



BOOK REVIEWS:

# Momentum

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## Required reading for the September 11 generation

Book Review: *Constitution Translated for Kids*, By Cathy Travis

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*Constitution Translated for Kids* is a straight-talking guide that navigates the difficult language of our nation's defining document. Cathy Travis' attempt at simplifying such a complex text is an act of heroism.

Re-wording the Constitution is no small matter. Consider the hot debates that have played out in American courtrooms throughout history in search of clear and precise answers as to what the law says. Cathy Travis succeeds admirably, offering readers a line-by-line interpretation that reads like a conversation – not a dissertation.

Ideal for middle school students, *Constitution Translated for Kids* compliments American history books and current-event discussions at any level. The original text of the Constitution is presented on the left-hand side of each page and it is accompanied by the authors' reader-friendly translation on the right.

The book is separated into sections that work through each article of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and subsequent amendments. Ms. Travis includes a glossary of unfamiliar words and workbook exercises that quiz students on the meaning of articles and amendments. She also provides "A Student Exercise in Democracy" that offers students the opportunity to take on the role of Congress and debate proposed amendments.

*Constitution Translated for Kids* should be required reading for the September 11 generation. As the United States faces new challenges at home and abroad, it has never been more important for young Americans to understand, defend and protect their rights and civil liberties. Empowering students with this knowledge preserves the very ideas that the author so expressly and succinctly represents in her book.

*Constitution Translated for Kids* speaks plainly to the young citizens who will grow into the champions of democracy for future generations.