Malala’s Magic Pencil
by Malala Yousafzai, illustrated by Keracott
As a child in Pakistan, Malala made a wish for a magic pencil. She would use it to make everyone happy, to erase the smell of garbage from her city, to sleep an extra hour in the morning. But as she grew older, Malala saw that there were more important things to wish for. She saw a world that needed fixing. And even if she never found a magic pencil, Malala realized that she could still work hard every day to make her wishes come true.

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Malala writes that she hopes that readers will realize that every pencil can be magic because the real magic is “in you, in your words, in your voice.” Children need opportunities to talk about issues that concern them and to be involved in broader issues that affect them. Talk to students about what it means to speak up for something you believe in. Encourage discussion about issues that affect them and let students brainstorm ways they can effectively share their insights and ideas and use their voices to be heard. If there is something they wish to speak out about, help them find ways to add their voice and to connect with others who share their concerns.

Read about others who spoke out:
Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family’s Fight for Desegregation by Duncan Tonatiuh
I Dissent by Debbie Levy
Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History by Vashti Harrison
Let the Children March by Monica Clark Robinson
She Stood for Freedom by Kelly Milholand

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**March 2019 Calendar**

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March is:
- National Reading Month
- National Women’s History Month
- Music in Our Schools Month

1. NEA’s Read Across America Day
2. International Women’s Day
3. World Poetry Day

*Celebrating A Nation of Diverse Readers*

nea.org/readacross