

### Resource 3a: Station 2 Activity



Do you know who Sonia Sotomayor is? If not, you should.

In 2009, Sonia Sotomayor became the first woman of color and first Hispanic member of our nation's most important Court – the United States Supreme Court.

Ms. Sotomayor was born in 1954. Her parents grew up in Puerto Rico. They moved to a housing **project** in New York before Sonia was born. Sonia faced a number of challenges in life. The project in which she lived had gangs and violence. Her family spoke Spanish and very little English at home. In 1961, she learned that she had diabetes. Then, sadly, her father died in 1963 when she was only nine years old.

But she loved to read and learned how to be strong from her mother, grandmother, and a character in books she read named Nancy Drew. When she was only ten years old, young Sonia decided to become a lawyer after watching a television show called Perry Mason.

Sonia learned how to speak English and worked hard at school. She earned the highest grades in her class and had perfect attendance.

Because of her good grades, Sonia Sotomayor received full scholarships to Princeton and Yale Universities. She earned her law degree from Yale University in 1979.

As a lawyer and judge, Ms. Sotomayor developed a great reputation.

There are only 9 Justices on the United States Supreme Court. One of those Justices would have to retire, resign, or die before someone else can be appointed to the Court. In April of 2009, one of the Justices – David Souter – retired. President Barack Obama chose Sonia Sotomayor to replace Justice Souter the following month – in May of 2009.

#### Activities:

1. Create a horizontal timeline of events described in the reading
2. Describe one change over time that you read about in the reading or timeline
3. Identify one cause of the change
4. Identify one effect of the change.