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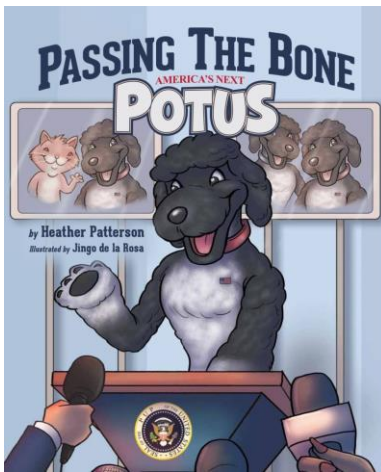
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Teacher turned author Heather Patterson introduces politics to kids with fun, educational book featuring presidential pup, Bo Obama

'Passing the Bone: America's Next POTUS' bringing the White House alive for children

Passionate about children, education and politics, kindergarten teacher Heather Patterson is always thinking of creative ways to engage her students with the world outside her classroom. To bring the White House alive during the 2016 election year, Patterson released her debut children's book, "Passing the Bone: America's Next POTUS" (Mascot Books), narrated by presidential pup, Bo Obama.



Entertaining, witty, and light-hearted, Patterson's book takes a nonpartisan approach to introducing the next generation to the office of the president and the first dog, as Bo Obama prepares to "pass the bone" to the next puppy entering the White House.

With the presidential election around the corner, children are hearing more each day from the campaign trail and media of who the next president of the United States should be. "Passing the Bone" appropriately includes children in that discussion. Bo teaches young readers about politics, responsibilities of the president and patriotic pride.

When writing her book for elementary students, Patterson kept parents and fellow educators in mind by creating purposeful resources like lesson plans, vocabulary words, writing activities and historical mini-lessons that can be applied in the classroom and at home. Patterson also provides a "build the book" photo gallery, where readers can view the transition from an idea to a book.



Heather Patterson is a children's author and kindergarten teacher from Texas. "Passing the Bone: America's Next POTUS" is her first children's book. She hopes the book will help young readers relate to current events in a meaningful, engaging way. To learn more and to download educational resources that Patterson created, visit HeatherNPatterson.com.

PASSING THE BONE: AMERICA'S NEXT POTUS by Heather Patterson

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Q&A with Heather Patterson



What makes “Passing the Bone: America’s Next POTUS” unique?

“Passing the Bone: America’s Next POTUS” is written for children about the office and responsibility of the president and presidential pup, from the first dog’s perspective. In a political year, children have a book that engages them in current events, captures them with humor, and teaches patriotic facts while they get an inside look at the White House pup.

Why did you want to write a book during the election season?

I wanted to write a book during the election season specifically for children. Any presidential election is historic and an educational opportunity! While the nation is consumed with campaign trails, election coverage, and political predictions, “Passing the Bone” includes children by engaging them at their level and appealing to their interests.

Is “Passing the Bone: America’s Next POTUS” only for children?

Readers of all ages can learn new facts from the book! A few excerpts in “Passing the Bone” were taken from true events. For example, Bo appeared as a guest on two popular talk shows, Jimmy Fallon and Ellen DeGeneres. Upon visiting the White House, British Prime Minister David Cameron graciously gifted Bo with a bone wrapped in red, white, and blue ribbon. Facts are hidden in the illustrations as well! You’ll find all five of America’s living presidents, along with former first dogs, inside the pages.

Q&A continued...

How can children get excited about the Presidential election?

The key to exciting children about a presidential election is teaching them they have an important role in our nation! Children are young, but they are capable of being good citizens. Their character, passions, interests, and the way they treat others matter. American children also have the privilege of being born in a free country, where one day they can vote and take part in electing a president! And of course, they can get excited about the new White House pup that will be moving into 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

When did you start writing this book? When did you start writing in general?

I first began writing in 2013, about former presidents George W. Bush and his father, George H. W. Bush. I started writing "Passing the Bone: America's Next POTUS" in September 2014. I actually had writers block from my Bush manuscript (now completed) and needed a break. I decided to clear my mind by writing something light and humorous. I opened a separate blank document and the words started to flow...

What are your future writing plans?

I am currently seeking a literary agent for my Bush manuscript. Not only is a father and son presidency unique, but George H. W. Bush is a true American hero whose story hasn't been widely shared with children. At the time of his military service, he was the youngest pilot in history to fly in the Navy! He served in World War II, survived a plane crash, was rescued at sea, became CIA director, and eventually, president of the United States. I believe children should learn and read of President H. W. Bush's heroism and service to our country.

How has being a kindergarten teacher helped you write a children's book?

As a kindergarten teacher, I read multiple picture books to my class every day. Having that background experience has given me an inside perspective to what children find engaging, funny, interesting, or flat. Envisioning my students sitting on our class reading carpet helped mold my story as I wrote and made revisions.

Is Bo's character in the book influenced by a dog you know?

Well, of course! My twin sister's goldendoodle, Beau, is very humorous and has quite the personality. Beau was kicked out of obedience school as a puppy, swallowed a sock which put him in the animal ER, would give up on his exercise walks and have to be carried home, and even kept a secret stash of M&Ms, matches, nails, and socks under the couch. (How he got all those items remains a mystery!) Beau is extremely personable, playful, and loving. I think readers will enjoy his personality shown through the book.

For an extended Q&A, visit HeatherNPatterson.com