

Fantasy



# FLOOZLE DREAMS

by  
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illustrated by  
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**Mc  
Graw  
Hill**

**PAIRED  
READ**

**The Job of a Governor**

## STRATEGIES & SKILLS

### **Comprehension**

**Strategy:** Make Predictions

**Skill:** Point of View

### **Vocabulary Strategy**

Idioms

### **Vocabulary**

accompanies, campaign,  
governor, intended, opponent,  
overwhelming, tolerate, weary

### **Content Standards**

**Social Studies**

Government

Word Count: 1,291\*\*

\*\*The total word count is based on words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in captions, labels, diagrams, charts, and sidebars are not included.



## Essential Question

Why do people run for public office?

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READ**

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## CHAPTER 1

# Donald Lopskill's Floozle Dreams

Donald Lopskill settled back into his chair. “So what would you like to know?” he asked.

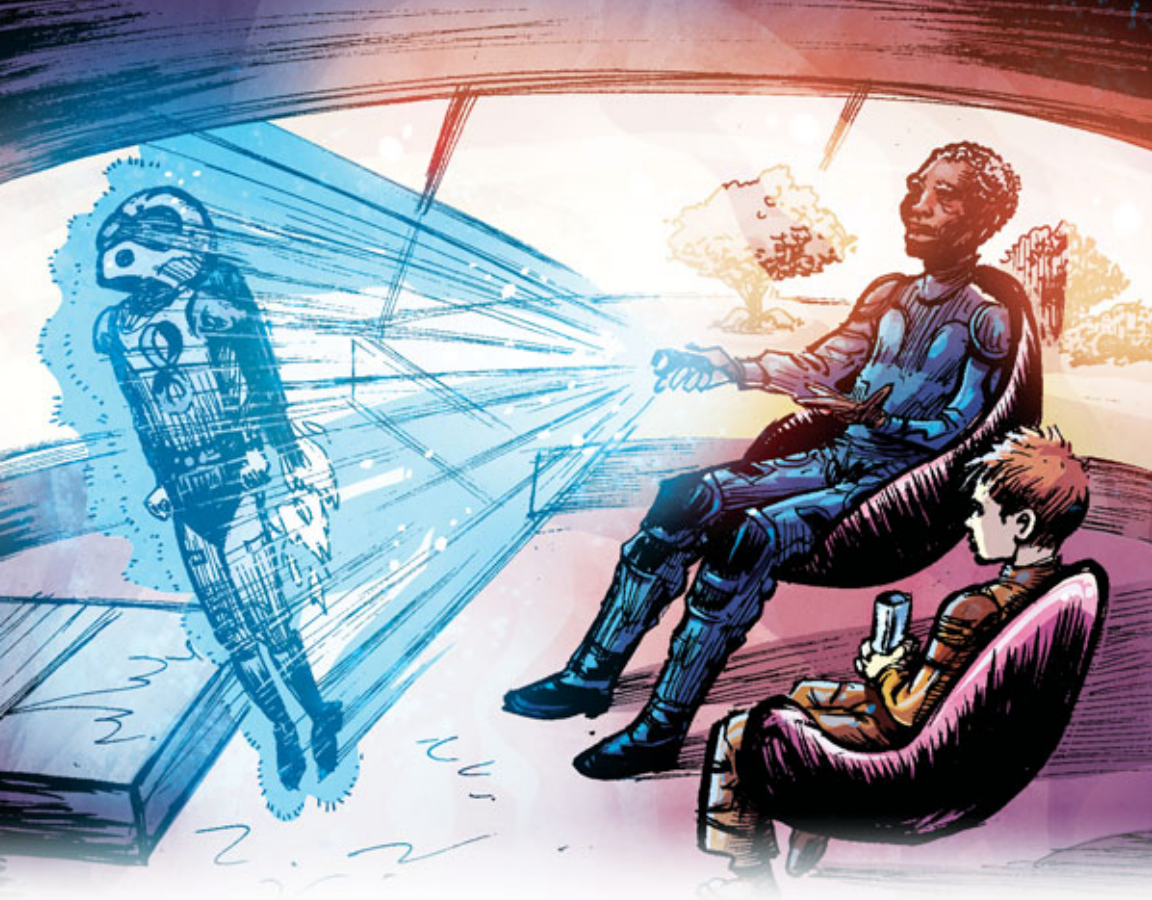
“I have a school assignment to record an interview with someone who has an interesting life story,” I said, trying not to yawn. The Lopskills’ apartment was very hot.

“Can you please tell me why you ran for state governor?”

The old man smiled and said, “The answer to that question is the game floozle.”

“What! Did you play floozle, sir?” I was astonished. I checked that my hologramizer was recording properly—this might actually be interesting!





“I played floozle all right, and you can call me D.L.,” said the ex-governor, laughing.

Mrs. Lopskill brought in some iced tea. “Why don’t we show Zane some holograms from our archive?” she suggested.

“Good thinking, Jana!” D.L. quickly flicked on a hologram.



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OCTOBER 2082

“That’s me playing on the national team,” D.L. said, pointing at number 8.

“I was the captain until I broke my leg. It was the end of my career.”

“Wow, you were captain of the national floozle team!” I was impressed.

“I couldn’t play floozle after that, but I decided I could still help the sport. Astoria needed a new floozle stadium. The governor wasn’t interested in building one. So after I finished my law degree, I ran for governor myself.”

“So you became governor because of floozle?” I asked.

D.L. chuckled. “Yes. I dreamed of hosting visiting teams at the Governor’s Mansion, and of presenting the Donald Lopskill Floozle Cup in Donald Lopskill Stadium.”

“It was a close race,” said Mrs. Lopskill, “but he won.”

**STOP AND CHECK**

Why did D.L. run for governor?

## CHAPTER 2

### *Jana Lopskill's Ideas*

“I met Jana the year I became governor, and we got married.” D.L. smiled at his wife. “We were both very busy working in those early years. I had my governor’s duties, and Jana taught elementary school. Her work got her thinking about the new floozle stadium. She was disappointed that it wouldn’t benefit the children in Astoria.”

“Why was that?” I asked.

“You couldn’t play floozle until you were 18 in those days,” D.L. said.

“Really?” I replied.

“Yes, the jet packs we used for flying then were too dangerous. So Jana persuaded me to use some money in the state budget for children’s playgrounds and sports facilities.”





He projected another hologram. “That’s me at the ribbon-cutting ceremony at a new playground. The children wanted me to try everything—wow, was that fun! I had a whale of a time,” he said, smiling.

“And then I found something else that urgently needed my attention.”

Mrs. Lopskill explained, “We were on our way to a meeting, and we stopped for lunch by Lake Astoria. Neither of us had been there since we were kids.”

“We saw that the lake water was brown and covered with scum,” D.L. said. “We were horrified when we realized our city water supply came from there.”

Mrs Lopskill said, “I urged D.L. to have the lake cleaned up.”

“And did you?” I asked.

“Hold your horses,” he chuckled. “The lake was filthy because waste from Horace Bumble’s factory was polluting it. So I warned Bumble that the state of Astoria wouldn’t tolerate it. I intended to close his factory unless he kept it from polluting the water supply.”

“What did Horace say?” I asked.



“Horace said he could do what he liked. Then he announced he was going to run against me for governor!”

“What happened?” I asked.

“Well, that got under my skin. I was planning to be a one-term governor—just until my stadium was built—but I couldn’t let an opponent like Horace Bumble beat me.”

D.L. continued, “That’s when I realized that I really wanted a second term so I could make sure everyone in Astoria had access to clean drinking water.”

D.L. rubbed his bad leg.

“It was a nasty campaign. Horace claimed I wanted to close every factory in the state.”



**STOP AND CHECK**

Why did D.L. decide to run for governor again?

## CHAPTER 3

# *A Great Governor*

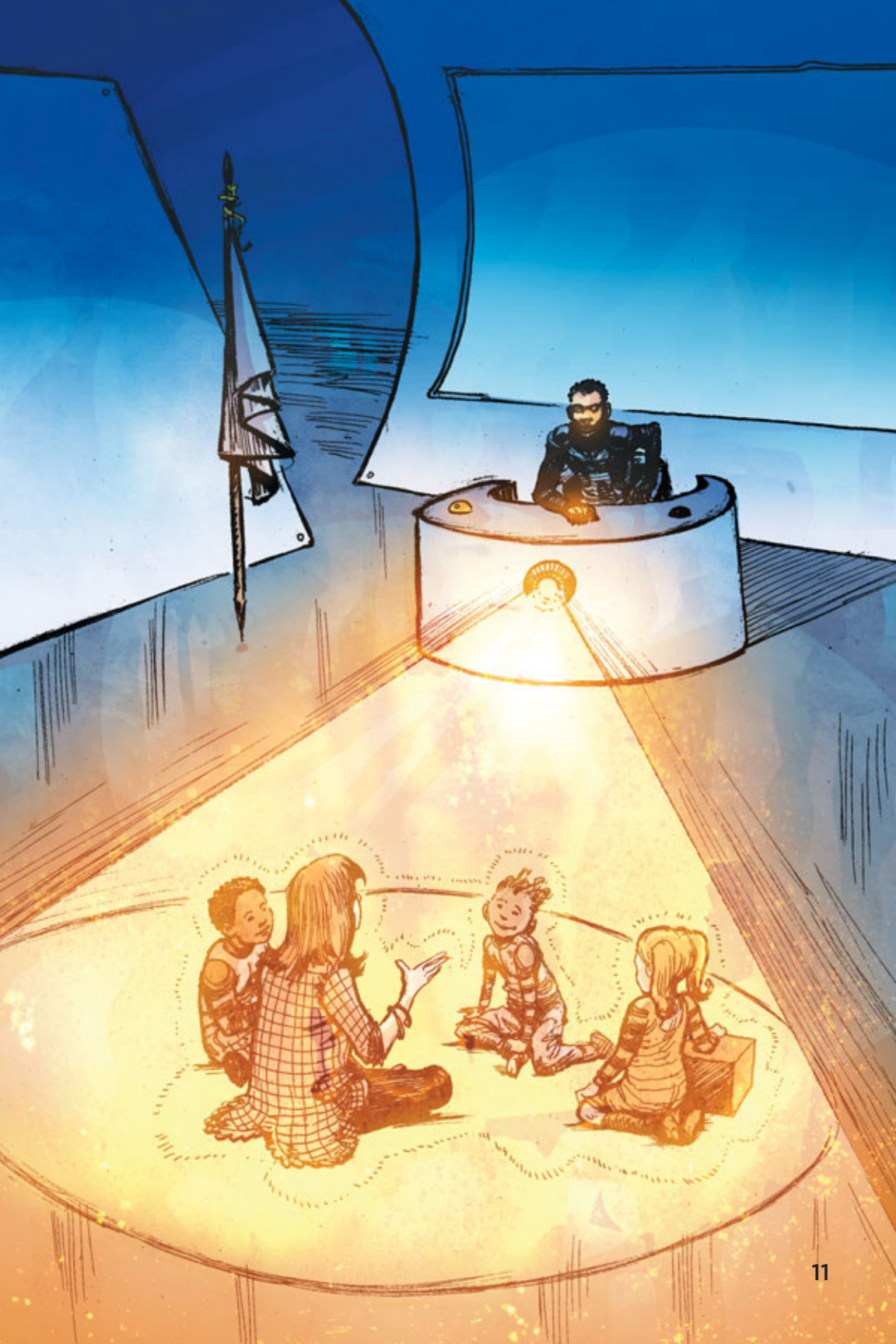
“Donald won his second term by a landslide,” said Mrs. Lopskill proudly. “And the lake was cleaned up.”

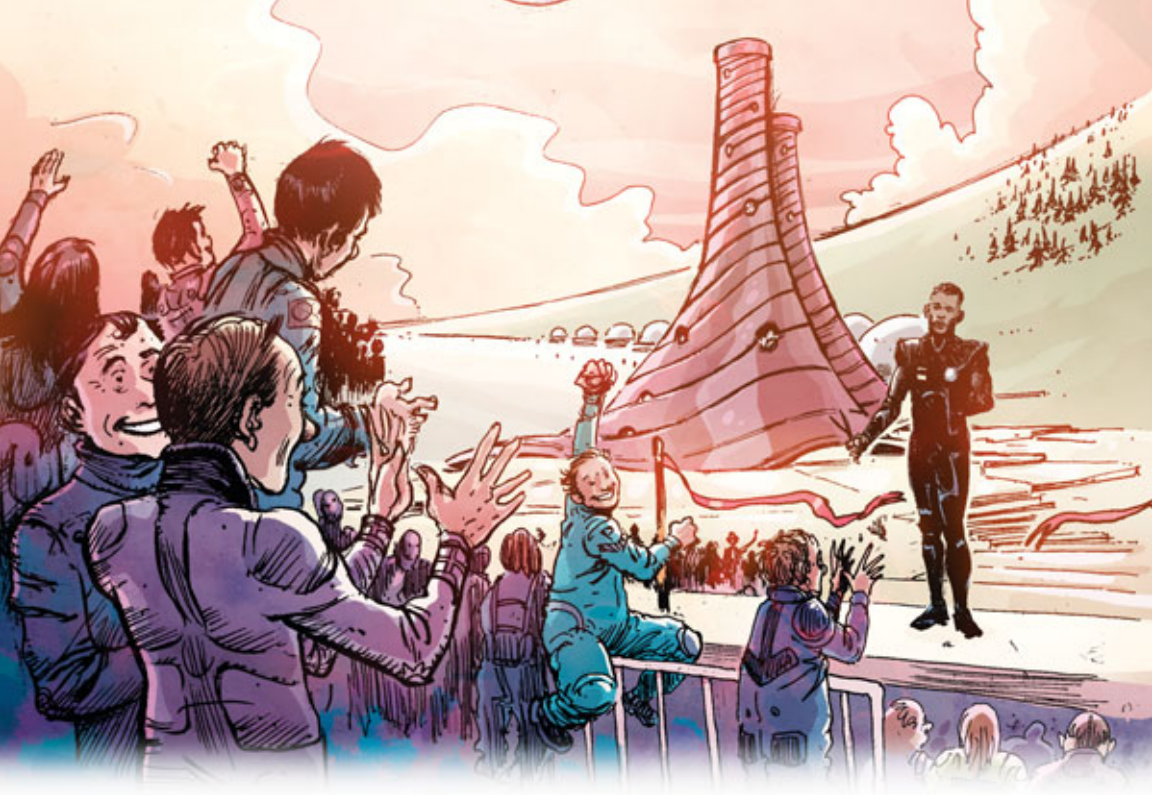
“Yes, it was an overwhelming victory,” said D.L. “But I was weary after the campaign. Then I had an idea. I set up Citizens’ Chat Hour. Every morning at nine o’clock, people could send their problems to me,” he said with a smile.

“They could show me a bridge that needed fixing or where new classrooms were needed, and I’d take care of it.”

“He became a great governor,” said Mrs. Lopskill, smiling at her husband.

“Well, I realized what a privilege it was. I had the power to make life better for people—and I loved doing it.”





“You won’t believe this, Zane, but when the Floozle Cup final was held in the new stadium, I nearly missed it,” D.L said, roaring with laughter. “I was opening the Renewable Energy Transportation Company. It’s now famous for making safe, clean transportation.”

“Like my power pack?” I asked.

“Exactly! The company employed everyone from Bumble’s closed factory, and hundreds more people. That sure was a great day.”

D.L. looked thoughtful. “You asked me what was the best thing I did as governor. I think providing clean drinking water and new jobs were best of all.

“And the secret of my success was that I learned to listen to people. Jana’s wisdom also helped show me what I could really achieve.”

He lifted his iced tea in salute to his wife. I thought that was a great place to finish the interview.



I closed my hologramizer and thanked D.L. and Mrs. Lopskill. D.L.'s life story had turned out to be far more interesting than I had expected.

Then, even though I felt shy, I blurted out, "Sir, I just want to say it's a great stadium! I play floozle, and it's my dream to play there one day."

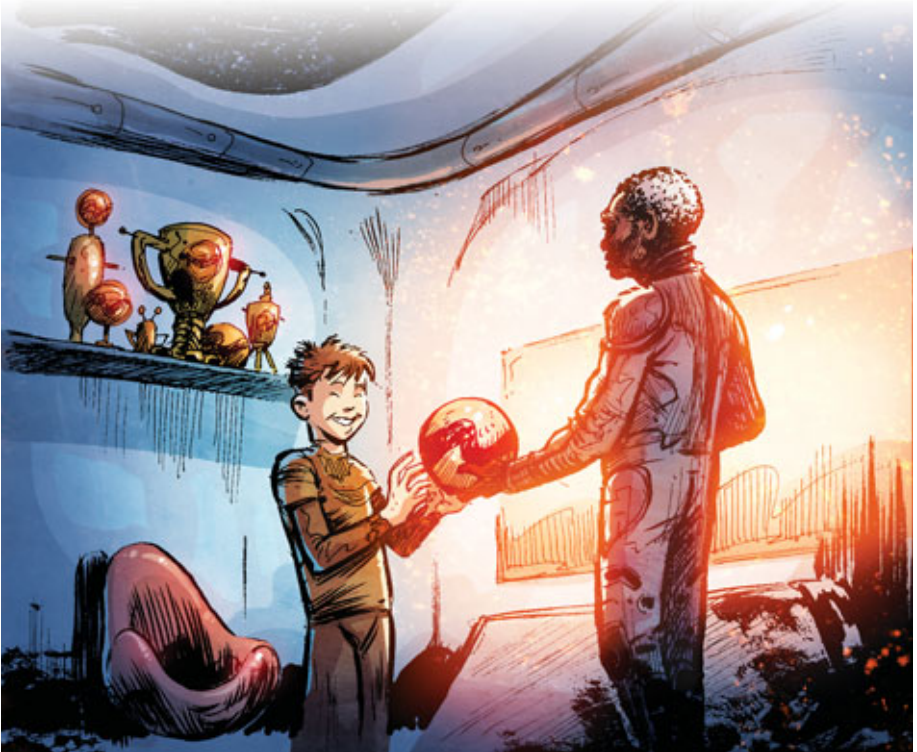
He grinned from ear to ear. "That's wonderful! You hear that, Jana? Zane's a floozle player! Which position do you play?"

"I play top flier. I scored four goals last weekend."

"Bravo!" D.L. heaved himself out of his chair and click-clacked his walking stick across the wooden floor to the closet.



“This is for you, Zane, from one floozler to another.” He handed me a ball signed by the great Astorian team of 2091, the first winners of the Donald Lopskill Cup!



**STOP AND CHECK**

What does D.L. believe were his greatest achievements?

# Respond to Reading

## Summarize

Summarize why Donald Lopskill ran for office in *Floozle Dreams*. Use your graphic organizer to help.

Details

↓

Author's Point of View
------------------------

## Text Evidence

1. What features tell you this story is fantasy fiction? **GENRE**
2. In Chapter 2, how is Bumble's point of view different from Lopskill's? What detail on page 9 shows Bumble's point of view? **POINT OF VIEW**
3. What does Lopskill mean by the idiom "got under my skin" on page 9? **IDIOMS**
4. Write about how this story would be different if it were told from the point of view of Mrs. Lopskill. **WRITE ABOUT READING**

## Compare Texts

Read more about the role of a governor.

# The Job of a Governor

Just like a principal leads a school, a governor leads a state. The governor is in charge, but he or she has to follow the rules of the state.

Governors are usually elected for a four-year term. Each state has its own rules about how old you have to be before you can run for office.

Many governors were lawyers or ran a business before running for office. Understanding business and law can help a governor do a better job.



**Nellie Tayloe Ross (1876–1977) became the first woman governor of a state (Wyoming) in 1925.**

Governors have many responsibilities. The governor works with the people who pass the state's laws. If a governor does not agree with a law, he or she can sometimes stop the law from being passed.

It is also the governor's job to make a budget. They decide what to spend money on. They make sure that there is enough money to pay for the things that need to be done.

Governors sometimes select people such as judges for important jobs in the state.



A governor usually lives with his or her family in the Governor's Mansion in the state capital.

# The State Constitution

The United States is so big that each state has its own government. A state also has a state constitution. This protects the rights of its citizens.

Each governor gives a speech every year to tell voters what he or she plans to do. This is called The State of the State Address.

Another part of a governor's job is to attend events and welcome important visitors. The governor's spouse often accompanies the governor to these events.

As you can see, a governor has a lot of work to do. The well-being of many people depends on their governor doing a good job.



## Make Connections

What does a governor do? **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

What connections can you make between the actions of Governor Lopskill in *Floozle Dreams* and the responsibilities you have read about in *The Job of a Governor*? **TEXT TO TEXT**

# Focus on Literary Elements

**Onomatopoeia** It is hard to spell and tricky to say, but onomatopoeia is a good word to know. Onomatopoeia is a word that sounds like the thing it represents. Animal sounds are an example of onomatopoeia. *Woof, meow, croak, and cluck* all sound like the sound made by certain animals.

**Read and Find** On page 5 in *Floozle Dreams*, the word *chuckled* sounds like the kind of small laugh it describes. On page 14, Governor Lopskill's walking stick *click-clacked* on the wooden floor. The words imitate the sound the walking stick made.

## Your Turn

Write a soundscape using onomatopoeia. Make a T-chart with the heading "Setting" for one column and "Sounds" for the other. Fill in the chart with at least three different settings. Then write two or three sounds you'd hear in each setting. Write a sentence for each setting.

Read your sentences to your group or your class, and adjust them if needed. Now illustrate one of the soundscapes and share it with others.

## Literature Circles

### Fiction

# Thinkmark

## Characters

Who are the main characters in *Floozle Dreams*?

Who are the other characters?

How did the narrator's opinion of Governor Lopskill change during the story?

## Setting

Where is *Floozle Dreams* set?

When did the story take place?

## Plot

What was Donald Lopskill's problem in *Floozle Dreams*? How did he solve it?

## Conclusions

What conclusions can you make about the characteristics of people who run for public office?

## Make Connections

How is Donald Lopskill like other politicians you know about?