

Little People, BIG DREAMS®

Vanessa Nakate



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This is the story of a young person who simply wasn't going to be ignored... She knew her fight was too important to give up on.



a little girl called Vanessa. She was the eldest of five siblings. Her parents always encouraged her to do what she thought was right and to raise her voice for a good cause.





When she grew up, Vanessa went to school in the countryside. The only time that her teacher talked to the class about climate change, it seemed like it was a problem on the other side of the world.

But, at college, Vanessa started noticing how floods and droughts destroyed crops, leaving families with nothing to eat. Africans were the least responsible for climate change, yet they were suffering the most!





Luckily, all over the world, millions of children were striking against climate change.

to them on the first day they protested, she didn't give up.



Two weeks later, she became the first child in her family to graduate from college, making her parents very proud.

Still, all her aunts could think about was finding a fiancé for her and planning a wedding...



Vanessa continued with her weekly strikes. She raised her voice against the destruction of the Congolian rain forests, home to many people and animals.





One day, she received an invitation to visit New York City and join other young climate activists on a mission: to convince world leaders to act against global warming. No one in her family had ever traveled that far before.




cleanups, talked to students about global warming, wrote an open letter to Uganda's president, and started a project to bring eco-friendly stoves and solar energy to schools.



vanessa realized that her words had been left out
and her image had been removed from a photograph.



A close-up illustration of a woman's face with dark skin and long, dark, wavy hair. Her eyes are large and white, each containing a silhouette of the African continent. A single tear is falling from her right eye. Her expression is one of sadness or concern. The background behind her is a blurred green and blue pattern, possibly representing foliage or water.

She felt like her whole continent had been erased from the conversation about global warming. But instead of giving up and going back home quietly, Vanessa decided to speak up about being ignored. And this time, the world listened.





And today, little Vanessa is not just a strong voice against climate change in her continent. She is also an inspiration to girls who dream of leading Africa, and the whole of our planet, to a brighter future.



Why did Vanessa think it was important that changes were made?

Did Vanessa give up when her voice and presence were ignored? Why not?





School Reflection

This is our school,
Let peace dwell here,

Let the rooms be full of contentment.

Let love abide here,
Love of one another,
Love of mankind,
Love of life itself.

Let us remember

That as many hands build a house,

So many hearts make a school

Help us to learn, play and share together.

We hope our school will be a place of great discovery, adventure and creativity.

May it be a place where we love to learn and where we learn to love,

A place where everyone is respected, and all are deeply valued.