

## 01 Greta

This year's reading competition is all about some special young people who have changed the world for the better. Today we would like to tell you about a young girl called Greta.

This amazing girl from Sweden was in elementary school when her teacher showed her class a video. The video showed the effects of climate change; floods, storms and starving polar bears. This had a strong effect on Greta. It made her feel so sad that she got sick. Her family made changes to their lifestyle that reduced their carbon footprint. They stopped eating meat, they used solar power, they even started growing their own vegetables. They hoped this would make Greta feel better, and it did.

In 2018, Greta was 15 years old. Her family had made changes to help stop climate change. Now she wanted her country and the world to make changes too. On August 20th,

instead of going to school, she sat alone on the steps outside the Swedish parliament. She had a homemade sign and flyers with facts about climate change. She hoped her protest would make people think about making changes. She sat there every day instead of going to school. On the second day, another person joined her. After one month, thousands of people had joined her climate strike.

Over the next year, around 4 million people marched in the streets of their cities and towns. The message was clear. They wanted their country to help to stop climate change. Many of these people carried pictures of Greta or painted her words onto posters. They shouted, 'Make the world Greta again!'

Since then, Greta has given many speeches to make countries think about climate change. She famously told world leaders "I want you to panic, I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you to act."

(311 words)

## 02 Malala

This year's reading competition is all about some special young people who have changed the world for the better. Today we would like to tell you about a young girl called Malala.

This amazing girl was born in Pakistan in 1997. Malala's father was a teacher and she loved going to school when she was a little girl.

Then in 2008, the Taliban took control of her town. They had very strict rules. They banned things like owning a television and playing music. They also said girls could no longer go to school. They said that young girls should be at home helping their mothers. The Taliban punished anyone who broke their rules.

At just 11 years old, Malala and her friends had to stop going to school because they were girls. However, she didn't give up. She wrote an online blog saying girls had the right to an education. This got the attention of the world.

Malala was asked to give newspaper and television interviews.

This made the Taliban angry. In 2012, a masked gunman got on her bus, he shouted 'Who is Malala?', then shot her in the head. Malala woke up ten days later in a hospital in England. She had survived the attack.

Malala said, 'I knew I had a choice: I could live a quiet life, or I could make the most of this new life I had been given. I determined to continue my fight until every girl could go to school.'

With the help of her father, she started the Malala Fund. This was a charity to help other girls like her. In 2014, she was given the Nobel Peace Prize. She was the youngest person ever to get this award.

Despite her young age, Malala spoke up for what she thought was important. 'If people were silent, nothing would be changed'.

## 03 Marley Dias

This year's reading competition is all about some special young people who have changed the world for the better. Today we would like to tell you about a young girl called Marley.

This amazing girl from the United States was 11 years old when she started to change her world. She was in 6th grade and she enjoyed reading. Her problem was that when she was given books to read by her school, none of the characters in the books were like her. They always seemed to be about white boys and their dogs 'saving the day'. Marley is a young black girl.

When she pointed this out to her Mom, her Mom said, 'What are you going to do about it?'

Together with her Mom, Marley started a social media campaign. They posted pictures of Marley holding books written about black girls, with the hashtag #1000blackgirlbooks.

Their goal was to collect 1000 books with a

black girl as the main character. They planned to give these books to other black girls. The campaign went viral, and books poured in from around the world. Within a few months they had many more books than the 1000 book target.

Not only that, but they had made people notice the lack of diversity in children's books. As Marley said 'Diversity allows kids to relate to characters. It makes kids feel they want to read more. When you read a book, you enjoy the storyline, the plot and the ideas. If it feels like the ideas don't connect to your life, the story is less interesting.'

In 2018, Marley released her own book 'Marley Dias Gets It Done'. She was also named in the world's top 25 'most influential teens' by Time magazine.

Although Marley started small, step-by-step she has made a big difference in the world.