

# QUOTES: WORDS TO ACTION

## Time required

Approximately 15-20 minutes

## Materials

Quote cards (**Note:** You will need to print out the attached two pages with individual quotes, ideally on heavy stock, and cut them up to create the cards. We've provided 20. If you need more, you can print duplicates of some of the cards.)

## Context

Inspirational words can lay a foundation for affirming values, along with connecting language to purposeful action. Here, students interact with their peers using quotes for discussion and then reflect as a class. The quotes have been chosen for their relevance to the idea that small steps can change the world.

## Process

- Distribute quotes cards, one per student.
- Inform students that they will be walking up to one another to form pairs. If they do not know each other, they introduce themselves. Each student reads the quote on his or her card to the other person. After hearing both quotes, students decide which they prefer. If one student prefers the other person's quote, they trade. Students move from partner to partner, reading quotes aloud with the possibility of trading, until the advisor calls "time." Allow ten minutes unless the students ask for more time.
  - Note:** Students may ask: "What if I don't want to trade?" You can answer: "You don't have to trade, but you have *an opportunity* to trade. You may or may not end up with your original card. That's part of the experience."
- Debrief, perhaps asking:
  - Did anyone hear a quote they especially liked?
  - Did anyone memorize a quote from the repetition? Why was it easy to remember?
  - What did the quotes make you think or feel?
  - How do these quotes relate to you personally? Collectively?

## Closing

- Encourage students to select a favorite quote and consider whom they would want to "gift" it to and how they might do this. (Students often want to text a quote to someone or use social media to share what they find significant.)

Adapted from "Quotes for Collaborating"

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<p><b>Do the difficult things while they are easy and do the great things while they are small. A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step.</b></p> <p>- Lao Tzu, philosopher</p>	<p><i>Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.</i></p> <p>- Martin Luther King, Jr., civil rights leader</p>
<p>Those who are crazy enough to think they can change the world usually do.</p> <p>- Steve Jobs, businessman</p>	<p><b>One may walk over the highest mountain one step at a time.</b></p> <p>- John Wanamaker, merchant</p>
<p><i>Let us pick up our books and our pens. They are our most powerful weapons. One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world.</i></p> <p>-Malala Yousafzai, activist</p>	<p>Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself.</p> <p>- Leo Tolstoy, writer</p>
<p><b>When you inspire one person you have already changed the world.</b></p> <p>- Sabina Nore, painter</p>	<p><b>In a gentle way, you can shake the world.</b></p> <p>- Mahatma Gandhi, civil rights leader</p>
<p><b>I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do.</b></p> <p>- Edward Everett Hale, author</p>	<p><i>New Year: A new chapter, new verse, or just the same old story? Ultimately we write it. The choice is ours.</i></p> <p>- Alex Morritt, author</p>

<p><b>Be different to make a difference.</b></p> <p>- Debasish Mridha, physician and author</p>	<p>The key to realizing a dream is to focus not on success but on significance—and then even the small steps and little victories along your path will take on greater meaning.</p> <p>— Oprah Winfrey, talk show host and producer</p>
<p><b>NO MATTER WHAT PEOPLE TELL YOU, WORDS AND IDEAS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.</b></p> <p>- Robin Williams, actor</p>	<p><b>A tiny change today brings a dramatically different tomorrow.</b></p> <p>- Richard Bach, writer</p>
<p><i>Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.</i></p> <p>- William James, philosopher</p>	<p><i>When the story of these times gets written, we want it to say that we did all we could, and it was more than anyone could have imagined.</i></p> <p>- Bono, singer and social activist</p>
<p>Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.</p> <p>– Margaret Mead, anthropologist</p>	<p><b>Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.</b></p> <p>– Barack Obama, U.S. President</p>
<p><b>Do your little bit of good where you are. It's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.</b></p> <p>- Desmond Tutu, social activist</p>	<p><i>Change almost never fails because it's too early. It almost always fails because it's too late.</i></p> <p>– Seth Godin, author and entrepreneur</p>