

Greta and The Giants



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Topics: Community building, Student voice, Rights and responsibilities

Genres: Children as leaders, Community stories, Positivist inspirational stories

Young citizens can be change agents. There have been many young people across our country who have promoted changes that have made our world a better place. For example, there is Marley Diaz who, at 11 years old, began to collect and donate books that featured black girls as main characters in order to provide role models for young girls everywhere. Then there is Mari Copeny who, at 8 years old, wrote a letter to the White House about the water crisis in Flint Michigan and caught the attention of President Obama. The story is based on the incredible work of Greta Thunberg, an environmental activist whose work began when she was 15. Greta Thunberg, the youngest person ever to be named *Time Magazine's Person of the Year*, has called attention to the world-wide crisis caused by climate change.

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Before the Read Aloud:

There has always been a discussion as to whether it is better to preserve our vacant land or build on that land and grow the economy. Imagine that there was a vacant piece of land in your community. There were two proposals for what to do with that land. One group thought that the land should be used to build a strip mall that would bring more business into the community. The other group wanted to preserve the land as a park where people could walk, ride their bikes, and enjoy nature. Which would you support and why?

During the Read Aloud:

1. An interesting part of *Greta and the Giants* is the fact that the Giants were able to see that what they were doing was wrong. The Giants probably did not stop their work all together. They probably compromised so that both sides got some of what they wanted. When there is a conflict, there are three ways in which it can be resolved. The ways include: a WIN/WIN resolution in which both sides get some of what they want; a WIN/LOSE resolution in which one side gets what they want; or a LOSE/LOSE resolution in which neither side gets what they want. Can you think of times in your life where you experienced each of these resolutions? What resolution would you most like to achieve? Be prepared to support your answer.
2. Did Greta's plan of action work when she first tried to get the Giants' attention? Why or why not?
3. Greta needed help from others who supported her plan. Imagine that you wanted to get something done in your home, school, or community. How might you get other people in your community interested in helping you implement your plan? Be prepared to share your plan of action for building your team.

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Take Action Project:

Identify a project you could work on that would help make your home, school, classroom, community more environmentally friendly. Make a list of projects that would interest you. Then write down your plan of action and share it with others who you think would help you develop the project.



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