



### Pre-Show Lesson #1: Design a Protest T Shirt

Framework: In this lesson, students will explore what it means to be an activist and to stand up for something that they believe in, like the main character in EMILY DRIVER'S GREAT RACE THROUGH TIME AND SPACE.

Objectives: Students will be able to...

- Identify what it means to be an activist.
- Choose what social, environmental, or political topics are most important to them.
- Engage in the role of a costume designer to design a protest t-shirt that represents their point of view and be able to justify their choices through a powerful voice.

Materials:

- LJPeGuide Character Descriptions Page
- Projector to show videos
- T-shirt Worksheet
- Markers, crayons, pens/pencils

Vocabulary:

- Activist

Step 1:

- Show the YouTube video of Student Activist Naomi Wadler (11 years old) to your students. (video is 3:11 mins) Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9sCivBkOsAk>
- Show the YouTube video of TIME Person of the Year and Student Activist, Greta Thunberg (video is located down the page and is 3:31 mins). <https://time.com/person-of-the-year-2019-greta-thunberg/>
- Explain to the students that both Naomi and Greta are considered student activists. Have the students turn and talk to their neighbor about what they think a student activist is. Have students share their ideas with the class. Student activism is work by students to cause political, environmental, economic, or social change.
- Explain to the students that the main character of EMILY DRIVER'S GREAT RACE THROUGH TIME AND SPACE is a young person who discovers her activist voice as she fights to provide access and equal opportunities to folks with disabilities.

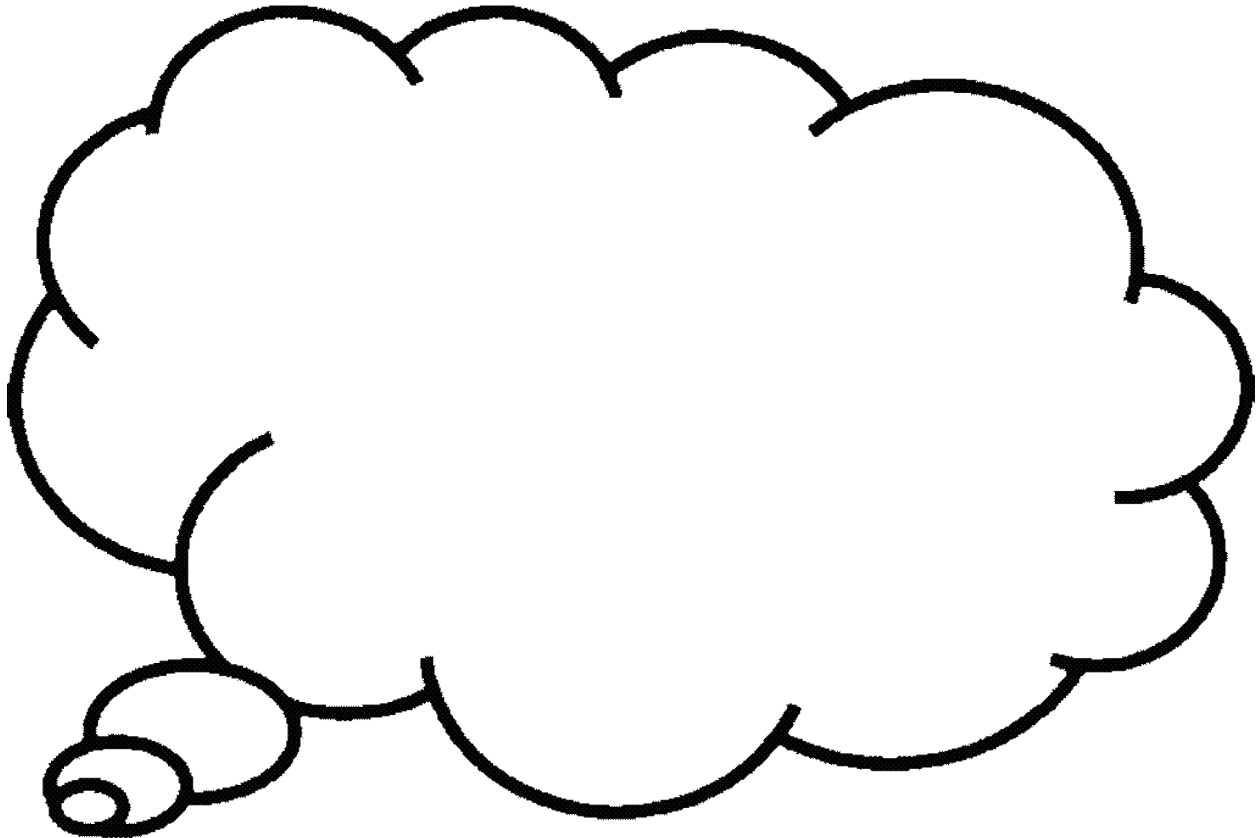


## Step 2:

- Ask the students to tell you what they think a costume designer does as part of a play? Let them know that a costume designer designs and sometimes creates the costumes for the characters in a play. They base their designs on the script, and the character's thoughts, actions, and words.
- Show the students the costume design image on the Characters page of the LJPeGuide ([www.ljpeguide.com](http://www.ljpeguide.com)). Here we can see the costume designs of Costume Designer Mallory Kay Nelson. Ask the students:
  - Based on these designs you see, what time period(s) do you think the play takes place in? Why?
  - Have the students take note of the tee shirts worn by several of the characters. These are protest tee shirts. They say things like, "Disabled and Proud." And "Labels are For Jars, Not People." And one with an image of Wonder Woman as a wheelchair user.
  - Ask the students: What do all of these messages have in common? What type of change do you think these activists want?
- Have the students do some solo thinking with the following question: "What political, social, environmental, or economic issues are most important to me?"
- Then, pass out the attached two-sided hand out. Have the student jot down ideas at the top of the page for the issues that mean the most to them. Have them pair share their ideas and circle their favorite one.
- Next, students will design their own activist shirt below using crayons/markers. If they are having a difficult time with ideas, a quick google search of "Activist T Shirt" will pull up ideas that might help inspire them.
- Once the students have completed their designs, they will then write on their own paper a message that they want to share. Have them consider speaking from a compassionate and strong voice like the videos we shared at the top of class.
- Have the students practice reading their speech with a partner. Once students are ready, have them share their activist message with the class!
- Hang up your protest tee shirts around the room!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Brainstorm some ideas of what political, social, environmental, or economic issues are most important to me?



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What images do you want to make sure you include in your T-Shirt Design?

LA  
JOLLA  
PLAY  
HOUSE

POPTOUR 2020

