

Name _____

Date _____



Rights & Responsibilities

Rights are things we all should have. I have 'em, too.

To protect them, we have to be responsible.

Responsibilities are things we're supposed to do,

As long as we take care of 'em, our rights are all good.

Last year, my school was almost in my backyard.

So every morning, my walk over was not far.

But now I live far away, so I catch the bus.

Why does the driver come all of this way to pick me up?

Well, in this country, education is a right for kids,

So we go to school, no matter who we are or where we live.

The right to go to school is great. But what comes with it, too,

Is responsibilities—things we're supposed to do.

One of these is following the classroom rules.

What if I ran around the class while the teacher's talking to you?

That could mess up yours or others' right to education,

So it's my responsibility to listen and be patient.

Students aren't the only ones with responsibilities daily.

The bus driver's expected to get us to school safely.

So thanks, bus driver, for being very responsible.

If we all do our part, our rights are unstoppable!

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There are some rights that everyone has, like to be safe.
But some are only for certain people of a certain age.
For example, voting for the president is a right for adults,
But kids don't have that right until they grow up.
This is true for different responsibilities, too.
Like at home, I'm responsible for cleaning my room.
But my baby brother—nope! He has none 'cause he's a baby,
But he still has the right to be taken care of and to safety.
When he grows up, he'll have responsibilities like mine—
Just like when I get older, I'll start getting more rights.
Who's responsible for changing his diapers and feeding him?
Luckily, not me! I've got other things that I need to get
Done, like my homework and catching my bus tomorrow.
So I better get to bed, so I can keep being responsible.
I do this to protect my right to ride the bus to school.
I'm not worried about losing it, 'cause I'm responsible.

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