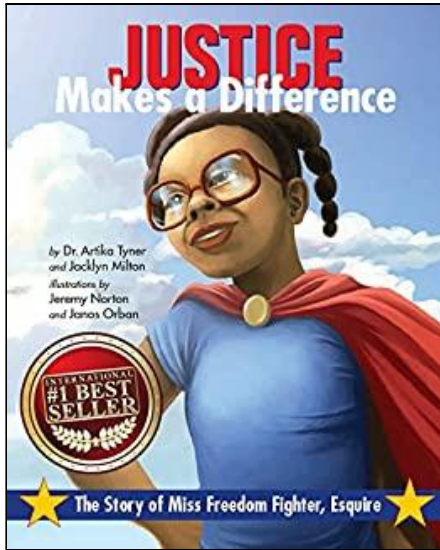


## Elementary Book Lesson for Caregivers



### Book Title

*Justice Makes a Difference: The Story of Miss Freedom Fighter, Esquire* by Dr. Artika Tyner and Jacklyn Milton, illustrated by Jeremy Norton and Janos Orban

### Recommended Ages

8 - 12 years old

### Book Summary to Share With Children

*In this book, the main character, Justice, watches her grandmother serve the community, and she wonders if she is too young to make a difference. Her grandmother teaches her about men and women who have made a difference in many different ways (Ella Baker, Shirley Chisholm, Charles Hamilton Houston, Dr. Wangari Maathai, Paul Robeson, and Ida B. Wells). Justice becomes inspired and dreams of becoming a change-maker, too.*

### Reflection Questions for the Caregiver

- Think about a time when your words or the words of others in your life held power (in either good or harmful ways). What impact did those words have?
- How often do you talk with your child about examples of people who have taken action in order to make a difference?
- What other diverse examples can you offer to show them the many ways people can take action and make a difference?

### Reader's Note

It is important to know about the various leaders (Ella Baker, Shirley Chisholm, Charles Hamilton Houston, Dr. Wangari Maathai, Paul Robeson, and Ida B. Wells) mentioned in the book. It will help you guide discussion, and your child is likely to have questions about them. There are short biographies in the back of the book, but if you are unfamiliar with these names, you may want to do your own quick research as well. It is also important to do the work of understanding the larger context of the book. Knowledge of the historical figures in this book and awareness of how their work connects to present day will be key to engaging your child in this discussion, inviting individual motivation and inquiry.

### Connection to Social-Emotional Learning and Anti-Bias Education

#### **SEL**

**Self-Awareness**

**Self-Management**

**Social Awareness**

**Relationship Skills**

**Responsible Decision-Making**

#### **ABE**

**Empathy and Understanding**

**Healthy Complex Identities**

**Respect Across Differences**

**Notice, Name, and Reject Bias**

**Responsiveness and Action**

## Discussion Questions

1. Think about the following quote from the book. “Words are powerful,” Grandma told Justice. “They can be used in powerful ways to do good or to do harm. That’s why it’s important to always be careful with your words.” Tell about a time when your words or the words of others in your life held power (in either good or harmful ways). What impact did those words have?
2. Have you ever felt like Justice did at the beginning of the book, like you wanted to do something to make a difference but didn’t know how?
  - a. How did that feel?
  - b. What did you do?
3. In the book, Justice learns about different ways to make a difference. What are some examples from the book?
  - a. What other examples can you think of?
4. How can creating poetry or music (or other art forms) be examples of taking action against injustice? How can they make a difference?
5. What issues are you interested in taking action on? (At home, at school, in your neighborhood) What are some ways you can take action?
6. What support do you need from people in your life in order to take action? Who can best support you?

## Journal Questions/Activities

- Listen to and show the lyrics/words for the following. Discuss the social issues of the time periods they were sung and how the songs are examples of taking action.
  - “We Shall Overcome”
  - “A Change is Gonna Come” by Sam Cooke
  - “This Little Light of Mine”
  - Paul Robeson songs
  - “Ella’s Song (We Who Believe in Freedom Cannot Rest Until it Comes)”
- Find and collect poems, speeches, writings, or songs that are examples of taking action for the issues your child is interested in taking action on.