

Singing Their Stories

"If I had a magic pencil like Malala has, I'd change the world in different ways." That's the start of a song inspired by the story of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai. For women's history month, the 4th graders at Pocahontas Elementary School read books about Malala and other historical women. Those books inspired songs.

The kids were so excited to share what they had learned...in song. The process of turning stories into lyrics was joyous and impactful, and the resulting songs are nothing short of incredible. We were inspired to create our new program, *Singing Their Stories*--songs inspired by literature.

It's a literacy program dressed up in songwriters clothes--a powerful way to get kids excited about what they are learning.

If I Had a Magic Pencil

by Natalia Zukerman, Paul Reisler and Ms.Stout's 4th grade

If I had a magic pencil like Malala has
I'd change the world in different ways
There'd be peace, there'd be harmony
There'd be love, and learning for everyone
We all could learn to be someone
If I had a magic pencil

If I had a magic pencil like Malala has
I'd make things better than they are
There'd be kindness and equality
the voice of justice in the air
that's my simple prayer
If I had a magic pencil

If people were silent, nothing would change
If no one speaks up, we're all to blame

I'm gonna take my magic pencil and write the wrongs
Erase the darkness from this night
One person, one teacher can light the flame
Together we can lead the way
Judged by what we do, not what we say.
With our magic pencil

