

LEVELED BOOK • M

# The Creature Constitution

**Multi  
level  
J•M•P**

Written by Torran Anderson  
Illustrated by Chris Baldwin

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## Independence Hall Philadelphia, 1786

None of the creatures in Independence Hall were able to sleep. Every night, the mice in the basement ran through the spiders' webs. Then the spiders chased the mice. The crickets in the closets chirped all night. In the morning, the pigeons in the clock tower started singing. All the animals that lived in the building were tired and **miserable**.



Maddy had the largest ears of any mouse in Independence Hall, and she heard everything. She worried that no one would ever have a good night's sleep.





One morning, she heard humans discussing something that sounded important. Maddy sneaked into the room and listened as they **argued** about needing a **constitution**. They needed some rules that everyone in the country would follow. The rules would bring the separate parts of the country together.



Maddy thought a constitution was an excellent idea. She organized a meeting of all the creatures, and every creature came. There were so many animals in the room that they could barely move.





“Thank you for coming, everybody,” Maddy said. “The humans have a great idea. They are writing a constitution. We should have our own constitution.”

“What’s a constitution?” asked a pigeon.

“It’s a document that explains rules that we all live by,” Maddy said.

“We don’t need any rules,” said a spider.

“When was the last time any of you slept all night?” Maddy replied.





The pigeons flapped their wings, the crickets chirped, the mice squeaked, and the spiders whined. No one could hear a word anyone was saying. The animals argued until the bell began to ring: *Ding, dong, ding, dong!*



Maddy covered her large ears and looked at the hundreds of animals crammed in the room. Tired and grumpy, they weren't achieving anything. Maddy remembered that the humans she saw **represented** the different states.

After the last bell chimed, Maddy said to the group, "Listen up! We need to work together."

"That's what we're doing," said a spider.



“This room is too crowded,” Maddy said. “Go and choose five creatures to represent your group. The creatures you choose will present the group’s problems at a meeting tomorrow. They will vote on what the new rules will be.”





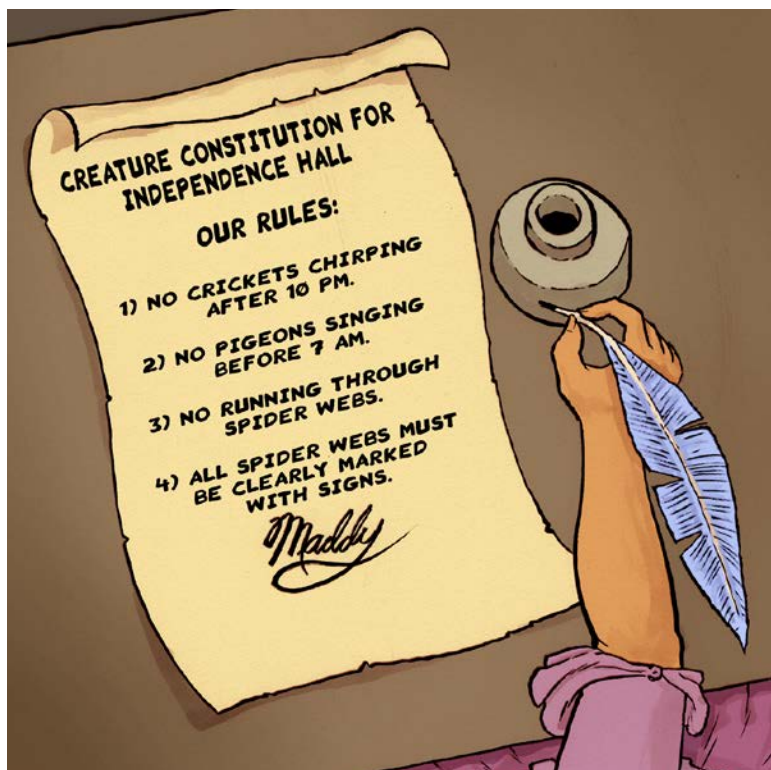
“Maddy’s right,” said one of the other mice. “Let’s go.”

The groups went back to where they lived. They decided to take votes so every creature would have a say. The **elections** lasted until late in the evening.



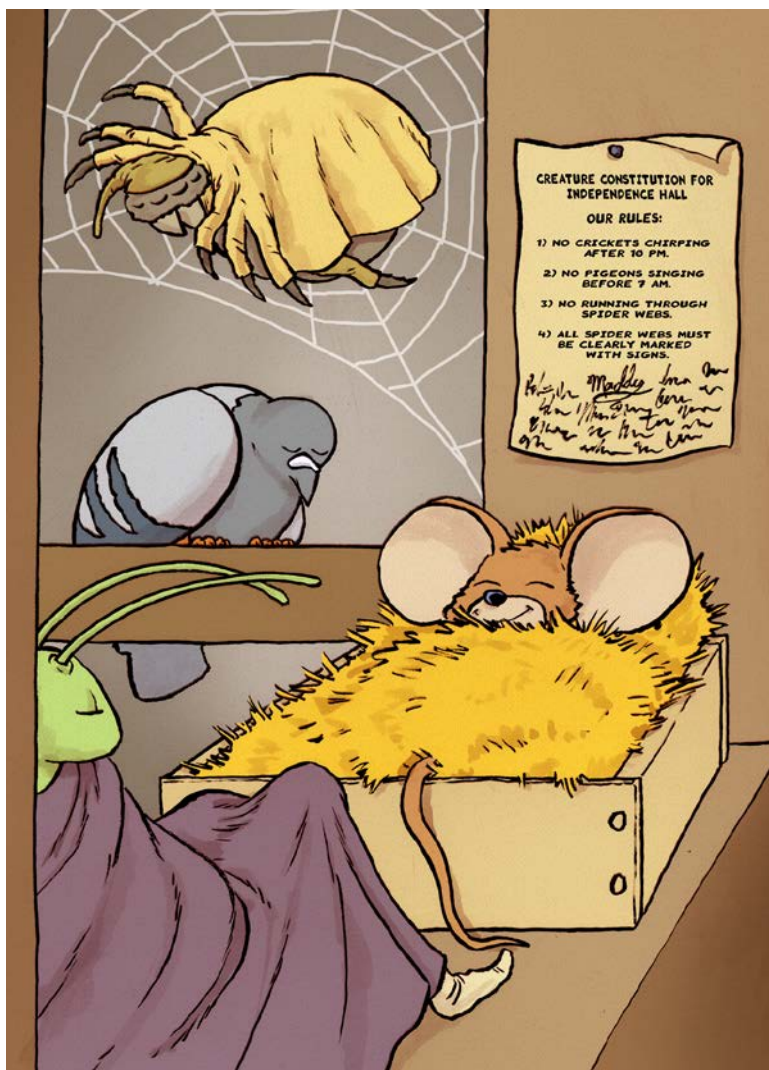
The next day, the creatures representing each group met. Everyone listened to the issues. When the groups started to argue, Maddy reminded them to work together. Each group then shared the rules that they thought would let everyone sleep.

In the end, they came up with rules that everyone could agree on.



In September of 1786, the creatures **signed** their constitution.

Maddy had found a way for them to all work together. The creatures asked Maddy to be their leader. Whenever the groups had a problem, they would bring it to Maddy and the other groups.



The night they signed their constitution, the creatures in the building fell asleep happy. They all had a good night's sleep.

## Glossary

<b>argued</b> ( <i>v.</i> )	disagreed; gave reasons for or against something (p. 5)
<b>constitution</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	the basic laws of a state or nation that tell how the government is run (p. 5)
<b>elections</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	acts of selecting a person for government office by voting (p. 12)
<b>miserable</b> ( <i>adj.</i> )	very unhappy, uncomfortable, or unpleasant (p. 3)
<b>represented</b> ( <i>v.</i> )	spoke or acted for another person or group of people (p. 10)
<b>signed</b> ( <i>v.</i> )	wrote one's name on something (p. 14)



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## Correlation

LEVEL M	
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*A Reading A-Z Level M Leveled Book*

*Word Count: 570*



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