

## Lesson 7: Making a Positive Change

**Grade Level:** K-5

**Objective:** Students will learn how small actions can lead to big changes, connecting this to the Constitution's focus on the common good, and brainstorm ways to make a positive impact in their classroom, school, and community.

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### Focus Skills

**Collaboration and Teamwork** This skill emphasizes the importance of working with others toward a common goal, mirroring how communities work together to solve problems and create positive change. In this lesson, teamwork can be reinforced as students create their "Change Makers Wheel" and contribute ideas to make a collective impact.

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### Materials Needed:

- Chart paper or whiteboard
  - Markers or crayons
  - Pre-cut paper circles (or sticky notes)
  - A "Change Makers Wheel" – large circle divided into sections: Classroom, School, Home, Community.
  - Simplified Preamble text:  
*"We the People work together to make things fair, keep everyone safe, and help each other live happy lives."*
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### Lesson Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify what it means to make a positive change in their school or community.
  - Understand that even small actions can have a big impact.
  - Brainstorm areas in their school or community that they would like to improve.
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### Introduction (5 Minutes)

1. **Discussion Prompt:** "What would you like to see improved around you?"
  - Write student answers on the board.
  - Guide students to understand that small actions can create big, positive changes (e.g., being kind, helping a friend).
  - Define "positive change" as an action that makes something better, whether that's helping someone, making something safer, or solving a problem.

## 2. Example Brainstorm:

- What changes would they like to see in the classroom, school, or community (e.g., cleaner playground, kindness club, recycling initiative)?

### Reading Time (15 Minutes)

- Read *Making a Difference* aloud.

#### "Making a Difference"

*Once, there was a girl named Emma who loved her school and wanted to make it a happy place for everyone. Every day during recess, she noticed that some kids sat alone or seemed sad because they didn't have anyone to play with. Emma thought, What if I try to help?*

*The next day, Emma brought a ball to recess and asked one of the kids sitting alone if they wanted to join her in a game. At first, just a few kids joined her, but Emma kept inviting more and more people to play. Soon, the lonely kids were laughing, running, and having fun with everyone else.*

*Emma realized something important: making a positive change doesn't always mean doing something big or difficult. It can start with one small act of kindness, like asking someone to play or lending a helping hand.*

*Before long, Emma's little idea had made a big difference. Recess became a time when everyone felt included, and the playground was full of smiles. Emma showed that when we notice something that could be better and take action, we can help others and make our community stronger.*

*When we work together, just like Emma and her classmates, we can make amazing changes happen—for our school, our neighborhood, and even the world!*

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. How did Emma's small action lead to a big change?
2. Can you think of a time when you helped someone or made something better?
3. How does working together help make a larger impact?

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### Constitution Connection (10 Minutes)

- **Introduce the Preamble to the Constitution:**

Read the simplified text:

*"We the People of the United States work together to make things fair, keep everyone safe, and help each other live happy lives."*

- **Discuss:** Explain how the Constitution encourages everyone to work together for the good of the whole community, just like Emma did in the story.
- **Ask:**
  - "What does it mean to work together for the common good?"
  - How does making a positive change help everyone?

## ACTIVITY: Class Vote (15 minutes)

**Objective:** Students will brainstorm small ways they can make positive changes and share ideas with their classmates.

### Materials:

- Large poster or whiteboard to draw/show the Change Maker Wheel
- Markers
- Small pre-cut paper circles (one for each student) or sticky notes (for younger students, provide larger circles)
- Tape
- "Change Makers Wheel" template and sample

#### 1. Introduction (2 minutes):

Show the "Change Makers Wheel" and explain the four sections:

- *Classroom:* Helping classmates or keeping the room tidy.
- *School:* Being kind at lunch or helping on the playground.
- *Home:* Completing chores or cleaning up after yourself.
- *Community:* Picking up litter or helping neighbors.

#### 2. Brainstorming (5 minutes):

- Give each student a paper circle.
- Have them write or draw one small way they can make a positive change in one of the four sections (classroom, school, home, community).
- Encourage creativity and provide examples if needed.

#### 3. Wheel Building (5 minutes):

- Call students up to stick their circle onto the corresponding section of the "Change Makers Wheel."
- Read each idea aloud, celebrating their creativity.

#### 4. Reflection (3 minutes):

- Review the ideas in each section of the wheel.
- Discuss how these small changes can make a big impact when everyone works together.

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### Closing and Reflection (5-10 minutes):

1. Ask the students, "Why is it important to take action to improve our school or community?"
2. Discuss how even small steps toward making positive changes can have a big impact when everyone works together.

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### Assessment

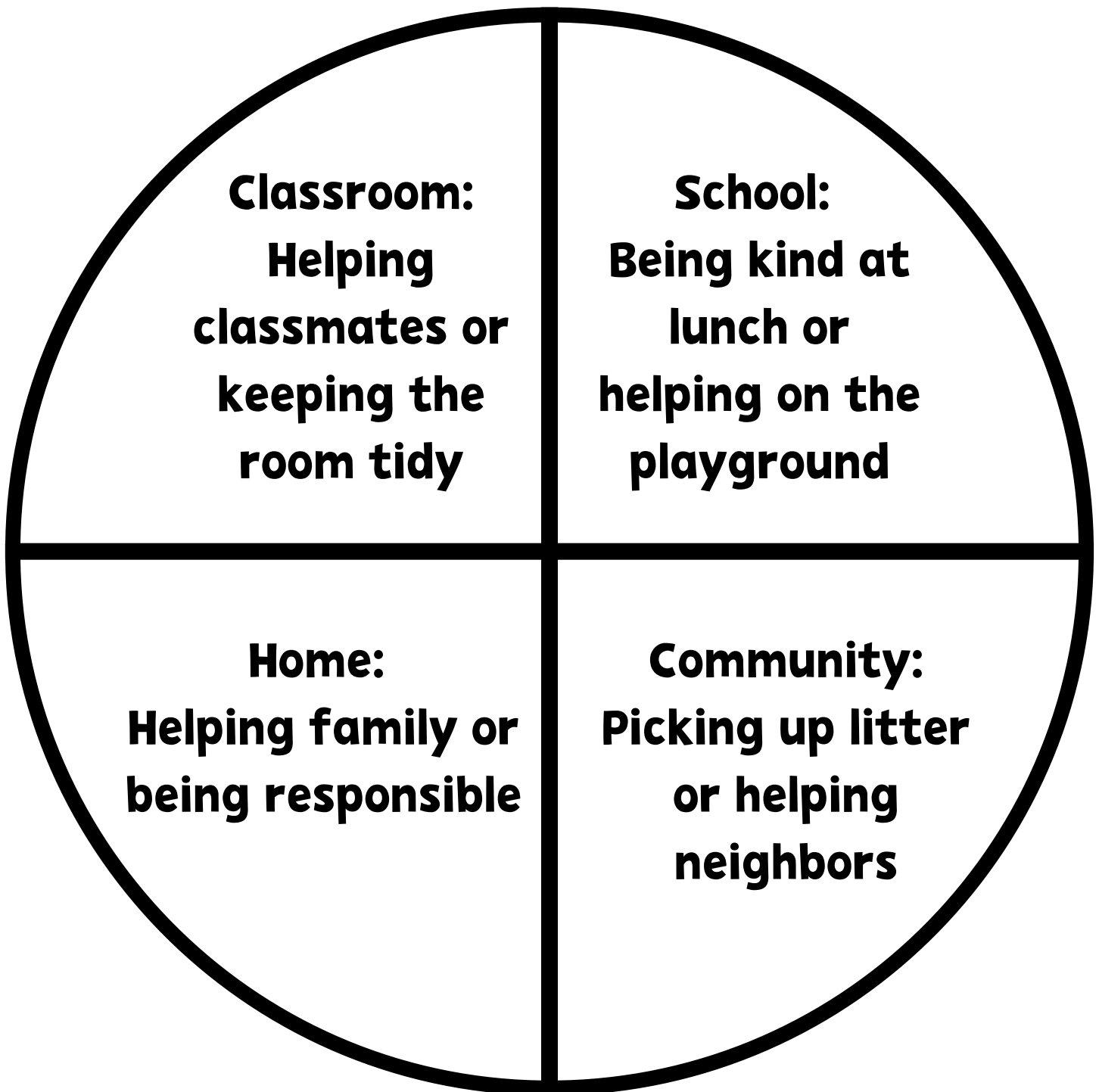
- **Participation in Brainstorming:** Did the student contribute an idea for making a positive change?
- **Group Collaboration:** Did the student actively participate in creating a plan with their group?

## **Suggested Booklist: Making a Positive Change**

- I Walk with Vanessa by Kerascoet
- At Our Table by Patrick Hulse
- The Big Umbrella by Amy June Bates
- Those Shoes by Maribeth Boelts
- Words to Make a Friend by Donna Jo Napoli
- Mindy Kim, Class President by Lyla Lee
- Harlem Grown: How One Big Idea Transformed a Neighborhood by Tony Hillery
- Our World Is A Family: Our Community Can Change the World by Miry Whitehill, Jennifer Jackson

# **Change Makers Wheel**

## **Example**



# **Change Makers Wheel**

## **Template**

