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Have you ever speculated where mankind would be without the ingenious ancient who invented fire? Have you ever wondered what our world would look like without Johannesburg's printing press, Edison's light bulb, or even Gate's Microsoft? Amidst these questions, we can only be certain that our world has been drastically changed by their influence. Albeit the need for scientific discovery drove the likes of Edison, the catalyst for any change frequently depends on the individual. For example, India's widespread suffering influenced Gandhi's nonviolence movements. Across the world, another hero emerged when Rosa Parks refused to relinquish her bus seat. In either case, Gandhi and Parks demonstrated the power of an individual is not limited by one's knowledge or position, but their willingness to make a difference.

This idea that determination sparks a revolution gives me hope that I can personally make a difference of any size. My grandmother used to tell me as a child, a wonderful fairytale which I gradually realized was an agonizing memoir of her own youth. In this "tale", a young girl was sentenced by an evil ruler to indefinitely slave away in the distant rice paddies for daring to attend school. Torn away from her family, friends, and home, she wept every night, wishing for the yoke upon her to crush her out of misery. However, a young man saved her at the brink of her desolation. Together they desperately escaped by traveling up mountains to reach liberation across the harbor. Initially, the heroic trials my grandparents experienced shocked me, before I guiltily internalized that their crime was an opportunity my peers and I receive freely every day. How could I then, complain about excessive homework, when students around the world, like my grandmother, were deprived of any iota of education? To counter my mild discomfort of this revelation, I began to mentor students within my local community. Again my eyes were opened

to the diverse struggles of students striving to overcome any hardships despite adversity. Their resilience, along with my grandparents, inspired me to continue mentoring twice a week at H.O.P.E Tutoring and during summer with the Reading Rocks Program. I may not have all the power, knowledge, or money in the world, but this is my personal contribution towards my dream of creating a better future where education becomes a universal opportunity, rather than a barrier or repressed right.

Martin Luther King Jr., once spoke of a dream he had of an equal America, free of injustice and abundant with opportunities. Although the cost of achieving his dream came at his own physical sacrifice, he exemplified how one person could generate change. King's speech left a legacy to remember, inventors leave their legacy in their discoveries, Gandhi and Park left their legacy through courageous actions, my grandmother left her legacy in her fairytale. We can all begin to leave legacies of change, as I hope to by tutoring, by remembering to passionately follow our determination in achieving our dreams.