

Level 6



The Brave Children of Melo Learn Constitutional Rights

By Daryl Abel and Cathy Hite Sakumalefo
Illustrated by Fariza Dzatalin Nurtsani

The Brave Children of Melo Learn Constitutional Rights



By Daryl Abel and
Cathy Hite Sakumalefo
Illustrated by Fariza Dzatalin Nurtsani

Library For All Ltd.



Bwooooooooooop! Bwooooooooooop!

The sound of the conch shell
echoes from the nakamal in the
heart of the village.

The children rush out of the sea
and sprint toward the nakamal,
while mothers quickly pack their
kumala and head back to the
village. Men paddle their canoes
with urgency to reach the shore.

At the nakamal, Chief Waelman and the other elders wait as everyone gathers. The chief begins the meeting and declares new rules to be imposed on Melo Island:

- “No one can leave the village without my permission!”
- “No gatherings allowed unless I approve them!”
- “Your homes and belongings now belong to me!”





The villagers feel that these rules are absurd and unfair, but they are unsure of how to respond. However, the children and women of Melo Island decide they must act.

They gather under a big banyan tree to plan how to remind Chief Waelman about the rights of the people.

The next day, the children march to Chief Waelman's hut, led by Lani, the oldest, who speaks firmly.

"Chief Waelman," she says, "your rules are wrong. They breach the fundamental rights of our people!"

The chief laughs. "What do you mean? What rights?"





Lani begins, "The first and most important right is the right to life. Your rules are taking away the food and freedom we need to survive."

Lei steps forward. "We also have the right to liberty. You cannot lock us in the village or stop us from making our own choices."

Sara adds, "Everyone deserves security. But your rules make people feel scared and unsafe."

Leo raises his sign. "The right to protection of the law means everyone must be treated fairly. No one, not even a chief, is above the law!"

Mala stands tall. "Your harsh treatment breaks the right to freedom from inhumane treatment. Everyone deserves kindness and dignity, not fear and punishment."

Fari, with her calm voice, says, "The right to freedom of conscience and worship allows us to believe in our gods, practise whatever denomination we choose to practise and follow our traditions without interference."



Right to
humane
treatment

Right to
freedom of
conscience and
worship



Kora steps forward next. “We have the right to freedom of expression, which means we can speak up when something is unfair. And that’s what we’re doing now!”

Tani speaks with a big smile. “The right to freedom of assembly means we can gather as a community to share ideas and solve problems, whether you approve or not!”

Ravi gestures to the horizon. "We also have the right to freedom of movement. No one can stop us from walking to other villages or even leaving the island."

Finally, Piri looks directly at Waelman. "And we have the right to protection of privacy. Our homes and belongings are ours. You can't take them or barge in without permission!"



Right to
freedom of
movement

Right to
protection
of privacy



Chief Waelman is stunned. He has never been challenged like this before. "But I'm the chief," he stammers. "I thought I could make any rule I wanted."

Lani replies, “Even chiefs must respect the fundamental rights of the people that are established and written in the Constitution. Constitution is the highest law in the country and it is also known as the “mama loa”. It’s what keeps us safe and united.

The villagers, who are watching from afar, begin to cheer. “The children are right!” they shout.





Chief Waelman sighs deeply. "I see now that I was wrong. I let power make me forget the importance of fairness and respect."

The chief promises to undo his unfair rules and work with the villagers to make decisions together.

He even asks the children to help teach others about their rights so everyone will understand how to live peacefully.

From that day on, Melo Island becomes a place of harmony and respect, all thanks to the brave children — the Guardians of Melo who stood up for what is right.



Glossary

- Conch Shell: A large sea shell that produces a loud sound when blown in to. In the story, it signals important gatherings in the village.
- Nakamal: A traditional meeting place in Vanuatu where villagers gather to discuss important matters and make decisions.
- Chief: The leader or head of a village who makes rules and decisions for the community.
- Rights: Basic freedoms and protections that every person has, such as the right to life, liberty, and security.
- Liberty: The freedom to make choices about one's own life without interference from others.
- Security: The feeling of being safe and protected from harm or danger.
- Law: Rules that help people live together peacefully and know what is right and wrong.

- Constitution: The highest law of Vanuatu that outlines the rights of the people and how the government should operate.
- Freedom of Expression: The right to share thoughts, ideas, and opinions openly without fear of punishment.
- Freedom of Assembly: The right to gather together as a group to discuss or protest issues without needing permission from authorities.
- Freedom of Movement: The right to travel freely within the country or leave it without restrictions.
- Protection of Privacy: The right to keep personal matters private and not have others invade one's personal space or belongings without consent.
- Inhumane Treatment: Actions that cause severe suffering or humiliation, which are not acceptable under the law.

**You can use these questions
to talk about this book with
your family, friends and
teachers.**



**What is the signal for the village people
to gather at the nakamal?**



**What does the chief say that makes
the children angry?**

What is the Constitution?



**Can you name 3 different
constitutional rights?**



**Choose one of the rights the children
talk about with the chief. Make your
own sign and pin it on the wall at
your home or school.**

About the contributors

Daryl Abel is from Tanna Island in Vanuatu, while Cathy Hite Sakumalefo is from Malaita in the Solomon Islands. Both Daryl and Cathy share a passion for empowering young minds through storytelling, inspiring them to write stories to educate and uplift the children of today, tomorrow's leaders of Vanuatu. One of the things they enjoy most in their friendship is discussing the challenges facing their countries, and asking themselves: "What can we do?" or "How can we help?" This collaborative spirit not only fuels their creativity but also reflects their commitment to fostering a positive impact on their communities through literature.



Did you enjoy this book?

We have hundreds more expertly curated original stories to choose from.

We work in partnership with authors, educators, cultural advisors, governments and NGOs to bring the joy of reading to children everywhere.

Did you know?

We create global impact in these fields by embracing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



libraryforall.org

You're reading **Level 6**

Learner – Beginner readers

Start your reading journey with short words, big ideas and plenty of pictures.

Level 1 – Rising readers

Raise your reading level with more words, simple sentences and exciting images.

Level 2 – Eager readers

Enjoy your reading time with familiar words, but complex sentences.

Level 3 – Progressing readers

Develop your reading skills with creative stories and some challenging vocabulary.

Level 4 – Fluent readers

Step up your reading skills with playful narratives, new words and fun facts.

Level 5 – Curious readers

Discover your world through science and stories.

Level 6 – Adventurous readers

Explore your world through science and stories.



Library For All is an Australian not for profit organisation with a mission to make knowledge accessible to all via an innovative digital library solution. Visit us at libraryforall.org

The Brave Children of Melo Learn Constitutional Rights

First published 2025

Published by Library For All Ltd

Email: info@libraryforall.org

URL: libraryforall.org



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>.

This book was made possible by the generous support of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Global Partnership for Education (GPE).



Save the Children



Original illustrations by Fariza Dzatalin Nurtsani

The Brave Children of Melo Learn Constitutional Rights

Abel, Daryl and Sakumalefo, Cathy Hite

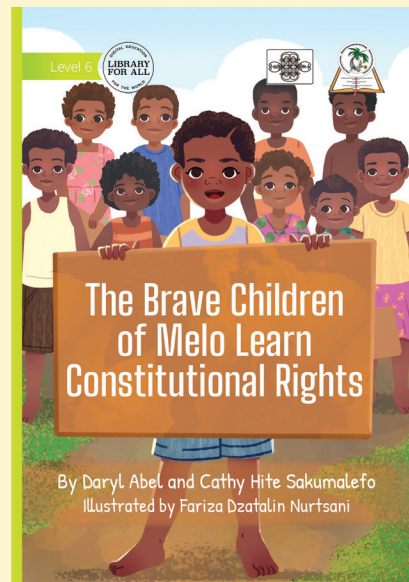
ISBN: 978-1-923485-79-2

SKU04830



The Brave Children of Melo Learn Constitutional Rights

The children of Melo learn
about village justice and
constitutional rights.



libraryforall.org
#lettheworldlearn

ISBN 978-1-923485-79-2



9 781923 485792

