

# Change Makers

Sometimes, all it takes is one person to show others that change is necessary to improve their lives, their community, or the world. Using stories of environmental activism, social justice, and inclusivity, this text set explores the theme of change makers.

## Essential Questions

1. What are reasons that people want change? What might spark change to happen?
2. How do people create change?
3. How do people respond or react to change happening around them?
4. Why is change necessary? What might the world be like if there was no change?

## Introduction to the Theme

Ask students to think about a personal change they want to make. This could be anything from finishing their homework right after school, to being kinder to their siblings. Have them think about why they want to make this change, what the outcome will be, and who it might affect. Then have students make a list of what they would need to do in order to make this change.

## Informational Text

These *TIME for Kids* articles can be used to discuss the theme of change makers.

1. **“Nobel Nomination”** (May 3, 2019) 16-year-old Greta Thunberg is a climate activist who has sparked protests all over the world.
2. **“Wildlife Lessons”** (April 26, 2019) The group Elephants for Africa helps elephants and humans live peacefully together.
3. **“New Scouts”** (February 22, 2019) After more than 100 years, the Boy Scouts is opening up a new program for girls.
4. **“Best Inventions of 2018”** (February 1, 2019) *TIME for Kids* highlights six of inventions of 2018 that change the way we live, work, and play.
5. **“The Last Straw”** (November 23, 2018) States are working to reduce the amount of plastic they use.
6. **“Justice for All”** (January 5, 2018) In 1957, the Little Rock Nine became among the first black teenagers in the U.S. to attend an all-white school.

## Literary Text

These fictional texts can be used to discuss the theme of change makers.

1. **Perfect Square**, by Michael Hall. A square learns to accept change.
2. **Maybe Something Beautiful**, by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell. A gray city is transformed by an artist and a little girl who see the possibilities of a blank canvas.
3. **Malala’s Magic Pencil**, by Malala Yousafzai. Malala uses her pencil, and her voice, to spread a message of hope.
4. **Wangari Maathai: The Woman Who Planted Millions of Trees**, by Franck Prévot. Maathai teaches women in Kenya how to plant trees, just as she learned as a young girl.

## Optional Extension

Ask students what is required for change to spread (*people must know about it and must care about it*). Have them research a person or an organization related to one of the stories to see how they spread messages of change. Some examples are listed below.

“Wildlife Lessons” (*TFK*, April 26, 2019) Students can research the group Elephants for Africa.

“Nobel Nomination” (*TFK*, May 3, 2016) Students can watch Greta Thunberg’s TED Talk.

*Wangari Maathai: The Woman Who Planted Millions of Trees*. Students can research the Green Belt Movement.

After they’ve done some research, have students create their own organization, movement, or campaign to spark a change in their school or community. They may wish to create a campaign flyer, an information sheet, or a verbal presentation to explain their mission.

**Editor in Chief:** Andrea Delbanco

**Creative Director:** Drew Willis

**Curriculum Director:** Stacy Bien

**Associate Editor:** Candace Dipsey

**Contributing Writer:** Rebecca Mordechai

**Copy Editors:** Mike DeCapite, Jordan Mamone