

# CHANGE THE WORLD?

## Volume 1

### Tsunami Survivors

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## Change the World? Write a Book in One Day Project:

We all want our students to change the world. We see their gifts and talents even when they don't and cherish the time we spend with them. Even if they don't change the world, they certainly change our world.

Recently, I heard Jane McGonigal speak about a project she did with the New York Public Library called "Find the Future: The Game". She created an elaborate scavenger hunt that culminated in an all night event where 500 young people wrote a book in one night.

Inspired by that event, I had an idea. What if I could get a class to write a book in one day? What if I could get several classes across the country or even the world to write a book on the same day? And thus, Change the World? was born.

This is the first year and we learned a lot. Each book in the series is each classrooms' own book. They concepted, planned, collaborated, and wrote the text all on their own. They were given creative freedom to write what they wanted with the simple guideline that the title was "Change the World?"

The following book is one of those stories.

*Troy Cockrum*



I love a good challenge. I take great satisfaction in taking them on, working to the best of my ability, and--best of all--accomplishing what I set out to do. It should be no surprise that this enjoyment carries over to my classroom, only I present the challenges to my students. Initially they are usually upset when I make things so “hard”, but what they tend to forget is that despite their frustration, they can do it with the right attitude.

When Troy presented his idea for Change the World?, I was on board immediately. Not only did I want to experiment with the idea of my students writing a book in one day, but also I wanted to see them in action as they planned, drafted, edited, and revised collaboratively with their peers. I believed this would make a great lesson in writing, communication, and teamwork.

Our 5th and 6th graders, while at first taken aback by an “impossible task”, rose to the occasion and together collaborated on a story packed with drama, plot twists, and tsunamis. I am proud of their creativity and spirit, recognizing once again that we can accomplish anything we set our minds to.

*Allison Fisher*



# Chapter 1

In a small town not far from Los Angeles, there lived two families living in neighboring beach houses in a small forest near a beach. There was a battlefield not so far from the two houses. One family was the James', Lily and Wilson. The other set was the Rose family, Dante and Emily. The James' children had blond hair and grey eyes. The Roses' children had brown hair and deep blue eyes. The two families had been friends for a long time and when they had children, they became lifelong friends. The children were 23, 24, 25, and 27 when their lives changed forever.

“I want to have my birthday on Blue Waters Beach.” said Emily as she walked through the door. Dante, Wilson, and Lily were planning



Emily's birthday when Emily walked in. Then they had to stop planning before she saw what they were doing.

"Tonight let's just have movie night. Okay?" Emily asks.

They start the movie but suddenly the news came on. The news report explained that a Tsunami was coming. The girls start crying and the guys immediately jump up and get to the phone to call for help.

"The phone lines are all dead." says Dante.

"Oh no," says Lily and Emily between sobs.

"When is it going to happen?" asks Emily.

Wilson pauses before answering, "It's going to happen on your birthday."

Emily starts to sob even harder.

"Do you think we can live through it?" Lily asks.

"I really doubt it," says Wilson.

"I don't think we can live through it either," says Emily.



"Well I think that we can get through it!" said Dante.

They went outside and warned everybody in the town.

Then they started to think about all the memories they ever made there and at that moment they knew that they only had about nine days to live.



## Chapter 2

Wilson hears about the Tsunami coming and has a flashback to the day that his own father Noah saved his life during the war in 2002. Wilson remembered it like it was yesterday... When Noah saved Wilson's life, along with many others. He went to war with his father by his side, the whole time, feeling safe, until now!!! All of a sudden, Wilson turned his head and saw a Tsunami come out of nowhere and drown half the people that were in war. Wilson was fighting in the war with his dad, if it wasn't for Noah, Wilson would have been one of the people to have drowned too. Wilson couldn't swim at the time and he almost drowned along with all the others who didn't know how to swim. Next thing Wilson knew he was under the water, his father pulled him out and saved him from drowning. His father then tried to save other people's lives, but died in the process because the current was too strong, even for Noah. His father then died by drowning in the tsunami. Wilson never got to thank him for saving his life. He never even got to say



goodbye...Wilson's flashback was interrupted by his friends asking if he was okay. Wilson then realized that he wanted to be like his father and help as many people as possible from drowning in the tsunami.

"Guys," Wilson then said to his sister and his friends, "I want to help everyone and save their lives like my dad did for me!" They all looked at each other like they were reading each other's minds. "We'll help you...for dad's sake" replied Lily, almost in tears. "You're turning out to be just like Dad. You are going to save so many lives!" said Lily. "Well then, let's get started!" Wilson replied. He then huddled them all up for his plan.



# Chapter 3

Wilson was terrified! He had already lost his father to a tsunami and now he was going to die to one too. Everyone could tell that out of all the people he was the most paranoid of the tsunami. He knew one thing and one thing only, he had to escape and bring everyone with him. He tried, and tried to get an idea but the stress was too much for him. He had the lives on his shoulders. Every night he would mentally wear himself out trying to find a solution to the tsunami. Then he had a idea that could save the people. He...no...THEY were going to build a boat.

The next morning Wilson literally ran to Dante shouting. “Dante, Dante, WAIT UP!” Dante turned around due to the constant shouting of his name.

“What do you want Wilson? I’m busy!”

“Busy doing what?”

“Good point...what do you want?”

“I have an idea that could stop us from being killed by the tsunami ”



“GREAT!...What is it?”

“The idea is we build a great big boat and get everyone aboard!”

“Okay...but i thought that we want to get AWAY from the tsunami but NOT towards it.”

“Ha Ha very funny we sail to the other side of the country. The journey should only be about a month’s worth of time.”

“Okay I’ll tell who I can and try to get people to help.

The next day Wilson and Dante gathered everyone on the shore and told them of Wilson's idea. Most of the townspeople was fond of the idea and liked it. Some didn’t but weren’t complaining. During building the boat Wilson made some friends. One was Ava. Ava was twenty-one years old and had brown hair and pale skin. Her eyes were brown and she could make even the grumpiest people smile. The other was Brian. Brian is twenty-two and isn’t very athletic. He has blond hair and blue eyes, his skin is pale and his personality is the best. Every day till sunrise to sunset the townspeople worked on the



boat. On the fourth day of the third week it was finished.

“Look at that beauty,” said Dante

“Wow” said Wilson.

“Well... great job everyone we finally got it finished we will set sail tomorrow morning”.

Later that night when everyone was asleep a girl named Haley Rodgers who set the boat ablaze.

“Hmph try to set sail now.” Right as she was leaving from the lower deck the ceiling collapsed on top of her.

“HELP PLEASE SOMEONE HELP ME!” Dante awoke to a surprise.

“HELP!” Dante was immediately up smoke plus shouts for help equals not good in Dante's mind. He rushed out of bed and blasted through the door. He instantly saw the fire and sprinted towards it.

“I'M COMING HOLD ON!” Dante shouted.

“PLEASE HELP ME!” Dante directed the sound towards the lower deck. He tore through the burning wood and saw the trapped girl! He carried the girl in his arms and sprinted to the ramp that



led to the beach. He told Wilson of the incident last night but didn't blame the girl.

"Well that's one failed attempt," said Wilson. Then he turned to Haley and said, "Why? Why would you do this? We were trying to ESCAPE!" He stopped there because he could tell she was hurt and was filled with sorrow. Well...does anyone have a plan B?



# Chapter 4

“It is not the strongest of the species that survives,  
nor the most intelligent. It is the one that is most  
adaptable to change”

*-Charles Darwin*

Wilson was dumbfounded. For some strange reason, the boat the townspeople worked so hard on was burned. All that remained was a pile of blackened wooden planks.

“Who would do something like this! This was our only hope!” Lily cried. Anguish was filling the townspeople rapidly. It was as if the impending doom was a wildfire, and they were all dry twigs. Some of the townspeople had broken into a wild frenzy for survival Others were muttering prayers to themselves. But one thing was clear, if they didn’t pull themselves together and formulate a new plan, they would all surely die.



At first, Wilson tried to console and calm the crowd. After a few failed attempts, all of which ended in the people being even more depressed, Wilson decided to take action for himself. He knew he was no good at thinking outside the box, so he immediately ran over the safety protocols he remembered reciting in second-grade. The shrill voice of his teacher, Mrs. Arblossom, came back to him. “Children, what do we do if there is a fire?” she would say. A chorus of high-pitched voices responded, “Follow the teacher out of the building.” Wilson was sure he remembered all of the protocols, so why couldn’t he remember the best path to take in the event of a tsunami? Then, as if the angels in heaven pitied his confusion, he had an epiphany. They could call for help. He started looking for Lily. He needed a voice that would capture the attention of the whole town. But he couldn’t seem to maneuver through the mass of people. He realized that it would take too much time to find her. So he decided to do the thing that frightened him most. He would speak to the crowd himself.



Mustering all his courage, and taking a deep breath, Wilson shouted “We can’t go on like this! We need to call for help!” but his efforts were fruitless. No one would listen. “Fine,” he muttered, slightly embarrassed by the whole ordeal, “I’ll go myself.” With that, he was off.

~

Meanwhile, Emily was excited about her 26th birthday today. Earlier that morning, her brother Dante had given her a golden cross necklace. She could tell by the way it glimmered in the sunlight that he had put all he had into saving enough money. Tears of joy filled her eyes. However, she felt awful that Dante would work so hard, just for a present to give her. Dante had said, “Now you can always remember me by this cross.” Now Emily wished she could have Dante beside her. She hated the thought that one of the happiest days of her life could end with her little brother dead. She hoped he knew that he was more important than



any gold cross, and wouldn't change a thing about him for the world. Suddenly, she remembered her surroundings, and a sense of dread washed over her. She wished she could think of a solution, but her brain was too focused on the possibility of her death that she was rendered useless. Her dad would know what to do. She wished he could be with her too, instead of watching from heaven. Her dad had died of a heart attack two years ago. The funeral was brief, and she had moved on. But in times like this, she just wanted a guiding hand.

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Unnoticed, Wilson ran to the nearest building. His legs were pumping, and sweat was dripping off of every part of his body. "Curse this humidity." Wilson muttered to himself. He entered the hotel lobby, went to the admissions desk, picked up the phone, and with shaky hands dialed 911. The phone on the other end rung, and a man with a low gruff voice picked it up saying "Hello, this is 911, state your emergency."



“This is Wilson James. I am on the coast of Blue Waters Beach. I saw a tsunami warning on the television and require assistance with moving the townspeople to safety.”

“We’re sorry, all forces have been deployed to Crystal Waters Beach to evacuate the citizens where the tsunami will be the most severe.”

“Thank you for your time,” Wilson said through gritted teeth and hung up the phone. While he was running back to the throng of people, he had an epiphany. They could raise the underground wall built exactly for circumstances like this. He just had to tell Lily so she could get everyone’s attention.

After telling her she shouted, “Everyone listen! We need to raise the underground wall to minimize damage to the town! I need volunteers to help me lift it!”

“I’ll go,” Dante said, a grim expression on his face. He needed to help save Emily. He couldn’t let her die. Not if he could have saved her. The guilt would be too much to bear, even for his soldier’s heart. Besides, he would be honored to die if he



could save the rest of the town. Furthermore, he knew it was his duty as a soldier to protect the town, so if he didn't help, what kind of soldier would he be.

~

*No no no!* Emily screamed inside her head, agony once again filling her. Her brother couldn't leave, not after all she'd been through. She couldn't bear the thought of his last words to her being "Now you can remember me by this cross." Besides, it was her job, as the oldest, to protect him from danger. She knew he would willingly sacrifice his life to save her. But she didn't want to be saved, not if it meant losing her only living relative. She would rather die with him than see him suffer. Besides, any number of things could happen to him. The tsunami could hit earlier than expected and he could drown! But it was too late to do anything but pray for his survival. The volunteers had already started raising the giant steel wall and she would never make it to them in time if



something did happen. Still, she had to try. Before she could even take a single step through, a loud boom erupted over the town she felt the ground vibrate, then a strong wind carrying thousands of grains of sand to the rest of the town, and all was silent.



# Chapter 5

The wall the wall, it's about to fall. I really thought it was gonna stay said Lily. It was only some pebbles but at least we tried mentioned Emily.

“O'My gosh, Dante, watch out the wall is about to fall on you so you better watch out.”

“Dante back up,” said his sister in a worried tone. Dante was breathing heavily after he moved the rocks off his body. Emily and Lily ran toward Dante started Checking his pulse and bandaging him up.

“Okay let's rebuild this wall with boulders this time so it will stay.” They go kick it to see if it was durable enough to sustain the wrath of the tsunami and it fell down. The were really sad that there wall didn't work again. Lets go tell everyone that it didn't work. They got up to the top of the hill and told them that our wall is not gonna work for their safety. So then they started thinking of another plan.



# Chapter 6

Dante and Wilson started digging the hole to have shelter during the tsunami. While they were digging, the dirt from under them and they fell into a cave that was underneath where they were digging. It was dark and musty.

“Are you guys ok?” Emily asked.

“I think so,” said Dante.

Wilson and Dante started looking around when Wilson found a little boy.

“Um, guys? You might want to come down here,” Dante said.

“Well it looks a little dangerous...” said Lilly.

“Just get down here!! It's not that bad!!” said Dante.

“Well okay..” said Lilly. So then they both jumped down in the hole with a rope. A little boy was laying there on the ground, unconscious. When they saw him they both gasped.

“What happened?!” asked Emily.



“I don't know! We were walking around and we saw him lying there.”

“We need to get help and fast!” Lily grabbed the boy and they all climbed up the rope and out of the hole. Emily and Lily looked at the boy and cleaned all his cuts and bruises. When the boy woke up, they asked him what his name was.

“I-I'm Ti-Timothy.”

“How did you get into the hole?” Emily asked.

“I was try-trying to run back home be-because I hear-heard about the tsu-tsunami and so I guess I did-didn't see the hole and I fel-fell. That's all I rem-remember.”

“How old are you Timothy?” Dante asked.

“I-I'm si-six years ol-old,” Timothy said.

“Ok, well you're going to stay with us and you will be okay now,” Lily said.

“Why? I just want to find my parents!” Timothy said. With that he started crying.

“Okay, okay we will try our best to find your parents,” Emily said.

“Ok. We need to get out of here and get other people out,” Dante said.



“Okay. Let's get a move on!” Wilson said.

They walked to Dante's car and drove off to find somewhere where they could take shelter during the tsunami.

“Hey guys, I just want to say thanks for saving me, sorry I was all stuttery I was just really scared to find 4 adults standing right in front of me asking me all of these questions,” Timothy explained.

“That's okay, we're sorry for bombarding you with questions we just wanted to help you,” Lily said.

“Oh that's okay,” said Timothy.



# Chapter 7

It is August, Friday the 13th, and we are getting ready for the migration. By gathering all we can fit in our trucks. When the fog hits us. We hear a high pitched girl scream. I see Emily and Lily driving by me. Emily calls that Dante is not by her. We start to search but it is getting dark so we sleep. The next morning the fog is gone and we began the search again for Dante, but we have to stop because it is getting dark. The next day the fog is gone and we start searching again. We look all day but can't find him. It gets dark so we hit the hay. It has been two days since Dante went missing. Emily says that we should search the Bloody Beach a battlefield where the sand is stained red from the men that have been killed in the Battle of Blood which happened on that beach. Wilson spots a black dot in the distance and thinks it's Dante. We start zooming towards it and find Dante with a massive boulder on his leg. We then



begin to push the boulder off of his right leg. He screams in pain and we hush him down. Then, I tell Emily and Lily to carefully lift Dante over to the bed of my truck by the pier. We hear wails in the distance. I turn around and see men and teenagers with torches. Brian and Ava volunteer to fight them off. Next, as they are fighting Brian disappears. We search the place where Brian was fighting. We find a hole in ground. That Emily says must be a sink hole and that he probably suffocate. We rest for the night and start going back to town in the morning. We began the process of migrating the town by getting everyone to the town square. Wilson gives a speech of motivation. Wilson says the best bet would be to go to the airport and fly to Colorado. We get to the airport and rush Dante to the plane that was about to leave.



# Chapter 8

At the airport the police line everybody up so they can make sure everyone is there, dante went first. During the count they realize Brian and Ava are missing. They don't have enough time to go and search for them so they have to leave without them.

"We need To go find them," said Wilson.

"I have a policy in the Army. 'Leave no man behind'"

"We can't. We don't have enough time," Lily said. So they leave sadly.

"We will be safe in Colorado," says Emily.

They all get onto the plane and start their trip. Finally they reach Colorado.



# Chapter 9

“I hope Brian, Ava, and Timothy are okay,” said Emily.

“I know we got on the plane just in time,” Dante said.

Back in California, Brian, Ava, and Timothy were in danger. While the other four were safe on the plane, the tsunami came! The huge wave crashed on the small city. Brian was trying to run but he didn't get away in time. He drowned in the tsunami and died. The death of Brian was the saddest thing Ava ever saw.

Timothy started to cry as things got worse for them. Later the waves started to die down the current was strong but Ava and Timothy were able to survive.

One day later...



Every one in the town was crying and freaking out. It was horrifying to see their whole town ruined. Ava and Timothy walked around and saw the destruction of their town. Their home, their memories, everything just gone. Houses collapsed, bridges split, it was gone simple as that.

Ava stepped up on a stack of wood and got everybody's attention.

“Listen up everyone I know there aren't that many of us left, but we need to work together and help each other get back OUR lives. We are a community so we need to stick together.”

Everyone nodded their heads in agreement.

“I think we should start by searching for things that might be able to help us. Anything that we find could be useful. Make two stacks of useful and not useful,” a girl shouted from the hill.

“Good idea lets do this!” Ava said.



Nobody was having any luck until somebody screamed, "Found something! Just help me carry it."

Everyone started dragging things out of the water. "What are we gonna do with soggy wood? Ughhhh." Ava shouted.

Everyone thought for sure that they were doomed until... helicopters came to rescue the tsunami survivors. Everyone was relieved, happy, and jumping with joy that they get to have a new life. "We're saved!"

They were taken to a building where people helped them find a town and a home to live in and be safe. Everyone who had to face the traumatic experience of tsunami were grateful for those people who saved them. They felt like they're not forgotten. But they never would forget about that tsunami again.

