



**Lesson 6**  
**Get Started - Finding an Issue of Interest**

# Finding Inspiration and Motivation in the Work of Young People

## Objectives

After this lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify Children's Peace Prize winners and their actions for change.
- Identify how they might learn more about children's rights and the process of becoming a *changemaker*.

### Overview/Purpose:

Students will explore the efforts of Children's Peace Prize winners.

### Guiding Questions:

- What can we learn from the efforts of winners of the International Children's Peace Prize?
- How can I be an advocate and/or changemaker for children's rights?

### Recommended Time:

90-180 minutes

### Common Core State Standards:

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1](#)

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.7](#)

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.7](#)

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.9](#)

### Materials:

Internet access

[Video: History of the International Children's Peace Prize](#)

Neha Gupta's Passport text

[Neha Gupta's biographical video](#)

Neha Gupta's excerpt from Changemakers

Malala Yousafzai's Passport text

[Malala Yousafzai's biographical video](#)

Malala Yousafzai's excerpt from Changemakers

Kesz Valdez's Passport text

[Kesz Valdez's biographical video](#)

Kesz Valdez's excerpt from Changemakers

Baruani Ndume's Passport text

[Baruani Ndume's biographical video](#)

Baruani Ndume's excerpt from Changemakers



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### Lesson Design:

- Begin by sharing the text for article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child:

"1. States' Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child. 2. For this purpose, the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law."

- Have students turn and talk with a partner about what they think this article means and what it makes them think of.
- Debrief with students, emphasizing that this article is about youth participation in matters affecting youth.
- Explain to students that they will be exploring more issues by learning about young people who, through their participation in youth issues, have become changemakers.
- Introduce the class to Neha Gupta by sharing the "passport".
- Ask students to respond with reactions, connections, and questions.
- Explain that Neha won the International Children's Peace Prize in 2014. The prize is an initiative of KidsRights and has been awarded each year since 2005 to a remarkable young person whose actions have made a difference in improving children's rights. KidsRights believes that young people can actively participate in solutions to issues directly concerning them and should be recognized in their efforts to improve the world. [More information about the award can be found here.](#)
- Share Neha Gupta's story using the video clip and/or the excerpt from *Changemakers: The 10 International Children's Peace Prize Winners tell their remarkable stories*.
- Students discuss Neha's story with a partner or in small groups using these questions to prompt their thinking:
  - What did you find interesting about Neha's story? What does it make you think about?
  - What feelings does it 'spark' in you?



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- What have you learned from Neha about being a changemaker?
- Neha's story is meant to serve as an introduction to Children's Peace Prize winners. An important next step is for students to explore the materials of other winners, learning about them and their work.
- Consider allowing students to choose which Peace Prize winners to read about or assign small groups to a specific winner to [jigsaw](#).
- Allow time for students to write in response to one or more of the stories they find compelling, using these questions to prompt their thinking:
  - What did you find so interesting about the Children's Peace Prize winner who has inspired you?
  - What does it make you think about?
  - What feelings does it 'spark' in you?
  - How can you take what you learned from these young people to help children's rights in your own life?
  - Students share their thinking with a partner.