## Don't Forget to Vote BY SIMON COOKE



**Scene One.** The royal throne room. **KING SNOOZE** is snoring loudly on his throne. He is holding Mr Teddykins, his royal teddy bear. The **ROYAL ADVISOR** runs in.

**ROYAL ADVISOR.** King Snooze! Wake up! It's an emergency!

**KING SNOOZE** (*yawning*). What is it, Royal Advisor? Is another short-sighted monster knocking over my statues and destroying my city?

**ROYAL ADVISOR.** No, sire. It's worse. Your citizens say they don't want you as king!

**KING SNOOZE** (*clutching his teddy bear tightly*). What? They can't live without a king!

**ROYAL ADVISOR.** They don't want to. They want to hold an election and vote in someone else as king.

**KING SNOOZE.** Are they crazy? Bring them to me! (*Speaking to his teddy bear*) Oh, Mr Teddykins, I hope this is all just a bad dream.

Three **CITIZENS** file in and bow.



CITIZENS (together). King Snooze, we want a new king.

KING SNOOZE. Ridiculous! I'm a great king.

**CITIZEN ONE.** Great at doing nothing.

CITIZEN TWO. All you do is have statues made of yourself.

CITIZEN THREE. And spend the rest of your time snoozing.

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**KING SNOOZE.** Snoozing is important kingly work. If I'm asleep, I can't start a war or raise taxes. I'm *helping* people by being asleep!

**CITIZEN ONE.** It's not enough – we want an election. We want someone else to be our king.

KING SNOOZE. Who is this traitor you want to elect?

**ROYAL ADVISOR** (*loudly*). Traitor, the king will see you now.

The MONSTER walks in, looking very embarrassed.



KING SNOOZE. Him? The monster? He knocked down our city!

**CITIZEN ONE.** Yes, but he rebuilt it – bigger and better.

**CITIZEN TWO.** And he put in sewers so we don't have to hold our noses any more.

**CITIZEN THREE.** And he scared off the goblin army that tried to invade last Tuesday.

**MONSTER.** I'm sorry, King Snooze. I just like helping people. Now they want me to be their king.

**KING SNOOZE** (angrily). Get out of my throne room! Call my royal knights, Sir Hides-a-lot and Sir Speedy. Call my clever daughter, Princess Biffelda!



The CITIZENS and the MONSTER leave. SIR HIDES-A-LOT,
SIR SPEEDY, and PRINCESS
BIFFELDA enter.

**PRINCESS BIFFELDA** (sobbing).

Oh, Daddy, is it true the citizens want to get rid of you?

**KING SNOOZE** (hugging Mr Teddykins tightly). Yes. If only we hadn't told the people about voting.

**PRINCESS BIFFELDA.** This is your fault, Daddy. You make people vote on too many things.

**SIR SPEEDY.** Like whether you should have scrambled or poached eggs for breakfast.

**SIR HIDES-A-LOT.** And which royal socks you should wear.

**KING SNOOZE.** But voting is such a good idea. I never have to decide anything, and if things go wrong, it's no longer my fault.

**ROYAL ADVISOR.** But now they want to vote for someone else to be their king.



**PRINCESS BIFFELDA.** Don't worry, Daddy, all is not lost. We can help you.

**SIR SPEEDY.** Indeed. I, Sir Speedy, shall run around the city at top speed, telling everyone what a wonderful king you are and that they should vote for you.

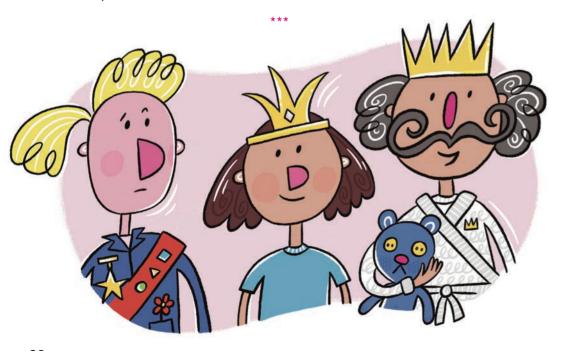
**SIR HIDES-A-LOT.** And I, Sir Hides-a-lot, shall search every secret place where people might be hiding and get them to vote, too.

**SIR SPEEDY** and **SIR HIDES-A-LOT** run out of the throne room.

KING SNOOZE. And I'll have a snooze.

**PRINCESS BIFFELDA.** No, you're coming with me, Daddy. The people have to see you. You have to explain why they should vote for you.

**ROYAL ADVISOR.** Oh, dear. I think it might be better if he went to sleep after all.





**Scene Two**. The town square. Everyone has gathered for the announcement of the vote.

**KING SNOOZE.** I'm worried (*hugging his teddy bear*). So is Mr Teddykins.

PRINCESS BIFFELDA. Relax, Daddy, I've worked it out. If everyone who promised to vote for you does vote, it will be a draw.

That means you will stay king.

KING SNOOZE. Phew, that's a relief.

**ROYAL ADVISOR.** Ladies and gentlemen, the votes have been counted. King Snooze has 320 votes.

PRINCESS BIFFELDA, SIR HIDES-A-LOT, and SIR SPEEDY. Hurrah!

**ROYAL ADVISOR.** Monster has ... 321 votes.

**CITIZENS** (together). Hurrah for King Monster!

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**PRINCESS BIFFELDA** (*shocked*). We lost by one vote! I was sure we had enough!

**ROYAL ADVISOR.** I've checked the electoral roll, sire. One person didn't vote.

KING SNOOZE (furious). Who? I demand to know!

**ROYAL ADVISOR.** Forgive me for asking, sire, but did you vote?

**KING SNOOZE** (suddenly looking worried). Did I vote? Let me think ...

**PRINCESS BIFFELDA.** Oh, Daddy, it's too late if you haven't! It's after 7 p.m., so you can't vote now. The polls have closed!

**KING SNOOZE.** Oops! I was so busy telling everyone else to vote, I forgot to do it myself.

**KING SNOOZE** (to **MONSTER**, sadly). I suppose you want my crown?

**MONSTER** (*kindly*). King Snooze, you forgave me when I accidentally knocked down your city. Instead of punishing me, you found my glasses so I could see again. I never wanted to take your job.

**KING SNOOZE** (*sobbing*). But you have.

MONSTER. Yes, and now that I'm king, I declare you to be my co-king.

**EVERYONE.** What?

MONSTER. I can't snooze as well as you. And I can't design statues. You can look after those royal tasks. I'll look after the easier ones, like building hospitals and protecting the city.

KING SNOOZE (puffing his chest out grandly). I accept.



## The **ROYAL ADVISOR** hands **MONSTER** a second crown.

**EVERYONE.** Hurrah for the kings! Hurrah for voting!

PRINCESS BIFFELDA. Let's celebrate with a royal banquet.

**SIR HIDES-A-LOT.** I want chocolate cake.

**SIR SPEEDY.** No, let's have doughnuts.

**CITIZENS** (together). Let's vote on it!



illustrations by Beck Wheeler

## **Don't Forget to Vote**

by Simon Cooke

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ISBN 978 1 77663 738 6 (online) ISSN 2624 3636 (online)

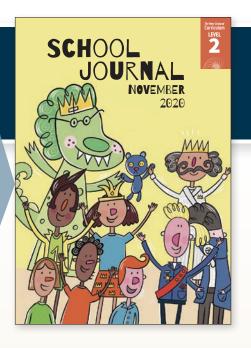
Publishing Services: Lift Education E Tū

Editor: David Chadwick Designer: Liz Tui Morris

Literacy Consultant: Melanie Winthrop

Consulting Editors: Hone Apanui and Emeli Sione





SCHOOL JOURNAL LEVEL 2 NOVEMBER 2020	
Curriculum learning areas	English Social Sciences The Arts
Reading year level	Year 4
Keywords	acceptance, citizenship, community, democracy, drama, election, humour, inclusion, king, monarchy, monster, play, responsibility, sequel, voting

