

Grace Banu Finds Her Voice

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



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THEMES

Community

Biography

Inclusion & Disability

SUB-THEMES

Identity and Belonging

Social Justice

Education for all

Gender Equality

Story Discussion Guide

- Learn about Grace Banu's story as a powerful example of self-advocacy and justice
- Understand the barriers faced by transgender and marginalized children in education.
- Reflect on how institutions can change through persistence and courage.
- Explore the value of empathy, allyship, and creating space for all.
- Recognize that beneath differences of caste, gender, or identity, we share one common humanity.

Lesson plan

Through this story, students learn about the rights of every child to be seen, heard, and respected. Discussions will center around fairness, identity, and the power of asking brave questions.

Learning Outcome

Before Reading:

- Have you ever been treated unfairly? How did it make you feel?
- What does it mean to stand up for yourself or someone else?

During Reading :

- What questions does Grace ask?
- How do others treat her at school?
- What does she decide to do when things are unfair?

After Reading–

- What do you admire most about Grace?
- Why do you think it's hard for some children to go to school?
- How can we make our classroom a more welcoming place for everyone?

Activities:

- Grace's Questions Journal: Students write a question they have about fairness in their own life. Discuss how to explore answers together.
- Allyship Posters: Create posters about inclusion, kindness, and welcoming differences.
- Invisible No More: Draw a classroom where everyone—regardless of identity—is visible and celebrated.
- Mini Research: Identify another changemaker who challenged exclusion. Share what they achieved.
- Debate: "Should all schools have special policies for inclusion?"

Expected Outcomes

- Gain empathy for those excluded based on identity.
- Recognize that strength comes from embracing who you are.
- Understand that advocacy can lead to systemic change.
- Be inspired to ask questions and stand up for equity.
- See that we share one common humanity, no matter our differences.

Applicable SDGs

- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

SDG Explanation

- SDG 4: Supports inclusive education that recognizes and respects diverse identities.
- SDG 5: Addresses gender identity and challenges faced by transgender children and youth.
- SDG 10: Tackles intersectional inequality based on caste, gender, and identity.
- SDG 16: Promotes justice and institutional reform for equitable access

ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit platform that brings together stories from around the world to help children discover that beneath our differences—of culture, language, or belief—we share the same hopes, joys, and dreams. Today’s children are tomorrow’s citizens, and the responsibility of building a more peaceful, tolerant, and empathetic world lies with them. That’s why it’s vital to instill these values early—through stories that help them rise above the biases they inherit, and see diversity as a strength that unites us all.