



Raising Changemakers:

Stories and Activities for Changemaking at Home

A toolkit for educators with stories and activities on how parents and guardians can activate young people to create positive change.



WELCOME

How do we deal with change? Be a Changemaker.

It is no surprise that our lives have been significantly disrupted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As teachers, you see more than anyone how important it is to be able to adapt quickly to change and steer it in a positive direction, for your students, their families and yourselves.

That is why being a **changemaker** is critical for each and every one of us and requires a particular set of skills that need to be practiced. And the earlier the better.

Changemaking, that is facing a problem, creating a solution and mobilizing others around your idea, is a powerful experience that will make you confident the next time you face a challenge, again and again. Not having this experience is contributing to a greater division in our society between those who are able to adapt to change and thrive and those who cannot.

In the face of school closures and distance learning, Ashoka has compiled a resource for teachers to share with parents and/or incorporate into your teaching to bring a light of positivity and possibility to this uncertain time.

The Changemaker Story Series, is a series of short videos and written stories that show the power of young people –in their teens– who are changing their worlds in both small and big ways. The goal of the series is to give young people and their parents a framework for starting or advancing their own changemaking journeys. How might they contribute positively to the current situation whether in their homes, online or in thinking through ways that our post-pandemic world can be better?

How to use the toolkit:

We invite you share one changemaker story a day for a week with your students and their parents. The materials are directed at parents given the role that many are playing as intermediaries and stewards of the distance learning process. Story discussions about the stories can be guided as part of a classroom activity or as homework for students to discuss with their families.

We have also provided a series of basic questions for parents to drive conversations with their children around what inspired them, who helped and supported them, and who have they impacted, These questions also help draw out some of the key skills each young person demonstrates - empathy, teamwork, shared leadership and changemaking.

Have stories to contribute? Ideas on how to improve this resource? As educators, we want to hear from you and get your feedback about what is helpful or what is missing to bring the conversation around young changemaking to your students and their families.

Upon completing the series, you can access more stories and also continue the work by helping support your students in initiating their own ideas as part of their learning journey in school.

**Check out more resources and stories on our website:
www.ashoka.org**

How to use this toolkit:

Many of us parents are juggling distance learning and activities to keep our kids positive and motivated despite the disruptions so many are facing. We all must be changemakers to keep everything moving.

We invite you to share with your child one changemaker story *a day for a week* as a way to spark the discussion around young changemaking. This can be a joint family activity or an individual challenge where each person watches and reads a story, then discusses at the breakfast table or on a virtual call with extended family.

Below are a series of questions you can use to draw out the key skills each of stories demonstrate - empathy, teamwork, shared leadership and changemaking:

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- What inspired them to help solve this issue? Why did they care about it?
 - Who did they involve in the initiative? Who helped or supported them?
 - How did this initiative help other students or kids step up and contribute to something positive?
 - What are some ideas you have to contribute, even small ways, in and from your home?
 - What are ideas you think could help our world when we are back at school?
 - What are your ideas for how our schools can help more young people be changemakers like the young people in these stories?
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In the pages that follow, we have tagged a selection of stories by age group and key topics. But we also invite you to read the full story collection of stories here and chose from many more stories.

If you have stories to contribute or ideas on how to improve this resource, we want to hear from you. Tell us what is helpful or what is missing to bring the conversation around young changemaking into your home.



Younger Kids

Stories for kids ages 8 to 11

Joshua (Florida, USA) –

At the age of 4, Joshua was struck by the reality of homelessness. With the help of his family, he started a network of young people that give caring, hope and help to those suffering from poverty, hunger, and loneliness. Joshua's story shows how early changemaking can start, the importance of family support, teamwork and empowering other young people along the way.

Read and watch his story here.

Morgan (Kentucky, USA) –

In response to a traumatic experience with bullying when she was young, Morgan stepped up to launch the Guess Anti-Bullying Foundation based in Kentucky to spread kindness and awareness around mental health. Morgan's story shows how parents can play a critical role as allies to young changemakers and how stepping up, however hard to do, builds confidence and perseverance.

Read and watch her story here.

Christian (Colorado, USA) -

When Christian noticed that students were leaving messes in his school hallways, he saw an opportunity to promote interconnectedness between students, staff, and custodians. Christian's story shows an example of what any young person can do to change something they care about in their schools by working through school clubs and mobilizing other students.

Read and watch his story here.

Peyton (Pennsylvania, USA) -

Peyton created the Global Minds Initiative when she was 15, to help students confront stereotypes and discrimination at her school.

Peyton's story shows how to lead while empowering others as she spreads her work through students across the U.S. stepping up co-lead her initiative.

Read and watch her story here.

Josh (Arizona, USA) -

After meeting a friend's brother who loved to play soccer but was excluded from the team because he has Down's Syndrome, Josh became determined to find a way for all to be players. Josh's story highlights the power of empathy for the good of all and the importance of young people following their own passions.

Read and watch his story here.

Middle Years

Stories for kids ages 11 to 13

Laya (Texas, USA) -

Demonstrating the power of technology as a tool for social change, Laya and her friend co-designed HydroAlert to create an alternative, low-cost, lifesaving system to alert residents about dangerous flooding on roads in their area. Laya's story shows the importance of empathy in identifying key problems in one's community, pathways for girls in STEM and how families can provide early exposure to changemaking building-blocks.

Read and watch her story here.

Bonus: Hear from Laya and her dad on what it's like to raise a changemaker.

Chirag (Washington State, USA) –

Chirag experienced early on how linking social change work and volunteering to kid's own passions was the recipe for young people's engagement in social change. He created Creative Children for Charity to combine art, entrepreneurship and technology to promote youth engagement in changing their communities. Chirag's story shows the power of teamwork and technology in young changemaking.

Read and watch his story here.

Sanjana (Bangalore, India) -

At 16, Sanjana started an initiative to address the lack of hygienic menstrual practices and to provide access to menstrual products for females from marginalized areas of India. Sanjana's story demonstrates how empathy and shared leadership has helped her build a strong team -girls and boys alike- to lead this gender equity initiative.

Read and watch her story here.

Katie (Wisconsin, USA) -

Amidst a rise in youth organizing, Katie equips youth-led advocacy organizations with the connections, resources, and encouragement they need to grow. Katie's story highlights how successful changemakers start with simple ideas, the power of connecting young changemakers for collective action and the case for why schools should be a place to support young changemaking.

Read and watch her story here.

Ara (Jakarta, Indonesia) –

Ara's story shows how an early start at changemaking growing out of her passion for cows set her on a changemaking pathway for life. Ara's story demonstrates the importance of parent support and encouragement in following one's passions.

Read and watch her story here.

High School

Stories for kids ages 14 to 18

Garvita (Bangalore, India) –

Garvita's initiative 'Why Waste', started at the age of 15, is conducting awareness campaigns for the public and helping restaurants identify the various ways in which they can save resources. Garvita's story highlights the important skills you need to practice in order to be a changemaker.

Read and watch her story here.

Luiz Henrique (Amazon region, Brazil) --

Growing up in an indigenous community in an extractive reserve of Pará in Brazil's Amazon region, Luiz Henrique saw the lack of youth voice in decisions about the future of his community. He created a system for preparing and including young people from indigenous communities into local government decision making around environmental conservation of the world's most precious natural resource: the Amazon. Luiz Henrique's story highlights the importance of young changemakers empowering other young people as changemakers.

Read and watch his story here.

(Subtitled: click "CC" for English)

Mahika (California, USA) -

Mahika Halepete believes in the power of youth to change their communities. Through AYANA International, she is tapping the problem-solving potential of youth in developing communities around the world. Mahika's story demonstrates a new kind of leadership. One where everyone leads.

Read and watch her story here.

Carlla (Manaus, Brazil) –

Carlla experienced inequalities in the public education system in Brazil and lack of resources for science education. She launched Projecto Cosmos, an initiative in public schools to bring Astronomy to disadvantaged kids as a way to awaken scientific and critical thinking in the face of widespread mis-information that is affecting civic engagement in the country. Carlla's story highlights the importance of encouragement from parents and teachers and how valuable shared leadership is in growing one's initiative.

Read and watch her story here.

(Subtitled: click "CC" for English)

Victor (California, USA) -

Victor saw a gap in how what he learned in school related to his own life and that of the community. Victor and his team provide a space for young people to explore their passions while developing the necessary skills to start their lifelong changemaking journeys in their communities.

Read and watch his story here.

Ideas for How to Practice Changemaking at Home



Five Activity Ideas:

These changemaker stories aim to inspire and engage your family around positive change that every family member can do. As parents, you can help your child advance in their journey as changemakers. Depending on their age, here are a few ideas that can help:

- 1** Encourage your child to share the stories they liked the most with their teachers and/or peers. Ask them to think of other ways they could share with their school network: school newsletter, intranet or virtual assemblies.
- 2** Identify together as a family ways to support neighbors or family members in need. Come up with ideas that you can work on as a family.
- 3** Encourage teamwork on tasks that need to happen in the household and in managing working/schooling.
- 4** Put your kids in charge of something in the household like helping with a younger sibling, planning meals, cleaning and organizing fun activities.
- 5** Empathy is a fundamental and critical skill. Help your child reflect on how their actions make others feel in the household, with their friends (online), in their distance learning environments. After viewing the story, ask what they think the young changemaker was feeling when they saw the problem, had a setback or mobilized others around their idea.

Four Additional Resources:

- 1** Read the parent's guide to changemaker conversations at home.
- 2** Check out these resources for parents and guardians, including videos and podcasts about raising changemakers.
- 3** Share this Changemaker Toolkit to introduce other young people to changemaking.
- 4** Learn what other young changemakers are doing in response to the pandemic.

You can find more stories like these at <http://www.ashoka.org>



NEXT STEPS

Congratulations! Activating others to find their changemaking power is something to celebrate.

We know from experience that when you have started making change happen around you, it's not easy to stop. We are here to help you grow your movement and to support you in the journey of enabling more and more parents, families, and young changemakers around you. We are excited to see your impact!

Some things you can do to grow the movement are:



SHARE

Use #EveryoneAChangemaker to share on social media what actions you are taking to advance the movement. You will inspire other young changemakers like you to follow suit, and, who knows, they may also decide to start their own changemaker journey.



SEND TO A FRIEND

Share this toolkit with a friend or teacher. What activities could you do together to spark young changemakers in your home, school, or community?



CREATE

Create your own changemaker story based on your own experience or someone you know well. Get creative with the activities and build new ones for existing or new stories.



SIGN UP

Receive regular email updates for more stories of power young people creating change in their communities, resources for parents and educators, and more.



CHECK OUR WEBSITE

Visit <http://www.ashoka.org> for new stories and activities. Get inspired by the thousands of changemakers around the world leading a new path forward.



About

Ashoka

Ashoka identifies and supports the world's leading social entrepreneurs, learns from the patterns in their innovations, and mobilizes a global community to embrace these new frameworks and build an Everyone a Changemaker world. **Learn more about our movement with this animated video.**

We create and share stories to demonstrate what our world would look like if every young person had the confidence and skills to be a changemaker. These stories aim to inspire young people to be bold and creative, and parents and educators to promote these kind of growing up experiences, in order to make young changemaking the new norm.

<http://www.ashoka.org>



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