



Transcript for *What Can a Citizen Do?* by Dave Eggers (Chronicle Books)

Introduction (approximately 0:00 – 3:38)

Hi everyone! It's Colleen from the KU Natural History Museum. And thank you so much for joining me for today's Story Book Science. I'm very excited to read the book *What Can a Citizen Do?* with all of you.

But while we wait, I want to talk about what a citizen is. Because that's a very important vocabulary word, and we're going to hear it a lot when we read this book. So, when we talk about a citizen, we have to talk about what a citizen is, and who a citizen is!

A citizen is simply a member of a community. Now not only is that word important, but so is that definition. So, let's put the definition, on the wall. So, we can read that together: a citizen is a member of a community. A citizen has nothing to do with any sort of privilege of where you're born, or any sort of status you might have. A citizen is a member of a community.

So that is what a citizen is. But who is a citizen?

I'm a member of several communities. You're a member of communities. My neighbors are members of communities. And your neighbors are members of communities too. So, my – myself, you, our neighbors; all of these people are citizens!

Now in the book, we're going to talk about what can a citizen do? And while we wait, I want you to think to yourself, what can a citizen do? And I want you to think about things a good citizen can do. Things that a citizen can do to help support other people in their community.

Now it looks like some folks have joined us. So let's go ahead and get started.

First and foremost, we need to talk about Story Book Science guidelines. So we're not in the museum, but we are going to follow museum rules. So what that means is that we are going to make sure that this is a welcome, open, and inclusive space for everyone. Uh, if you have a question or a comment, you can feel free to write those. But just make sure that when you do, you use kind and considerate words. If you respond to someone's question or comment, you also want to make sure to use kind and considerate words. That's one way we can make sure that this space is safe and welcome for all. So can you use those kind and considerate words for me? Excellent! Thank you!

Alright! So welcome to Story Book Science. Today, we are reading the book *What Can a Citizen Do?* This book is written by Dave Eggers, and it is illustrated by Shawn Harris. And we're reading it with permission from Chronicle Books. Now I really like this book because it helps answer the question, what can a citizen do? So it helps us better understand what we can do as members of a community and what we can do to support other members, other people in our community. So I'm very excited to read this book with you to learn about what we can do as citizens.

Now, if you have any questions, please feel free to write those. Just know I may not see them until the very end, and only if there's time. And if you need a partial transcript of this reading, that will be made available a little later today. So, let's go ahead and get started!

What Can a Citizen Do?

Reading from *What Can a Citizen Do?* (approximately 3:39 – 9:23)

What Can a Citizen Do? includes copyrighted materials, and we do not have permission to include the written text of the book in this transcript.

Conclusion (approximately 9:24 – 15:15)

The end.

What a great story! And what a great way to answer the question, what can a citizen do? There's so many things a citizen can do.

Now remember, earlier we talked about what a citizen is, and who a citizen is. And for those who weren't with us at that point or are just joining us now, a citizen is a member of a community. That is what a citizen is. And who a citizen is, is any member of a community. So I'm a citizen. You're a citizen. My neighbors are citizens, as well as your neighbors. So citizens are all members of a community.

Now when we talk about community, there are lots of different communities. And they're all different sizes! You can have a small community. And a small community is a family or a group of friends. So we'll put, small, on the wall.

You can have a large community. And a large community would be a city. Alright? So let's put large, on the wall as well.

You can even have really, really big communities like a country. So we're going to put really big, country, on the wall. And it's a little hard to see, but it's right there beneath small communities.

So, citizens are a member of a community. And citizens can be members of lots of different communities. They can be small. They can be large. And they can be really big too.

Now, what we learned in the book is that citizens, they're defined by what they do. So they're defined by the actions that they take. And citizens, we all have different skills. We have different talents. We can all do different things. And we can all do different things that help support our community. Alright?

So, one example of something that a citizen can do is they can vote. So maybe you know an adult that voted yesterday or voted earlier. That's one thing that a citizen can do. Now only some citizens can do that. Uh, if you heard me, I said adults. So you have to be a certain age to vote. And sometimes, even if an adult is a certain age, they're not allowed to vote. So sometimes people keep them from voting. So, it's good to vote. That's a good action a citizen can take. But keeping someone from voting, that's not very helpful. That's not supportive. So we have to think about what we do and how it supports others.

Now voting is just one example of something a citizen can do. Another action a citizen can take is wearing a mask, like this. So, maybe you've gone to a place in your community like the library, and you've worn a mask.

Wearing a mask, like this, that's something that a good citizen can do. It's a good action you can take to help protect and support others in your community. Alright?

Now another action that a good citizen can take is making sure that everybody in the community feels welcome. So if you hear someone say something mean or say something rude about someone else, standing up for those people. That's something that a good citizen can do, an action a good citizen can take. Also asking those person, that person saying those mean things to stop. That can be really scary, but that's an action that a good citizen can take.

So those are just a couple examples of things that a citizen can do. I asked you all to think about what a citizen can do. What things do you think a citizen can do? Remember: when we think about the actions a citizen can take, we want to think about things that help support and show that we care about the other people in our community. Alright?

Now, there's a lot going on in the world! But we have the ability to take good actions and help support our community. So when you think about what a citizen can do, I want you to think about that. Okay? Good citizens take actions that support other people and their community. Alright? Excellent!

So, this is the end of today's Story Book Science, and I'm so glad that you joined me while we read the book *What Can a Citizen Do?* Next week, Mira and Prakriti are going to have an awesome STEM challenge related to this book. They're going to show you how to build collages and incorporate shapes and patterns. And they're going to show you how to do that to build a collage that shows the actions a good citizen can take. After that week, so two weeks from now, I'm going to be reading the book *At the Mountain's Base*. And this is by Traci Sorell. Alright? So, we have a lot of really fun things planned for you this month for Story Book Science. So I hope that you join Mira, Prakriti, and myself for all of these activities. I'll see you then! Bye!