

Lesson Plan: Small changes make a difference! A lesson in positive action from *The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade*

- Overview

In Justin Roberts' *The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade*, illustrated by Christian Robinson, an observant little girl notices and later calls attention to the bullying she sees in her school. Merely by speaking up, the little girl begins a cycle of positive change. Small actions make a difference, and even the littlest people are capable of big things. In this lesson, students will be empowered to find their own small ways to make a difference in the world.

- Resources & Preparation

- Materials and Technology

- The book, *The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade*
- Paper and writing utensils for journaling

- Instructional Plan

- Student Objectives:

- Brainstorm ways to make a difference in the world
- Practice small acts of kindness over one week or more
- Journal the results

1. Read *The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade* together as a class.
2. Discuss the story together. Emphasize how even a small person can make a big difference in the world.
3. Review examples of ways to make a difference such as those in the articles listed under additional resources. Discuss how some of these examples could be adapted for your area or for younger students.
4. Have students choose one attainable example that they can work on every day for a week or more.
5. Set aside a few minutes of class time every day for students to journal about what they did and how it made them feel.
6. See how long you can get them to keep it up.

- Additional Resources

- Ways to make a difference

- <https://psychcentral.com/blog/7-small-ways-to-make-a-big-difference-in-the-world/>
- <https://www.livingwellspendingless.com/small-ways-make-big-difference/>
- <https://www.heartfulnessmagazine.com/51-ways-to-make-a-difference-in-the-world/>
- <http://mentalfloss.com/article/87407/11-little-things-you-can-do-make-difference>

- Inspiration

- <https://brightside.me/wonder-people/10-kids-that-changed-the-world-392510/>
- <http://mentalfloss.com/article/521444/amazing-kids-who-are-making-world-better-place>
- <https://www.habitat.org/stories/5-amazing-kids-who-make-a-difference>