



The Kid Who Ran For President Chapter Summaries

Families: Here is a summary of each of the chapters in *The Kid Who Ran For President*. Please talk to your children about each chapter and use the guide to prompt discussion. Enjoy!

Make Predictions

Before starting *The Kid Who Ran For President*, discuss expectations for the story. Ask your children what, why, who, where, and how questions. Spark their imagination and set time aside to talk about the setting, characters, plot and the moral of the story.

Prologue: King of the Hill

In the Prologue, you will meet Judson Moon, our protagonist. You will find out that he is 12 years old and running for president of the United States of America!

Discussion Questions:

- Would you want to become President of the United States? Why/why not?

Chapter 1: A Mighty Big Can of Worms

Moon and his friend Lane Brainard were playing pool and watching television when the two decided it would be cool for Judson to run for President.

Discussion Questions:

- Where is Madison, Wisconsin?
- Why do you think the author picked this location for the setting of the book?
- What are the requirements to become President?
- What qualities should a President have?
- Why do you think Lane wants Moon to be President?

Chapter 2: A Mighty Big Can of Worms

In Chapter 2, Moon walks home from Lane's house and stops to visit June Syers, his old babysitter. On her front porch, Moon asks Mrs. Syers about voting and we learn that she has only voted for one President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. She tells Moon he is crazy to run.

Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think June Syers voted for Franklin Delano Roosevelt?
- Why does Mrs. Syers caution Moon about politics?

Chapter 3: That Jerk Arthur Krantz

In school, Moon tell his classmates that he is going to run for President. Former friend, Arthur Krantz, laughs at Moon and asks him about the various requirements to being President. Moon makes jokes and gets his classmates laughing. Then, he and Lane seek 2,000 signatures from adults in the town to get on the Wisconsin ballot.

Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think Moon and Arthur don't get along anymore?
- Were the two boys being nice to each other?
- What is the chain of command if a President dies?
- What is the Electoral College?
- What cool features are in the White House?
- What is a ballot?

Chapter 4: Family Values

At home that night, we learn that Moon's mom is a carpet tile salesperson and his dad sells cardboard boxes for a living. Like most parents, they are tired when they get home and don't always pay attention to Moon as much as they should. When Moon tells them that he has decided to run for President, they give their blessing but don't realize what he has decided to do.

Discussion Questions:

- Do you think Moon's parents were responsive to him?
- How could he have gotten their attention?

Chapter 5: Abby

In Chapter 5, we meet Moon's good friend Abby Goldstein. She has known him since he was in preschool and thinks he would make a wonderful President.

Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think Abby believes Moon would make a good President?
- What character traits should a President have?
- How would you decide if someone has good character?

Chapter 6: Secret Campaign Strategy

Moon and Lane met at their treehouse to discuss their campaign strategy. They discuss whether Moon is a Republican or a Democrat, the two main political parties. They decided Moon will run as an Independent. They talked about coming up with a catchy slogan to encourage people to vote for Moon. All candidates choose a running mate that would serve as the Vice President. They choose an adult, June Syers, Moon's long time neighbor and friend.

Discussion Questions:

- What are political parties? What are the differences/similarities between Republicans and Democrats?
- What is the Independent party?
- Who are the 2020 Republican, Democrat and Independent candidates?
- What are some popular current slogans?
- How important are Presidential running mates? What qualities should the Vice President have?

Chapter 7: The First Babe

In this chapter, Moon approaches Chelsea Daniels about becoming his “First Babe” because every President has had a First Lady. Chelsea is a beautiful popular twelve year old in his class. She agrees to support him.

Discussion Questions:

- What role does the First Lady/First Man play?
- What job do they perform?
- How important is it to have a polished First Lady/First Man?

Chapter 8: Vice President Syers

Moon visits his neighbor, June Syers, and asks her if she would like to be his running mate.

Discussion Questions:

- Why does Mrs. Syers think being President is the worst job in the world?
- Why does she agree to support Moon?

Chapter 9: Twenty Million Dollars? No Problem.

The next phase of the election preparation was fundraising. Moon finds out that he needs \$20 million to run for office. Running for President involves expensive television commercials, online ads, t-shirts, bumper stickers and more!

Discussion Questions:

- Do you think Moon and Lane can raise that much money?
- What ways can you fundraise for the campaign?

Chapter 10: I'd Say It Sounds Like a Fake

Lane calls a reporter, Pete Guerra, from a local newspaper *The Capital Times*, to tell him about Moon. He invites him to interview Moon about running for President.

Discussion Questions:

- What do you think will happen next?
- What qualifies as “news” and what doesn't?

Chapter 11: The Lemonade Party

Moon and Lane set up a lemonade stand to start raising money. During the sale, Moon was interviewed by *The Capital Times*. Lane said it was important to make the news so more people could learn about a kid running for President.

Discussion Questions:

- How important is “marketing” and “public relations”?

- What other efforts should Moon and Lane make to let people know that he is running for President?
- Why do you think Moon is running?

Chapter 12: Homework First, Campaigning Later

That night during dinner, Moon's interview was on the television. His parents were astounded!! Once the news ended, friends, relatives and teachers called Moon about running for President. His parents told him he had to complete his homework before working on the campaign.

Discussion Questions:

- What kind of parents does Moon have?
- What do you think they think of Moon running for office?

Chapter 13: A Star is Born

The next morning, Moon's picture was on the front page of the newspaper. He became an instant celebrity and everyone was talking about the kid running for President. Even the Principal of his school was impressed and asked him to give a speech at an entire school assembly! Moon was really nervous about speaking in front of 350 students.

Discussion Questions:

- Do you think Moon will be able to give the speech?
- What would you say to everyone?
- Would you be nervous speaking in front of a big audience?

Chapter 14: Give the People What They Want

Moon was very nervous but started reading his speech in front of the whole school. Once he got started, the students were cheering him on and he loved it. His message is that adults are the ones responsible for the problems in the country today so only a kid can fix them. After the speech, Moon talked with another reporter

Discussion Questions:

- Do you think Moon made a good point about adults messing up the world?
- What was the best part of his speech?
- Do you think his promises were ones he could keep?
- What do you think of Arthur Krantz?
- Did Arthur Krantz make a good point?

Chapter 15: America is Calling

By morning, Moon was famous! Every newspaper and tv show wanted to talk with Moon. The press started camping out on his front lawn. A kid had never run for President before so it was

really exciting news. People all over the country mailed Moon money to run for President and he collected over \$2,000!

Discussion Questions:

- Would you support a kid running for President? Why/Why not?
- Would you send money to a candidate to support them?

Chapter 16: The Customer is Always Right

Moon continued to receive more and more items in the mail, including a dog! Moon's Dad sits down to talk with Moon about running for President. His Dad tells him he has to be a salesman and give the American people what they want. He said a President should be strong and exhibit a lot of good qualities.

Discussion Questions:

- What qualities do you think a President should have?
- What do you think of Moon's Dad's advice?

Chapter 17: Let the Kid Run!

Many more newspapers started to report on a child running for office. Some thought it was a joke. Many said that Moon couldn't run because he wasn't old enough. Lane told Moon that the Constitution could be changed to allow him to run. People across the country debated whether there should be an age limit for the President.

Discussion Questions:

- What does the Constitution say about who is allowed to run for President?
- What circumstances are crucial enough to want to change the Constitution?
- How do you make changes to the Constitution?
- What was special about the 15th, 19th, and 26th Amendments?

Chapter 18: Pols and Polls

In this chapter, we learn about the other candidates running for office. In a poll, Moon already has 1% of the voters on his side. That is about 1 million people! Meanwhile, money kept pouring in for his campaign. Students (called "Moonies") volunteered to help open mail and spread the word about voting. Soon Moon had enough money to run ads on television which helped him convince even more people to vote for him.

Discussion Questions:

- What is a poll?
- Are polls always accurate predictors of elections?
- How are they conducted?
- Would you volunteer on an election campaign?

Chapter 19: The Virtual Candidate

Moon went on Facebook, Twitter, and other social media to see what people thought of him running for President. To his surprise, he found that people all over the country were holding yard sells and selling lemonade to raise money for his campaign. People were sharing information about him and were promoting him online. He was happy to see that this was a free way to advertise that the other candidates weren't using.

Discussion Questions:

- How did the use of social media change how candidates run for office?
- What do you think will be the next best way to advertise...in the future?

Chapter 20: Moon, You Don't Have Any Opinions

Lane signs Moon up to debate the other candidates. He prepares Moon to answer tough questions on important issues like gun control, immigration, healthcare, and taxes. Moon can see that both sides have good reasons to feel strongly about issues. Lane tells him that people want a President to have definite opinions so they can make policy to fix problems.

Discussion Questions:

- What is a debate?
- Why is it important that a candidate have strong opinions?
- Would you vote for someone with different opinions?

Chapter 21: Time to Panic

Lane and Moon flew to Chicago to attend the debate at a big convention center. Moon was amazed by the security guards and secret service agents. Moon was really nervous and was worried he would forget everything he prepared.

Discussion Questions:

- How would you overcome stage fright?
- What is the job of the secret service agents and who do they protect?

Chapter 22: The Great Debate

Moon suffers from stage fright and can't remember his pre-planned answers. So he decides to do what he always does when he is stressed and make jokes! The jokes go over very well with the audience and Moon's popularity goes up.

Discussion Questions:

- What techniques can you use when you are nervous?
- Do you think you would vote for Moon for President?

Chapter 23: The Runaway Train

Everyone said that Moon had won the debate. The American people loved his responses to the debate questions. He was getting more and more popular by the day. Moon started to worry that he would actually win the election unless something disastrous happened!

Discussion Questions:

- Did you ever wish for something and then realize it wasn't what you wanted?
- Should Moon drop out of the election?
- Can a kid really run the country successfully?

Chapter 24: Moongate

In Chapter 24, we learn that Moon stole Krantz' term paper in 4th grade when he was mad at him. The news made sure that everyone knew he had done a bad thing in his past. Everyone was upset with him. Lane told him the only way to fix it was to go on TV and read a statement he prepares. Moon agrees.

Discussion Questions:

- Do you think voters should be concerned about past actions of the candidates?
- What was Watergate?

Chapter 25 – Word for Word

On TV, Moon admitted that he made some mistakes in the past but that he learned from them. Lane used language from a past President's speech, Richard Nixon's speech, to convince the American people that he was sorry.

Discussion Questions:

- Do you think Lane should have plagiarized Richard Nixon's speech?
- Do you think anyone accepted his apology?
- Do you think Americans will still vote for Moon?

Chapter 26 – Election Day

Election Day arrived on the First Tuesday in November. Moon was nervous as adults poured in to vote for the next President. Lane explained how the voting process worked. Each state is given one electoral vote for every member of Congress including the state's two Senators and the members in the House of Representatives. Lane explained that the candidate with 270 or more electoral votes wins the election. **No spoiler alert here** – you will have to read to find out if Moon wins the election!