

Safer Streets



William Miller, 10, spoke up at a city council meeting. He asked for safer roads in his Arizona community.

LEXILE: 1080L

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Civic Ideals and Practices

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.3, RI.6-8.6, W.6-8.2

ENGAGE THE READER

Begin with a discussion of the term *civic engagement*. Have students heard the term before? Where? Have them talk to a partner and try to define the term. Call on pairs to share their definition. Then watch the video from [Khan Academy](#) that defines and offers examples of civic engagement. Have partners summarize what they learned and adjust their definition accordingly. Use the list (minute markers 1:20-2:09) to come up with specific examples of civic engagement.

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- What influence has William Miller's family had on his activism?
- Based on the article, what likely happens at city council meetings? Why are city councils important?
- Why did this issue deserve attention from the community? Can you think of any other issues that might be brought to the attention of a city council?

EXTEND LEARNING

Discuss why street safety is an important issue. Have students consider whether they've noticed a similar problem in their community. Ask them to think of areas, such as schools, parks, and the town center, in which there are a lot of pedestrians. Tell them they'll be doing an audit, or review, of one of these areas. Have students use Google Maps to draw the area of interest. They can use the street view to identify safety features such as signs and sidewalks. Invite them to conduct a survey of the area after school. Have them describe their findings.

Have students share their findings with the class. Group those who had similar findings, and have them work on an improvement proposal together. Extend the lesson by having students or groups write to their council members.

COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

The cover quiz can be found on page 2 of this guide.

To create a digital quiz, you can use our template [here](#).

1. B (RI.3) **2. A** (RI.8) **3. D** (RI.6) **4. C** (RI.9) **5. B** (RI.2)

6. D (RI.5) **7. Answers will vary.** (W.3)

Name _____ Date _____

Use this week's cover story, "Safer Streets," to answer the questions below. For questions 1–6, circle the letter next to the best answer. If you need more space to write your response to question 7, use the back of this page.

<p>1. What event inspired William Miller to take action in his community?</p> <p>A. He witnessed cars engaging in a street race.</p> <p>B. His grandmother was almost hit by a car.</p> <p>C. He attended a city council meeting with his dad.</p> <p>D. He decided he wanted to be president one day.</p>	<p>4. On which point do William and his grandmother agree?</p> <p>A. Street racing should be illegal.</p> <p>B. William will be mayor one day.</p> <p>C. The streets in his neighborhood are safer now.</p> <p>D. Communities need more traffic signals.</p>
<p>2. Whose quote suggests that they believe young people should be more involved in civics?</p> <p>A. Mayor Joe Pizzillo</p> <p>B. Patricia Miller</p> <p>C. William Miller</p> <p>D. Goodyear's police chief</p>	<p>5. What's the main problem discussed in the text?</p> <p>A. the need for civic education</p> <p>B. lack of street safety</p> <p>C. kids not being involved in their communities</p> <p>D. improper traffic signals</p>
<p>3. What can you infer that the mayor thinks of William?</p> <p>A. He thinks William is a leader.</p> <p>B. He thinks William has potential as a future mayor.</p> <p>C. He thinks William brought attention to an important problem.</p> <p>D. all of the above</p>	<p>6. Why did the author write this story?</p> <p>A. to entertain young people who love local government</p> <p>B. to persuade readers to not engage in street racing</p> <p>C. to teach readers how to run for office</p> <p>D. to inspire other young people to get involved in civics</p>

7. Describe an experience you've had in your community that inspired you to lead change. What happened, and what were you inspired to do?
