



Making Big Ideas Happen

Kamala and Maya's Big Idea by Meena Harris

A lot of us have big ideas that we want to accomplish, but we know that they may be too big of an idea to accomplish on our own. But, everyone can stand up for what they believe in with the help of teamwork and collaboration. Our students can learn about their ability to accomplish goals, no matter how big or small, if they make a good plan and look to others for help. If we work together, we can make meaningful change, whether it be building a new playground, or slowing down climate change. This book teaches an important lesson about organizing and campaigning to help us achieve our big ideas.

Meena Harris' book, *Kamala and Maya's Big Idea*, is a great read aloud to spark conversation about working together to accomplish a goal. After you read or *listen to the story (Check out Meena Harris reading the book on YOUTUBE.), use the following questions to have a meaningful conversation with students on the topic of *the ability to accomplish change with teamwork and a plan*.

1. Kamala and Maya saw the problem of an empty courtyard and thought of the solution to build a playground. What is one problem that you have a solution for? What is your "big idea"?
2. In trying to build their playground, there were several times when Kamala and Maya were told "no." What did they do in order to keep working towards their goal? How did they problem-solve?
3. One of the techniques that Kamala and Maya used was "campaigning," or spreading their message far and wide. If you had to campaign for your "big idea," what would you tell people?
4. Teamwork: The book said that "no one could do everything, but everyone could do something." What do you think this means? What are some things that you could do to help your big idea, and what are some things you would ask other people for help with? Do you think teamwork is better than working alone? Why?
5. Kamala and Maya were able to convince adults to listen to their plan. What are some things they did that made the adults listen? Did they have good arguments? Were they respectful?
6. The main character of the book, Kamala, is now the first female Vice President of the United States. This is a big deal because only 100 years ago, women weren't even allowed to vote! This means that a lot of big change has happened in our country- something that seemed impossible 100 years ago has actually happened! Why else do you think being the first female Vice President is important? If you were the Vice President or the President of the United States, what are three things you would do?

www.rendellcenter.org