your real hair? It looks great! In fact, downright presidential!

Lane Smith is a Caldecott Honor–winning illustrator for *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*. His latest book, *John, Paul, George & Ben*, received countless honors, including three starred reviews, a *New York Times* Best Illustrated Book of the Year, a *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year, and *Child Magazine* and *Parenting Magazine* Best Book of the Year.

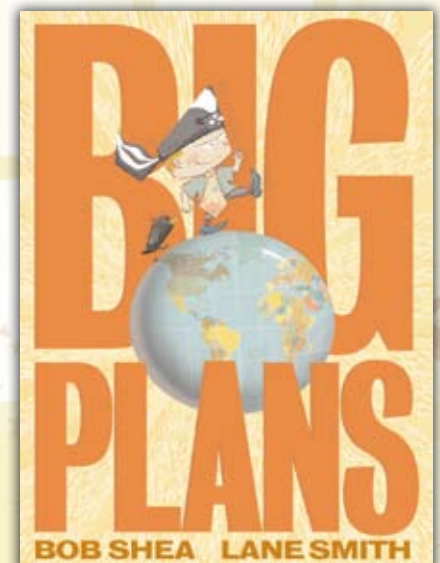
Lane's collaborations with Jon Scieszka include the seminal children's book *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*, as well as *Math Curse*, *Science Verse*, and many more. Lane lives in Connecticut.



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