

Grade 6 Reading - AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Justice Sonia Sotomayor: A Trailblazer in the Courtroom

Justice Sonia Sotomayor is a remarkable figure in the history of the United States. Born on June 25, 1954, in the Bronx, New York, she overcame numerous obstacles to become the first Latina Supreme Court Justice. Her life story is one of perseverance, determination, and an unwavering commitment to justice.

As a child, Sonia Sotomayor grew up in a modest household. Her parents, Juan and Celina Sotomayor, were of Puerto Rican descent and worked hard to provide for their family. Sonia was diagnosed with diabetes at the age of seven, but she never let her health condition hold her back. Instead, she focused on her studies and developed a passion for learning.

Sonia attended Blessed Sacrament School, a Catholic school in the Bronx. She excelled academically, and her teachers recognized her potential. Despite facing financial challenges, Sonia's parents sacrificed to send her to a prestigious high school called Cardinal Spellman High School. Her dedication to education paid off, and she earned a scholarship to Princeton University.

At Princeton, Sonia faced many new experiences and challenges. She was one of the few Latinas on campus and often felt like an outsider. However, she didn't let that deter her. She immersed herself in her studies, majoring in history, and graduated summa cum laude in 1976. Her time at Princeton taught her the importance of diversity and the need for representation in positions of power.

Sonia Sotomayor went on to attend Yale Law School, where she continued to shine. She served as an editor for the Yale Law Journal and graduated in 1979, becoming one of the most accomplished Latinas in the legal field. After law school, she worked as an assistant district attorney in New York, where she gained valuable courtroom experience.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush nominated Sonia Sotomayor to be a federal judge for the Southern District of New York. She became the youngest judge on the federal bench at that time. Throughout her career, she demonstrated a commitment to fairness and justice, and her rulings were respected by her colleagues and the legal community.

In 2009, President Barack Obama nominated Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court. She was confirmed by the Senate and took her seat as an Associate Justice, making history as the first Latina to serve on the highest court in the land. As a Supreme Court Justice, she has made significant contributions to important cases, advocating for the rights of the disadvantaged and marginalized.

Justice Sotomayor's life and career have been marked by her determination to make a difference. She believes in the power of the law to bring about positive change and has worked tirelessly to ensure equal justice for all. Through her own experiences and achievements, she has inspired countless individuals, especially young girls and those from underrepresented communities, to dream big and pursue their goals.

1. What did Sonia Sotomayor become in 2009?
 - A) The first Latina Supreme Court Justice.
 - B) The President of the United States.
 - C) The youngest federal judge.
 - D) A lawyer in New York.

2. Which word best describes Sonia Sotomayor's commitment to justice?
 - A) Uncertainty
 - B) Indifference
 - C) Perseverance
 - D) Complacency

3. What challenged Sonia Sotomayor during her time at Princeton?
 - A) Financial difficulties
 - B) Illness
 - C) Lack of motivation
 - D) Low grades

4. What did Sonia Sotomayor major in at Princeton?
 - A) Law
 - B) Medicine
 - C) History
 - D) Engineering

5. What does the word "diversity" mean in the passage?
- A) Being unique
 - B) Being different
 - C) Believing in yourself
 - D) Pursuing your dreams
6. Which position did Sonia Sotomayor hold before becoming a Supreme Court Justice?
- A) Federal judge
 - B) Lawyer
 - C) Assistant district attorney
 - D) Editor
7. What is the meaning of the word "advocating"?
- A) Arguing for
 - B) Ignoring
 - C) Avoiding
 - D) Following
8. What is the purpose of this passage?
- A) To entertain the reader with a story
 - B) To inform the reader about Justice Sonia Sotomayor's life and accomplishments
 - C) To persuade the reader to pursue a legal career
 - D) To compare Justice Sonia Sotomayor with other Supreme Court Justices

Answers:

1. A) The first Latina Supreme Court Justice
2. C) Perseverance
3. A) Financial difficulties
4. C) History
5. B) Being different
6. A) Federal judge
7. A) Arguing for
8. B) To inform the reader about Justice Sonia Sotomayor's life and accomplishments

Explanations:

1. The passage mentions that Sonia Sotomayor became the first Latina Supreme Court Justice in 2009.
2. The passage states that Sonia Sotomayor's life story is one of perseverance, which means she showed determination and continued effort to achieve her goals.
3. The passage mentions that Sonia's parents faced financial challenges but sacrificed to send her to a prestigious high school, indicating financial difficulties during her time at Princeton.
4. The passage states that Sonia majored in history at Princeton.
5. The passage mentions that Sonia's time at Princeton taught her the importance of diversity, which refers to people being different from one another.
6. The passage states that Sonia Sotomayor became a federal judge for the Southern District of New York before being nominated to the Supreme Court.
7. The word "advocating" means supporting or arguing for a particular cause, as mentioned in the passage regarding Justice Sotomayor advocating for the rights of the disadvantaged and marginalized.
8. The passage provides a biography of Justice Sonia Sotomayor, presenting information about her life and achievements, which aligns with the purpose of informing the reader about her.