

# MARLEY DIAS

Be a Changemaker



**Dream Team, welcome to the Barbie Podcast Activity Guide!** This guide is part of the Barbie Dream Gap Project. The Dream Gap is anything that comes between us and our limitless potential. Everybody, even changemakers like Marley Dias, can experience fear and self-doubt on their way to success. These Activity Guides remind us that “You can be anything” by practicing our dreaming skills together. Practicing these skills helps us build confidence. Confidence and connection are the fuel that make dreams possible.

By doing this activity together girls and their adults will:

- Deepen their learning from Marley Dias’ story;
- Share with each other the issues that they want to do something about;
- Identify changemakers in their world; and
- Celebrate the qualities they love about these changemakers and themselves.

## CHECK-IN QUESTION

Marley Dias told her mom that she was sick of not seeing protagonists, or lead characters, who looked like her in the books assigned at school.

**Is there anything that you are tired of experiencing, or that you wish were different in your life? Do you have ideas to change it?**

Both adults and young people should share what makes them feel frustrated, and ideas for addressing this problem. While frustrations can be big, like people saying girls can’t be anything, they can also be smaller, like a classmate who tends to cut the line. Marley says that frustration is fuel.

## FEELINGS CHECK-IN

For changemakers, it is important to connect with and respect our feelings, including anger or frustration.

**How do you think Marley felt when another book was assigned at school where she didn’t see herself? How do you feel when you see things you wish were different?**

Adults should share feelings too, and validate that all feelings, including anger and frustration, are essential to embracing our inner changemaker.

## ACTIVITY

Marley Dias encourages us to be changemakers by learning to love people who look like us, so we can love ourselves. Loving ourselves is a foundation of courage that gives us the strength to live like changemakers every day. This activity is an opportunity to connect with the changemakers who came before us.

**Whose shoulders do we stand on?** We are going to create a celebration of the changemakers who came before us. A changemaker is anyone who makes the world better as a result of their presence, and makes sure the impact lasts in their absence. Changemakers sometimes work in big ways, like Marley finding 15,000 books, and small ways, like making someone feel welcome.

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## ACTIVITY continued

You will need paper, colored pens or pencils, scissors and a glue stick.

**First, trace your hand.** In the center of your hand, write your name, or names, and any colors or images that you think represent you.

**Next, think of changemakers who look like you.** Work together to think of two famous changemakers who look like you. These might be people who do this as their job, like politicians, supreme court judges, or writers, or people who change the world outside of their job, like actors, singers, or business leaders. . Write their names in two of the fingers.

**Connect with changemakers in your life.** Think about the people in your life, your family, friends, health care professionals, teachers, etc, who make the world better in a way that will last. Write two of their names in two of the fingers. If you have photos or symbols for these people, you can glue them to your paper.

**You are already a changemaker.** Think about someone who you helped, and write their name in your thumb. This can be someone you included at your lunch table, or someone you helped with in school, or someone you checked in on when they were having a hard time. Just like Marley, you saw a problem, and took action.

**Lastly, find the themes.** Read over all the names. What qualities do you all share? Are you all strong? Smart? Curious? Persistent? Creative? Funny? Write down the qualities this powerful group of people share outside of the hand. You can also draw the themes.

## CLOSING

Celebrate the qualities that make you a changemaker. Are you brave? Strong? Loyal? Caring? You might start by reminding the other person that they are a changemaker because just like (**read the names on the four fingers**), they are (**name the qualities that you identified**).

Congratulations on practicing building your confidence together. You are both so lucky to have a buddy to flex your changemaker muscle with. Tune into the next Barbie podcast episode to learn about other inspirational changemakers, and to have fun learning together.

## BONUS CONVERSATIONS

Marley's mom taught her to be aware of her power and her privilege. A privilege is a special advantage of a person or group. Marley had the privilege of having lots of books at home. **Do you have any privileges in your life that might inspire you to take action for others?** Barbie Malibu and Barbie Brooklyn have the privilege of an unused file cabinet, and they turn that into a little library. Power is the ability to influence the action of others. **Where in your life do you have power? Where do you want to have power someday?**

**Do you live in a place where you can build your own Little Free Library?** Here is the site to get plans, kits, and ideas on how to build your own Little Free Library for book swapping:  
<https://littlefreelibrary.org/>.

**Lastly, make sure you have a library card** so you can find more books about people who share your history, or books that Marley and Barbie recommend. Libraries are amazing resources, and librarians will always be happy to help you come with ideas for what to read next.

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## BOOKS THAT WERE MENTIONED IN THE EPISODE

### Picture Books

One Love by Cedella Marley  
Please Baby Please by Spike Lee and Tanya Lewis Lee  
Julián is a Mermaid by Jessica Love.  
Daddy Daughter Day by Pierce Freelon  
Sulwe by Lupita Nyong'o

### Kindergarten - 3rd grade

Ada Twist Scientist by Andrea Beaty and David Roberts  
Izzy Barr, Running Star by Claudia Mills  
Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909 by Michelle Markel, illustrated by Melissa Sweet

### 3rd - 5th grade

The Farrah Rocks Series by Susan Muaddi Darraj  
Honest June Secrets and Spies by Tina Wells  
Riding Freedom by Pam Muñoz Ryan  
Ruby and the Booker Boys by Derrick Barnes  
One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams Garcia

### 5th grade and up

Marley Dias Gets It Done and So Can You by Marley Dias  
Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson  
Front Desk by Kelly Yang  
The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis  
Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper