



Giant Steps to Change the World

By Spike Lee, Tonya Lewis Lee

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"On some days your dreams may seem too away far to realize... Listen to the whispers of those that came before..."

Following the success of their much beloved picture books, Please, Baby, Please and Please, Puppy, Please; Academy Award nominated director Spike Lee, and his talented wife Tonya Lewis Lee offer up an inspirational picture book about activism and taking the big steps to set things right set to beautiful illustrations by the award-winning Sean Qualls. Using examples of people throughout history who have taken "giant steps", this book urges kids to follow in their footsteps and not be hindered by fear or a sense that you are not good enough. Despite the challenges, even the smallest step can change the world. So, what's your next step going to be?

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Giant Steps to Change the World By Spike Lee, Tonya Lewis Lee Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Aiming to inspire young readers, the Lees (Please, Baby, Please) speak directly to them: "On some days your dreams may seem too far away to realize. Listen to the whispers of those that came before...." Each page contains an encouraging thought and invokes the deeds of a hero. "Press on through the darkness and keep going--the way the freedom fighter encouraged the enslaved to ride the railroad to safety so that all could be free." The reference is to Harriet Tubman; the heroes are unnamed, but quotations from (and attributions for) each appear on the endpapers, and they're easy to match up, letting the book function both as a source of inspiration and as an interactive quiz about such figures as Jesse Owens, Mother Teresa, Jean-Michel Basquiat, and Barack Obama. Qualls's bold, lively collages (Little Cloud and Lady Wind) handle the book's abstractions gracefully. A curly-haired boy contemplates a long stairway; intricate lines curl out of a book of Langston Hughes's poetry; a red snake represents fear. Concluding with a challenge, the Lees ask, "What's your next step going to be?" All ages. (Jan.)

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From School Library Journal

Gr 3-6-This motivational book braces readers for the obstacles that come along when following one's dreams. The endpapers have 12 quotes from various people, including Mother Teresa, Jean-Michel Basquiat, the Tuskegee Airmen, and neurosurgeon Ben Carson. On the title page, a child with black curly hair looks up a staircase. The narration that follows is directed toward the youngster. "Listen to the whispers of those that came before....They made giant steps to make the world a better place and left big shoes for you to fill." Neither names nor portraits pepper the spreads; instead, visual metaphors and advice extrapolated from the experiences of the individuals are quoted: "If you stare at a painting and do not see yourself there, paint your own portrait. Let the world see that you do exist...." The spreads have key verbs in a larger typeface to emphasize actions that lead to change ("Press on," "make a plan"), and the abstract, mixed-media paintings with bits of collage are vivid with meaning. Suspense sets in when the giant steps turn into segments of a red dragon eliciting the fears that threaten all those who dream of a better world. Expert pacing ensues, bringing the narrator to ask the child, and all readers by extension, the resounding and evocative question, "What's your next step going to be?"-Sara Lissa Paulson, American Sign Language and English Lower School PS 347, New York City (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

The road won't be easy. / People will try to exclude you, / but you must leap over hurdles? / like the Olympic athlete who won the gold / even though he had been relegated to second-class status / by the very country he was representing. In plainspoken free verse directed right to kids, this title introduces individuals who took giant steps to make the world a better place. Although the poems do not identify the mostly African American heroes directly, children (and those reading to them) will find them named in boxed quotes that appear on the front and end pages, and each image includes iconic clues: butterflies flutter around the boxing-ring scene of the heavyweight champion who refused / to pick up a gun against a fellow human being, for example. Rendered in paint, pencil, and collage, the artwork, featuring often-faceless figures, leaves space for young people to imagine their own stories and, like the poems, will inspire many children to match the pictures with the famous names and find out more. Preschool-Grade 3. --Hazel Rochman

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Tracey Egan:

What do you think of book? It is just for students because they are still students or this for all people in the world, the particular best subject for that? Merely you can be answered for that question above. Every person has various personality and hobby for each other. Don't to be obligated someone or something that they don't want do that. You must know how great and important the book *Giant Steps to Change the World*. All type of book can you see on many resources. You can look for the internet sources or other social media.

Daryl Steele:

The guide with title *Giant Steps to Change the World* posseses a lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of profit after read this book. This kind of book exist new expertise the information that exist in this book represented the condition of the world currently. That is important to yo7u to know how the improvement of the world. This particular book will bring you within new era of the internationalization. You can read the e-book with your smart phone, so you can read that anywhere you want.

Charles Smith:

The book *Giant Steps to Change the World* has a lot of information on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was published by the very famous author. The writer makes some research previous to write this book. This book very easy to read you can find the point easily after looking over this book.

Cinthia Jacobsen:

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