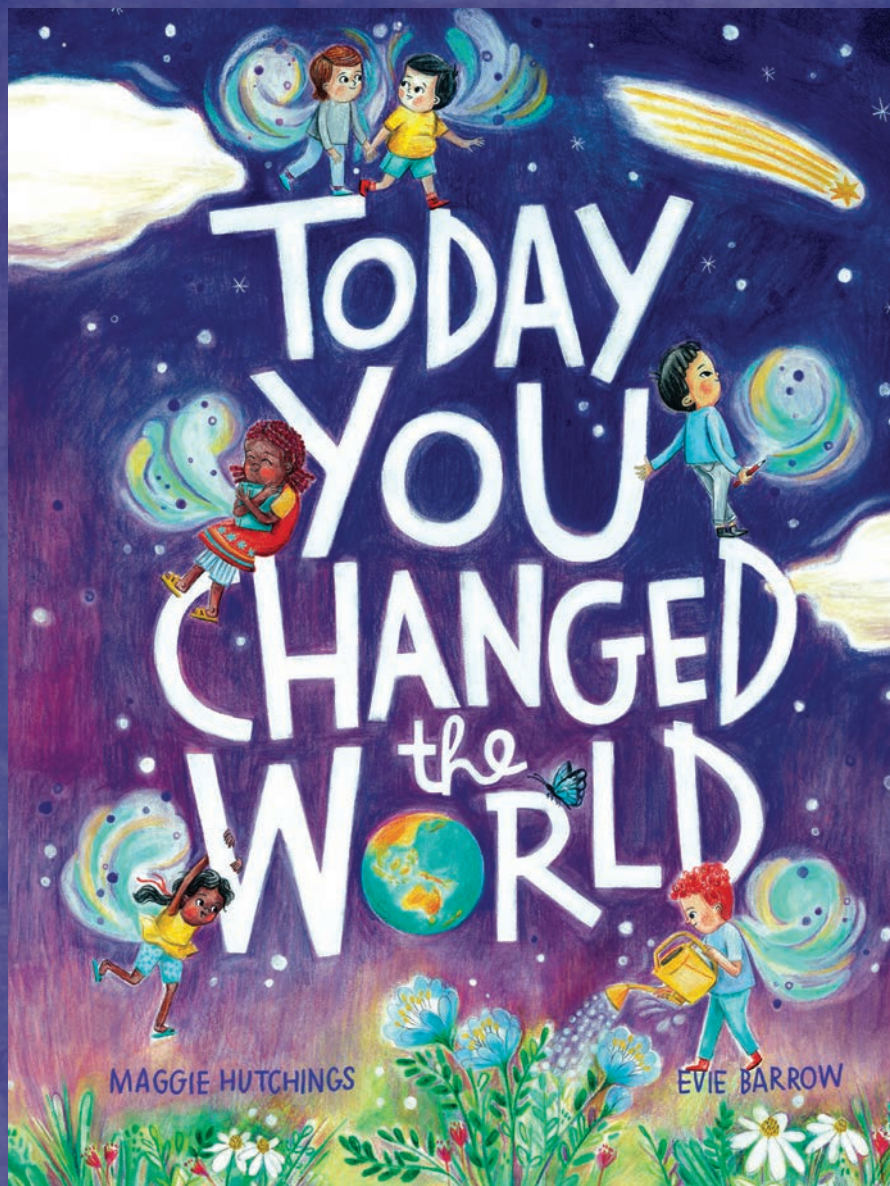


Classroom Resources



Written by
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Illustrated by
Evie Barrow

Suitable for
Ages 3–7

Themes
Making a difference
Acts of kindness
Having courage

Contents of this pack

- Overview of *Today You Changed the World!*
- Key themes
- Questions to ask before we begin reading
- Main discussion in key curriculum areas
- Final reflections
- Two activities

Description

*It wasn't on the radio
but today
in a town like yours ...
Indie changed the world.*

You might not have heard about it, but every single day, tiny acts of kindness make a huge difference all around us. From Bella, who stands up for what's right, to Li, who shares his gift with others, the smallest of actions can be enough to make the world a better place. From the critically-acclaimed team behind *I Saw Pete* and *Pete Saw Me* and *Enough Love?* comes a powerful invitation for kids to make change for themselves and for others.

About the author

Maggie Hutchings is a counsellor, family-dispute mediator, writer and artist who spends her weekends covered in paint and scribbling lists that are never completed. She is a famously mad aunt, nanna and mother who talks to herself out loud and falls over a lot in the garden at her house in northern New South Wales. Maggie writes stories with heart and soul for children and adults that encourage kindness, hope and resilience.

About the illustrator

Evie Barrow is an Australian artist and illustrator living in Melbourne. In 2019 her first illustrated picture book was published: *Horatio Squeak*, written by Karen Foxlee. Along with children's book work, her illustrations have featured in magazines such as *frankie*, *Broadsheet* and *Flow*, and in the book *Shout Out to the Girls*.

Find this book at our website:

<https://affirmpress.com.au/publishing/today-you-changed-the-world/>

Key themes

Making a difference

Today You Changed the World! follows children all over the world who make a difference in their own way. Although their acts of kindness may not be heard on the radio or written about in newspapers, the children in this story still have a positive impact on the people around them. This book is a great tool to talk about ways we can make a difference within our community, no matter how big or small.

Acts of kindness

Each of the characters demonstrate kindness and compassion for others. We see Billy caring for his upset friend, Mia collecting books for a library and Bella giving her lunch to a boy with no home. Use this book to discuss the many ways that we can show kindness, compassion and generosity to one another.

Having courage

It takes courage to make a difference, whether that is standing up to those who are excluding you or sharing your creativity with the world. Both the artwork and the narrative are full of characters demonstrating courage, which can prompt conversations about the different ways we are brave in our everyday lives.

Questions to ask before we begin reading

- Have a look at the front cover; what do you think this book will be about?
- How many characters are on the cover? What are they all doing?
- The title of this book is *Today You Changed the World!* What do you think this means? Do you think you could change the world? In what ways would you like the world to be changed for the better?



Main discussion

Key curriculum areas:

Comprehension

Social and emotional development

Knowledge and understanding of the world

- On Page 4 and 5, Indie is not allowed to play with the group. What does she do about this? What would you have said if you were Indie?
- On Pages 8 and 9, we see lots of children playing in the playground. What kinds of activities are they doing?
- How does Billy help his friend who is crying? Have you ever helped a friend who was upset? How did you help them? Has a friend ever cheered you up?
- On Pages 12 and 13, Mia and her friends collect books for a library. Have you ever donated some of your things to help others in need?
- On Pages 16 and 17, Bella gives her lunch to a boy with no home. How would you describe Bella's actions? What types of food are in the boy's new lunch?
- On Pages 20 and 21, Li sees a falling star. Do you know what a falling star is? Have you ever seen one before?
- Have you ever written a story or a poem based on something you have seen in nature? What did you write about? Do you like to share your writing or artwork?
- On Pages 24 and 25, we see lots of children making a difference and acting with kindness. Describe what the children are doing. Have you done any of these things before? How might these actions make a difference in the world?
- On Pages 26 and 27, we see lots of purple squiggles coming out from Earth. What do you think these purple squiggles are? Have you seen them anywhere else in the book?
- Look at the picnic on Pages 28 and 29. What kinds of food can you see the family eating? What colours can you see in the flowers?
- On Page 30, how is the boy helping make a difference? What are some ways that you help people in your family?
- Flip back to the first page of the book. Do you notice anything similar between the first and last pages?
- What do you think the phrase 'act of kindness' means? What types of 'acts of kindness' could you do to help out a friend or family member or neighbour?

Main discussion

Key curriculum area:

Literacy

Vocabulary

Make a list of these words and phrases, which may be unfamiliar to young readers, and find out what they mean and how else they could be used in a sentence.

- Radio
- Healed
- Discovered
- Schoolyard
- Hope
- Soul
- Stranger

Key curriculum area:

Numeracy

- How many children are shown in this book?
- How many children can you spot in the playground on pages 8 and 9?
- How many books can you spot in total on pages 12 and 13? How many books are in Mia's trolley on the next page?
- This book shows lots of different ways that children can change the world. How many different acts of kindness can you spot?

Final Reflections

- What was your favourite part of this book? Why?
- What do you think is the message of this book?
- What are some ways that you show kindness and make a difference in the world?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why/why not?



Activity One: How do I change the world?

How do you make a change in the world? We can all make a difference by showing kindness and bravery to others. Fill out the prompts below with ways that you use kindness to change the world!

I SHOW KINDNESS AT SCHOOL BY...

I SHOW KINDNESS AT HOME BY...

I SHOW KINDNESS TO MYSELF BY...

Activity Two: Draw a self-portrait

Draw a picture of yourself doing an activity or hobby that you enjoy and can share with others. For example, you might like to draw a picture of yourself watering the plants, baking some cookies, or performing a dance for your friends and family. Use the space below, or draw your self-portrait on a new sheet of paper.

