

It's hard to imagine anyone with more poise, passion, and determination than Marley Dias, and the girl's only thirteen years old. She's accomplished so much already, and collecting books is just the beginning. The real work that she does is spreading the word about black girl books. She goes all over the world talking to people about why this issue is important and why we should all care about the solution.

In this book, Marley tells the reader all about herself and her approach to life, and how she got #1000blackgirlbooks off the ground. She also provides a handy guide for those readers who want to get started on their own activism. For example, she says that when she told her mother that she wanted her classmates to be able to read black girl books, too, rather than being assigned books that showed one narrow perspective, her mother asked her one simple question: What are you going to do about it?

All of our girls need to hear that they have the ability to create change. So, if your girl notices something in her community that's not right, ask her what she's going to do about it. Think of yourself as part of her crew, but she's the director. The simple act of noticing something wrong and taking action to fix it will serve as an enormous lesson in the years to come, even if she doesn't exactly reach her goal.

Munch 'n' Chat, 20-30 minutes

As grown-ups and girls arrive, allow some time for snacking and introductions or catching up.

Ice-Breaker, 10-15 minutes

Everyone in the group should pair up with someone, ask each other a question, and discuss for five minutes. Then, give 5-10 minutes for pairs to introduce each other and share a bit about each other's answers. Here's something you could try:

- *Marley says there were times when she was worried that she would not be able to collect 1,000 books. When was a time that **you** were pretty sure you were not going to succeed, but you kept going anyway?*
- *What happened, and how did you feel about it*

Book Discussion, 30 minutes or so

You might decide to start the discussion with every member saying her favorite part of the book before reading discussion questions. Some groups might have time to get to all of these questions, but many groups will pick one or two questions and spend the whole meeting discussing those. Feel free to come up with your own discussion questions, or bring up any ideas that came up while you were reading.

- How do Delphine and her sisters feel when they're on their way to see their mother? How would you feel in their situation? What are some words you would use to describe Marley's personality? Please share sections of text to show why you chose those words.
- In what ways are you and Marley alike? In what ways are you different?
- Which section of the book is most helpful to you, and why?

- What are some important qualities for an activist to have?
- Marley talks about the people who support her dreams and activism. Who are the most important people who support you?

Leadership Goals, 15 minutes

What do you feel strongly about? It could be an issue within your family, school, or larger community? What are you going to do about it? In pairs, brainstorm general ideas for how you could make positive changes around this issue.

Now, pick one small action that makes sense as a starting point. Maybe you have to invite people to a meeting, find a company's address, or jot down notes for a letter. Pick one *small* action that will help you get started on your plan. Next month, check in about whether everyone did her action.

Girls and grown-ups might decide to share around the circle so everyone has a turn, or give time so anyone who wants to share can do so.

Closing, 5 minutes

Make sure you've chosen a date for your February meeting before parting ways. Happy Reading!

Further Reading

If you really loved this book, and you'd like to read more books like it, peruse the back section of Marley Dias' book. She gives tons of book recommendations. Of course she does! As always, please share what you're reading and enjoying on our **Girls Leadership Book Club Facebook Group** so our community can keep growing our list of great titles.