

BOOK SUMMARY

Do your students look and listen for change in them? In the classroom?

Amanda Gorman is a gift! In Change Sings, she takes a poetic approach to inspire children to join the change movement. This beautifully illustrated children's book is jam-packed with metaphors to ignite discussion with older students. The rhythmic text and vibrant colors will entice younger readers.

Most intriguing, however, is the consistent message for readers to **look** and **listen** for change around them and within them. Taking action is one thing, but taking the **right action** is another.

What is the right action? Teaching responsible global citizenship means teaching your students to ask this question regularly. Their best chance at the right answer will come from learning to **look** and **listen**.

BOOKMARK

Our featured book resources include collectible bookmarks with easy access to our discussion questions (front) and personal reflection (back).

Print it out for yourself or print enough copies on card stock for your class. Cut out the bookmarks and write/share your own personal reflections. Choose one discussion question each day or week to reflect on after reading Change Sings aloud together.

ACTIVITY

Humans are naturally quicker to speak and act than to look and listen. Our powers of observation are keys to unlocking increased knowledge and understanding. Knowledge and understanding yield more impactful actions and better solutions to our most challenging problems.

In this activity, challenge your students to exercise their observational skills of **looking** and **listening** for change. Your participation will strengthen your observational skills and model them for your students.

Directions: Take a day/week to observe potential responses to the following statements. Print out enough cards for each student and yourself. Write down and share your responses as a group.

- Change will sing in me by...
- Change will sing in my classroom by...
- Change will sing in my school community by...

Change will sing...

Finish the sentences on the back of this card



BOOK INFO

Author

Amanda Gorman

Illustrator

Loren Long

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Where do you hear change humming?

How can change be scary?

How can you be a "chant that rises and rings"?

How can you use your "strengths and smarts to make a stand"?

What does the author mean by, "take a knee to make a stand"?

How can we build bridges?

What does it mean to "walk in our differences"?

What desire for change is inside you?

Do you believe you are just what the world needs?

What change can we sing together?

Directions Continued...

- Observational time could be done over the course of a day or a week depending on your class needs. Feel free to focus on one statement per day/week if it is preferred.
- This exercise could be repeated as often as you like.
- Use morning meetings or closing circles to share your results as a class.
- Create a space on your classroom wall to display your students' cards or have them taped to their desks. Create a culture that encourages or affirms the execution of the changes they shared.
- Younger students could share their ideas through drawing (use this white space below) or discussion.



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PERSONAL REFLECTION

Change is within you and all around you. When you *sing change* you can become "as bright as the light". However, you can also *sing change* in a way that puts out the light; in yourself or others.

Below, share one way you will *sing change* to be as "bright as the light".

Now, share one way you will avoid putting out the light in yourself or others.

in me by...

in my classroom by...

in my school community by...