13 BOOKS THAT INSPIRE

From true stories about visionaries to stirring fiction to empowering practical guides, these titles offer encouragement for making the world a better place.

AMAZING TRAILBLAZERS



BERNICE SANDLER AND THE FIGHT FOR TITLE IX

By Jen Barton, illustrated by Sarah Green

In the 1960s, Bernice "Bunny" Sandler was denied a job at a university, despite her qualifications, because she was a woman. She crusaded for legislation that came to be known as Title IX. (IX is the number 9 in Roman numerals.) Passed in 1972, Title IX made it illegal for schools that receive money from the US government to discriminate based on sex. Title IX led to increased funding for girls' sports, among other advancements. This book gives readers insight into how to advocate for change and shows the law's lasting impact. *Ages 12+*



THE BOY WHO HARNESSED THE WIND: THE YOUNG READERS EDITION

By William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer, illustrated by Anna Hymas

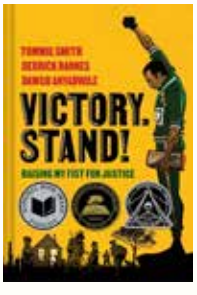
When co-author William Kamkwamba was growing up, his family's farm in Malawi (a country in Southeastern Africa) lost its crops because of a drought. He began to research ideas about how he could help. Using old bicycle parts and scrap metal, the 14-year-old built a wind turbine that brought electricity and the ability to pump water to the farm. The young readers edition of this memoir captures his innovation and determination. The book was adapted into a Netflix film in 2019. *Ages 9+*



THE DREAM & THE HOPE: THE HISTORIC RISE OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON TO THE NATION'S HIGHEST COURT

By Garen Thomas and Lori Rozsa

Ketanji Brown Jackson is the first Black woman to serve on the US Supreme Court. This biography chronicles how she worked hard to become a lawyer and proved naysayers wrong by going to Harvard University. Jackson would simply not let doubters get in her way. The authors capture her can-do spirit and include a list of Jackson's heroes as well as the eight principles she has followed to reach her goals. *Ages 8–12*



VICTORY. STAND!: RAISING MY FIST FOR JUSTICE

By Tommie Smith and Derrick Barnes, illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile

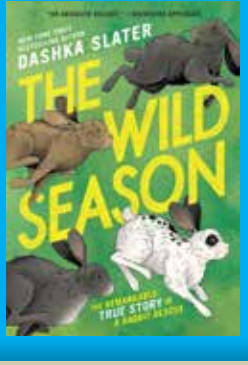
Co-author Tommie Smith won a gold medal in the 200-meter sprint at the 1968 Olympics. At a time of racial prejudice, he and bronze medalist John Carlos decided to use the winners' podium as a platform to draw attention to the plight of the Black community. As the national anthem played, they each raised a black gloved fist. The illustrations in this graphic novel memoir depict how this moment inspired others to use their spotlight to fight for justice. *Ages 12+*

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR ANIMALS

When four domesticated rabbits were abandoned at Golden Gate Heights Park in San Francisco in June 2023, a group of young people joined together to help rescue them before predators found them. *The Wild Season: The Remarkable True Story of a Rabbit Rescue*, by best-selling author Dashka Slater, describes the difficult search for the elusive bunnies, who even carved tunnels in the park's undergrowth.

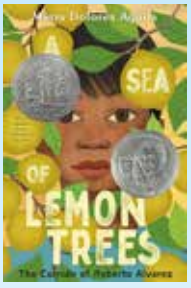
Although sightings were reported by many people, finding the rabbits required full-day rescue missions that involved adults, a 16-year-old volunteer at the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito, and a 9-year-old who launched a club with other children. The last rabbit was rescued in late July 2023.

This fast-paced book with charming illustrations contains descriptions of the rescuers, the park's backstory, and updates on what happened to the rabbits after they were found. *Ages 8–12*



The Power of Change

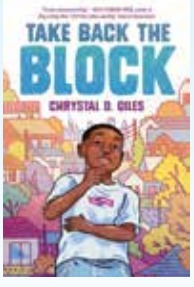
TRANSFORMATIVE TALES



A SEA OF LEMON TREES

By María Dolores Águila

After the Mexican Revolution of the early 20th century, many Mexican families sought a new life in the US. Anti-immigrant sentiment caused Mexican children to be moved from California's Lemon Grove Grammar School to an inferior, segregated school. Despite threats of deportation, parents and students held their ground and objected. Roberto Alvarez, age 12, was chosen to represent his community in court. This Newbery Honor book, a novel based on a true story, is told in poetic verse. As Roberto says, "When many people are brave together, we can do things that seem impossible." *Ages 8–12*



TAKE BACK THE BLOCK

By Chrystal D. Giles

Although Wes's parents are community activists, he'd rather spend time defending his fifth grade "Best Dressed" title than protesting on weekends. But he's been noticing a change in his neighborhood: Gentrification (when wealthier people move into lower-income neighborhoods) is happening all around him. His parents and neighbors receive offers from a real estate developer to move out of their homes. Wes and his family don't want to leave, but some neighbors feel differently. Wes's handling of the situation may empower you to get involved in your community. *Ages 8–12*



SOMETHING TO SAY

By Lisa Moore Ramée

In this tale of friendship and activism, shy Jenae and outgoing Aubrey, a new boy at school, are paired up for a class debate assignment. The 11-year-olds choose the topic of changing their school's name to Sylvia Mendez Junior High. This would honor the Mexican American girl who integrated a California school years before *Brown v. Board of Education*, a landmark 1954 Supreme Court decision that made racial segregation in public schools illegal. The problem: Jenae fears public speaking! Will she find her voice? This story demonstrates the power of having your say. *Ages 8–12*

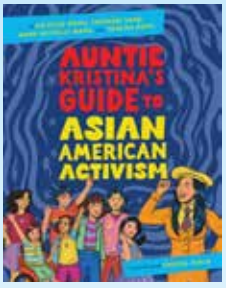


WILLODEEN

By Katherine Applegate

This novel begins with a quote from Swedish activist Greta Thunberg: "I have learned you are never too small to make a difference." The title character is a girl who just turned 11. Two fictional creatures she loves, the screecher and the hummingbear, are nearing extinction. Other villagers love hummingbears but don't like screechers, who are noisy and bothersome. Willodeen recognizes the important role that both play in the ecosystem long before the other residents do. Topics like ecotourism and environmental activism are addressed within the powerful story. *Ages 8–12*

GUIDES FOR CHANGEMAKERS



AUNTIE KRISTINA'S GUIDE TO ASIAN AMERICAN ACTIVISM

By Kristina Wong, Theodore Chao, Anna Michelle Wang, and Jenessa Joffe, Illustrated by Shehzil Malik

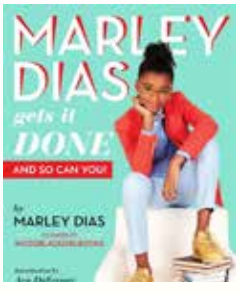
This manual covers the various heritages of Asian Americans, the experiences they face, and how they can deal with the challenges around them. The authors have a comedic touch that refers to readers as "rebels" they are enlisting to serve their community. Auntie Kristina highlights "Auntie Heroes," leaders who have made important contributions. Also included: activities and crafts that address the book's concepts. *Ages 10+*



OLD ENOUGH TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By Rebecca Hui, illustrated by Anneli Bray

This informational picture book introduces 13 children from around the globe who are making their countries better. Each of their stories is illustrated to depict their mission. For example, Maya from the US is doing what she can to eliminate fast fashion (the mass production of cheap clothes that are discarded as waste after minimal use). Meanwhile, Chaeli in South Africa is campaigning for disability access. It is the author's hope that readers will also do what they can in their own way. *Ages 8–12*



MARLEY DIAS GETS IT DONE: AND SO CAN YOU!

By Marley Dias

An activist and host of the Netflix series *Bookmarks: Celebrating Black Voices*, Marley Dias published this book in 2018, at the age of 13. She explains how she launched the #1000BlackGirlBooks campaign when she was 11 and tells you how to be the change you want to see in the world. She starts with her own story and then includes 10 more chapters. "The Activist's Toolbox: 21 Stay-Strong Strategies" is particularly helpful in making a difference. *Ages 10+*



START NOW! YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By Chelsea Clinton

Former First Daughter Chelsea Clinton wants readers to know they can have an impact on the world. In fact, there are many issues young people can tackle. Whether you're worried about the environment, endangered animals, personal health, hunger, or bullying, Clinton breaks each concern into a distinct chapter that will arm you with facts and advice on what you can do to confront the problem. Clinton also recognizes the role elected officials play and urges readers to contact them for additional support. *Ages 7–10*

BOOKS: COURTESY OF PUBLISHERS