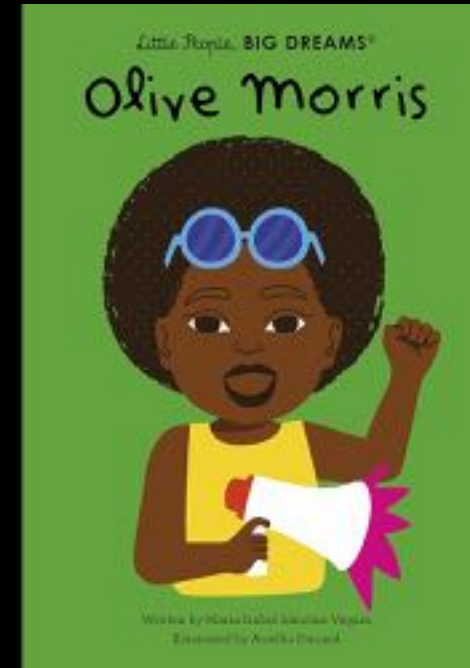


On Friday it is the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Today's story is about a young girl who sadly grew up in a world where this wasn't a priority...



Once, in a humble home in Jamaica, lived a fierce girl called Olive. Her parents moved to England when she was small, looking for a better future for their family, and Olive and her siblings were left in the care of their grandmother.



Olive was nine when she joined her parents in London. She grew up in Brixton, an area where many Caribbean people had settled. On her way back from school, she could even smell the same spicy patties her grandma used to cook.



Yet, even though her neighborhood was known as Little Jamaica, Olive didn't always feel at home. Some people in her new country didn't welcome Black people, and life was hard for her family. Still, they felt lucky to have each other.





One day, when Olive was seventeen, some police officers beat and arrested a Black man, thinking he had stolen a fancy car. That man wasn't a thief but a Nigerian diplomat representing his country in the UK.

When Olive went to help him, she was arrested, too. On the way to the police station, she was badly beaten by the officers. After that terrible experience, she promised to fight any kind of abuse and speak up about the racism her community faced.

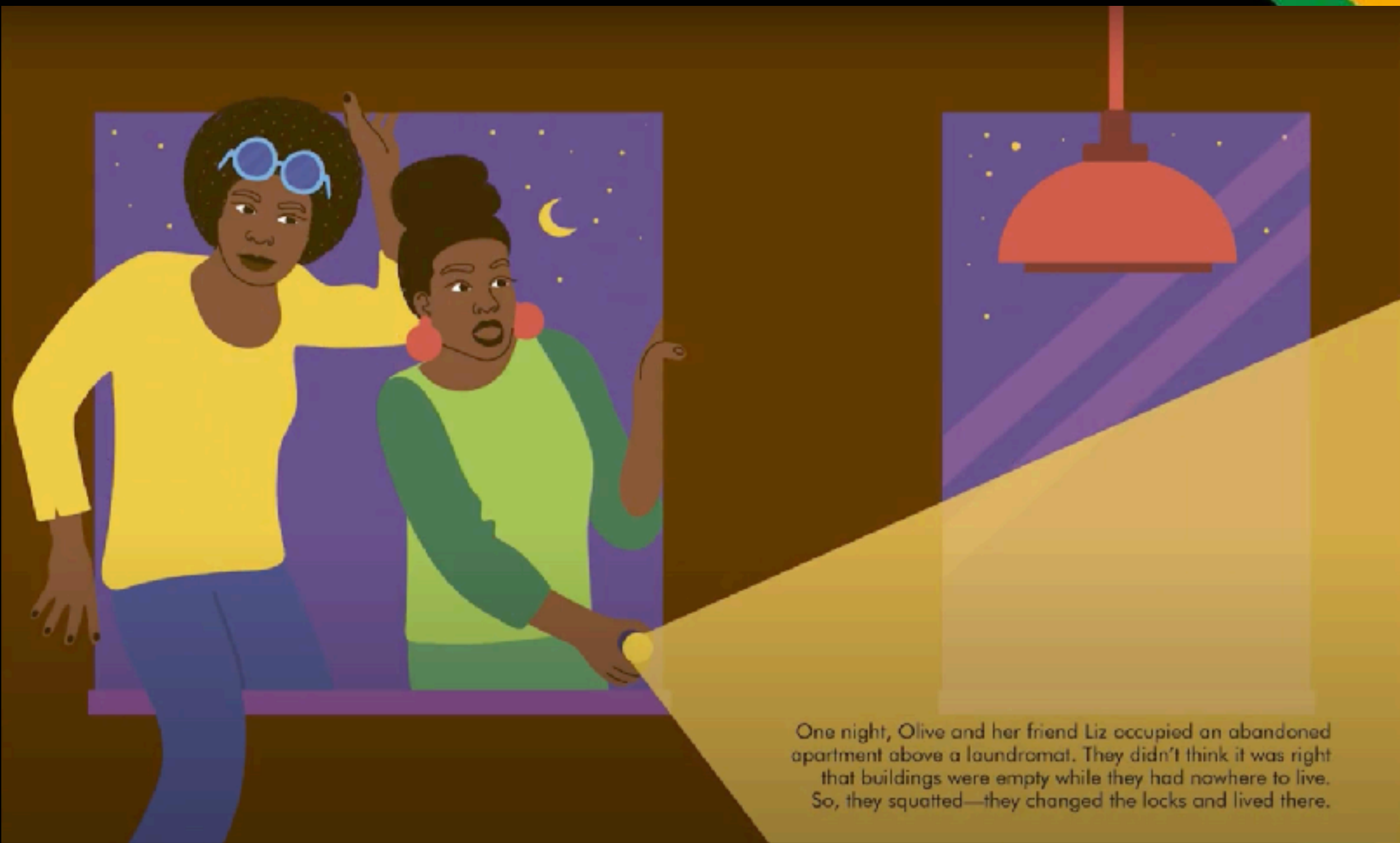
Police



She joined the British Black Panthers, a group working to empower all people of color. It aimed to end poverty, discrimination, and police violence.

Soon, Olive gained a reputation for her fearless determination.

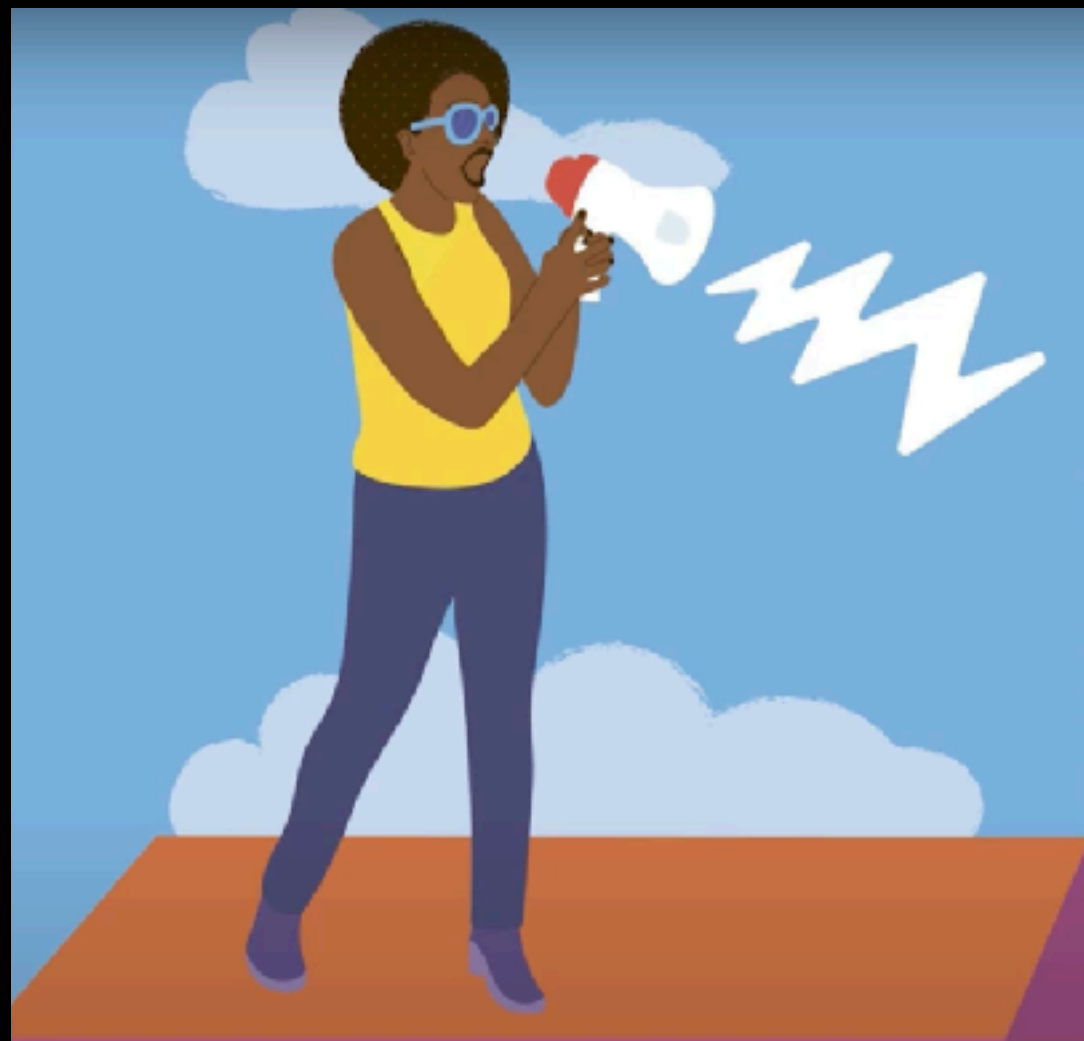




One night, Olive and her friend Liz occupied an abandoned apartment above a laundromat. They didn't think it was right that buildings were empty while they had nowhere to live. So, they squatted—they changed the locks and lived there.

The building became a community center that welcomed any group willing to improve people's lives. Later, it hosted one of the first Black community bookstores, giving the neighborhood a chance to learn more about its history.





No matter how hard people tried to close the center down, Olive and her friends resisted. When the police turned up to kick them out, she went up onto the roof and promised to stay there until they were gone. And it worked!



Olive went to study economics and social science at university. It wasn't long before people knew her name. She was involved in endless causes, fighting racism and sexism, and defending the rights of overseas students.



Olive was always thrilled to travel, discuss new ideas, and take part in protests, but it was the struggle of Black women that was closest to her heart. With other activists, she started a network for African and Asian women.



Olive never stopped fighting for her community, and her work was not forgotten. An award was set up in her name to celebrate young activists, and people voted to have her picture on a local currency: the Brixton Pound.





And by facing oppression and injustice with courage and pride, little Olive inspired a whole community to stand up and fight for a brighter future for everyone. She knew that change happens when people work together as one.

Together

Who did Olive stand up for
and why?

Do you think it right that
her group took over the
empty building?

Together





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.