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Dissenter on the Bench: Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Life & Work

Danielle Dallas

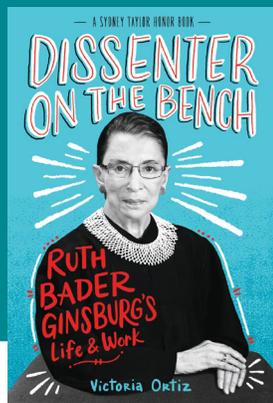
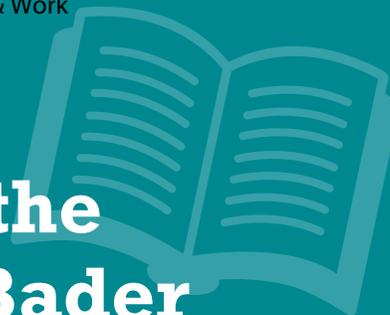
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Book Review

Dissenter on the Bench: Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Life & Work

Author

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Reviewer

Danielle Dallas

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Rating

Outstanding

Level

Young Adult

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Pages

199

Year

2019

ISBN

9780544973640

Publisher

Clarion Books

The second woman on the United States Supreme Court, Ruth Bader Ginsburg has led an incredible life of discipline and commitment to fairness and equality. Born in 1933 in Brooklyn, NY, Ruth's love of learning and opera was influenced by her mother. Evidenced by her early school and church essays Ruth was a deep, critical thinker who experienced discrimination as a Jew and as a female. After her studies at Cornell and her legal training at Harvard and Columbia law schools, she was not offered positions or even invited to interview at law firms, despite graduating at the top of her class. So, Ruth forged her own path as a professor at Rutgers, a pro bono attorney with the ACLU where she co-founded the Women's Rights Project, and then as a professor at Columbia prior to her appointment as a judge. All her successes were supported by husband Marty Ginsburg, whom she met at Cornell, and with whom she shared a remarkably egalitarian marriage.

Weaving Justice Ginsburg's personal history with legal cases, each chapter presents a significant legal topic including freedom of speech, search and seizure, same-sex marriage, race, and gender equality. The carefully researched text presents various legal principles, including case strategy and varying levels of scrutiny by a reviewing appellate court. The reader also becomes familiar with Ruth the daughter, the lawyer, wife, professor, mother, and judge as the book offers a glimpse into her sense of humor, personality, and generosity. This book will leave readers appreciative of her principled example, whether or not they agree with the outcome of her judicial opinions. Whereas Supreme Court cases are written non-emotionally, some aspects of this writing are highly emotional, demonstrating the author's bias more than may have been necessary for a compelling text. The appendices and notes strongly support the content of the chapters and offer visual and bibliographic resources to the curious reader. However, an additional appendix with a timeline of Justice Ginsburg's life would be useful since the book is not presented chronologically.