

*Another Great Adventure:
Maurice
and
The Right to Vote*



By Maurice, as told to
Judge Morgenstern-Clarren



DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my first grade friends in Mrs. Hill's room at Marion-Sterling Elementary School, 2009-2010.

**Makaila Aaron
Ty'ionna Ball
Zakiyah Burston
Santana Campbell
Jerome Chandler
Jeremiah Cooper
Anthony Couch
Dimitrius Cowan-Roberts
Janiah Gales**

**Jamir Gordon
Darrion Malone
Damien Matthews
Marsha Mills
Jamal Sumlin
Jeremiah Vann
Adrain Vanpelt-Jones
Jania Williams
Keiasia Wilson**

and to H, P, and R.



It was a beautiful spring day. My friends and I went outside to play.

“Maurice,” said Derek the duck,
“Let’s play kickball.”



“No, Maurice, we played that yesterday,” said Olivia the octopus, “let’s play basketball.”



“How about jump rope,” said
Mallory the monkey.



Soon, my friends were all talking at the same time and tempers began to flare. Finally, I said: “Oh good heavens. There’s an easy way to decide. Let’s vote.”

“Vote?” said Davey the dog.

“What’s that?”

“We nominate different games. Then each person picks a game. That’s a vote. The game that gets the most votes wins.”



“That sounds like fun,” said Olivia the octopus. “The winner is basketball.”

“Wait a minute,” I said, “We haven’t voted yet. How do you know which game got the most votes?”

“That’s easy,” said Olivia, “I have the most arms, so I get the most votes and my game wins.”



“No,” I said, shaking my head,
“that’s not how it works. Each
creature gets one vote and then we
count the votes to see which game
wins.”

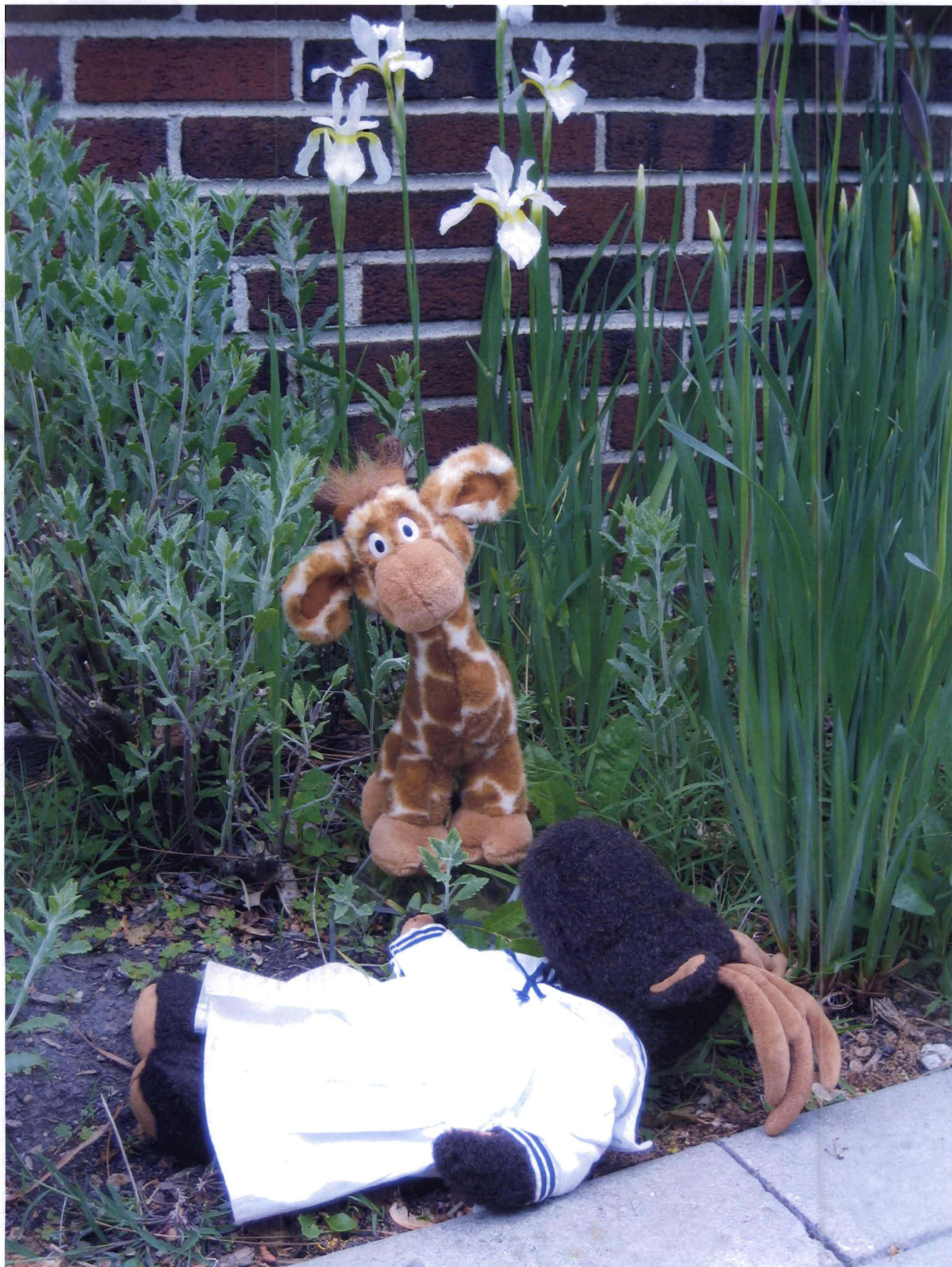


“What?” said Lorenzo the lion in disbelief, “How many times does each creature vote?”

“Once,” I said. “Each creature votes once.”

“But,” said Lorenzo, “I have the most teeth.” And he turned his head toward me so that the sun glinted off his many pointed teeth.

I was a little intimidated by all those teeth, but I took a deep breath and said firmly, “It isn’t one vote for each tooth. It’s one creature, one vote.”



“But,” protested Gerard the giraffe, “I am the tallest.”

I drew myself up to my full 24 inches. “Size doesn’t matter,” I said with dignity, “one creature, one vote.”



“I have the most whiskers,” said
Casey the cat. “I should have
more votes.”

“That’s not how it works,” I said.
“One creature, one vote.”



“I am your sister,” said Bertha the bear, “I should have the most votes.”

“No,” I said, “I love you Bertha, but one creature, one vote.”



“I have the longest ears,” said
Harvey the hare, “I should have
more votes.”

“No,” I said patiently, “one
creature, one vote. I have a lot of
antlers, but I only get one vote.”



“I am the wisest creature,” said Omar the owl, “and I should have the most votes.”

“No,” I said, somewhat less patiently, “one creature, one vote.”



“I understand how that rule applies to others,” said Eduardo the elephant, “but I am the oldest and”

“No,” I interrupted, “one creature, one vote. Isn’t anyone paying attention?”



“I can fly,” said Betsy the bird,
“and I should have the most
votes.”

“No, no, no, a thousand times no,”
I said, growing exasperated, “One
creature, one vote.”



“We are the best dancers,” said the frogs, Felix and Fritzi, doing the cha-cha. “We should have a vote for each step we take.”

“No,” I said firmly, “Stop dancing and listen. One creature, one vote. It’s in the Constitution.”



“The Constitution,” said Harriet
the horse, “what’s that?”



“It’s the agreement we have with each other about how we will behave,” I said. “When our ancestors first wrote the Constitution, they made some mistakes. They said that only the creatures who were tall and who had stripes could vote. But the creatures who came after said: why should I have to be tall and have stripes to vote? What does that have to do with making a good choice? And everyone else said, that’s a very good point. Let’s amend the Constitution so that everyone can vote.”



“Now the Constitution is clear: one creature, one vote. It doesn’t matter if you’re tall or short, have spots or stripes, have antlers or ears. One creature, one vote. And that,” I said, “is that. Now let’s vote.”

With that, each of my friends cast one vote and we went off to play.

The End

P.S. Which game do you think got the most votes?



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Maurice says: "I live in Cleveland, Ohio with Judge Morgenstern-Clarren and her family. I like to read, do yoga, and play games with my friends. My favorite treat is an apple. This is my second book with Judge Morgenstern-Clarren. Our first book, which was widely acclaimed, was 'My Great Adventure: A Trip to Washington, D.C. for the Inauguration of President Barack Obama, January 20, 2009.' When I get upset, I take three deep breaths and then I feel better."

Judge Morgenstern-Clarren says: "I live in Cleveland, Ohio, with my husband, Dr. Hadley Morgenstern-Clarren. We have two children, Peter and Rachel. Our daughter Rachel is a poet. When the weather is warm, I like to garden. When the weather is cold, I like to read about gardens. I always enjoy reading out loud to first graders. My favorite flower is the lilac."

The authors would like to thank Joyce Gordon, who once again provided invaluable assistance with their book.



