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Dear Fantastically Great Reader,

I can't believe it's been ten years of Fantastically Great Women!

It's mind-blowing to think that millions of children around the world have read these books and hopefully been inspired to change the world in their own ways, just like the now nearly one hundred women in the series.

I never imagined the impact the books would have when I first started doodling a picture of one of my heroes, the fearless adventurer Amelia Earhart. That doodle sparked a conversation – not just about Amelia's story, but about other incredible women, plus my own roots and connection to the famous suffragette, Emmeline Pankhurst.

I realised that, even though some of these women made history, there were surprisingly few books that told their stories – especially for young readers. That's where the idea for the series came from: to shine a light on amazing, often overlooked women from history. Women who weren't given the same chances as men. Women whose courage, brilliance and determination deserves to be remembered.

But these books don't just celebrate the past – they're here to inspire the future, too. My biggest hope is that they encourage young readers (just like you!) to dream big, stand proud and speak up for what matters to them. It's been the greatest honour of my life to tell these stories, and now it's your turn to be inspired. I can't wait to see how YOU change the world!

Kate

Prepare for a fantastically amazing journey with ...

GERTRUDE EDERLE

Jane Austen

Frida Kahlo

COCO CHANEL

Mary Anning

Marie Curie

MARY SEACOLE

Follow me!

NR-1522

AMELIA EARHART

EMMELINE PANKHURST

VOTES FOR WOMEN

SACAGAWEA

Agent Fifi

Anne Frank

Rosa Parks

MALALA YOUSAFZAI

TAYLOR SWIFT

How did they become so fantastically amazing and great?!

The women in this book didn't set out to be thought of as 'great'. They achieved extraordinary things simply by following their hearts, talents and dreams. They didn't listen when people said they couldn't do something. They dared to be different. And some of them couldn't resist a crazy adventure, or three.

Jane Austen

Who wrote these wonderful books?

Shhhh! When her first book was published, British writer Jane Austen couldn't tell anyone she was the author! In 1811 people thought it wasn't right for a woman to have a job, no matter how talented they were.

The books Jane wrote were SO heartbreaking, romantic and thrilling that they are still enjoyed two hundred years later. They are some of the best stories ever created.

Meet some of Jane's heroines, heroes and villains ...

Mr Darcy is such a BORE!

A witty heroine who speaks her mind even though a proper 'lady' was not supposed to have an opinion.

Elizabeth Bennet and Mr Darcy
PRIDE and PREJUDICE

Why won't you marry me?!

Dashingly handsome and wealthy. Changes his snooty ways to win Elizabeth Bennet's heart.

How romantic!

Decides to help her friends and family find the right husband, but discovers she has a lot to learn about life and love.

Emma Woodhouse
EMMA

Who does she think she is?

Mrs Norris
MANSFIELD PARK

A beastly woman in a bonnet who is really horrible to her niece, Fanny Price, who comes from a poor family.

GASP!

Catherine Morland
NORTHANGER ABBEY

Struggles to learn that real life doesn't work out like the dramatic novels she loves to read.

A vain and nasty upper class man who thinks being beautiful is more important than being a nice person.

How ugly!

Sir Walter Elliot
PERSUASION

In secret letters to her sister, Jane writes of having her own heart broken, just like the heroines she wrote about, by a man called Tom Lefroy. The two weren't allowed to marry because Jane's family was not rich.

With no husband, Jane had to rely on her family for money, until her books became popular!

SHE SWAM HER OWN STROKE!

GERTRUDE EDERLE

ESSENTIAL CHANNEL SWIMMER KIT:

A TWO-PIECE SWIMSUIT:
Rather than wear a heavy woollen swimsuit, Trudy made herself one of the first two-piece bathing suits from underwear. (Men swam the channel naked!)

GREASE!
Trudy's whole body was smothered in grease to keep her warm in the cold water.

A BRIGHT RED SWIMMING CAP
So onlookers could spot her in the waves.

GOGGLES
To stop seawater stinging her eyes.

In the 1920s, teenage Olympic medal-winning swimming sensation Gertrude Ederle from New York, USA, decided to take on a swimming challenge said to be as **DIFFICULT** and **DANGEROUS** as climbing Mount Everest. Gertrude (or Trudy) wanted to be the first woman to swim across the freezing waters of the **ENGLISH CHANNEL**.

People wondered if Trudy's plan was a length too far, especially as her first attempt in 1925 failed due to bad weather. In fact, doctors wanted her to stop swimming altogether, as she had been left with hearing loss after suffering **measles** and the cold water could further damage her ears. **But she loved the water too much to stop** ...

FIVE men have swum the Channel. I can too!

In August 1926, aged nineteen, Trudy waded into the sea in France, called 'cheerio' and set off on her second attempt to swim the English Channel.

FOLLOW THE ARROWS TO TRACK GERTRUDE'S JOURNEY!

FRANCE

CAP GRIS-NEZ

Gertrude used her strongest stroke – American Crawl (even though everyone said breaststroke was better).

I'll get there faster using this stroke.

Watch out for sharks and stinging jellyfish! GULP!

Not much farther!

She fought strong currents (ignoring people telling her she must give up).

yum!

Gertrude ate sugar cubes (even though people said that wasn't enough food) and kept her stroke in time by listening to her favourite song on a gramophone. It was called ...

Yes! We Have No Bananas!

ENGLAND

KINGSDOWN BEACH

yes!

Finally, after swimming for **14 HOURS AND 31 MINUTES** (around **35 MILES**) she reached the English coast. Gertrude had swum it her way and set a new record time, **TWO HOURS FASTER** than any of the men who had previously completed the swim!

Back in New York, Trudy made a splash! Crowds flocked to celebrate her enormous achievement.



FINDING THE WORDS TO MAKE AND BREAK RECORDS

TAYLOR SWIFT

Taylor was born in 1989 in Pennsylvania, USA. From her country roots to becoming a global pop icon, she is known for her record-breaking success, super song-writing skills and **MILLIONS** of loyal fans called '**Swifties**'.

Taylor has a talent for writing lyrics that perfectly capture how it feels to grow up, to fall in (and out) of love and to **take charge of your own story**. Her words have spoken to a generation of fans.

Taylor has always stayed true to her roots, remained honest and kind, and stood up for herself when it mattered.

She isn't afraid to ...

DANCE TO HER OWN BEAT!

"Just be yourself."

THE BLUEBIRD CAFE
PERFORMING TONIGHT
TAYLOR SWIFT!

In **2005**, Taylor was spotted by newly formed record label, Big Machine Records. Aged **16**, her debut album *Taylor Swift* hit the charts – becoming a bestseller and making Taylor a star!

ONE WAY TICKET TO MAKE IT

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Taylor's Mix: Country Cool

Taylor learned to play guitar and write songs at **12 years old**. She dreamed of making it as a country musician, so eventually her family moved to the home of country music, **Nashville, Tennessee** ...



Over **20 years** and multiple albums later, Taylor has made a huge impact on the world. She speaks up for **women**, the **LGBTQ+ community** and **artists' rights**. Her fans love that with Taylor, it's ...

NEVER THE SAME OLD STORY ...

SHARING SUCCESS

On her record-breaking **Eras tour**, Taylor visited **21 countries** and performed to over **10 MILLION** fans! She gave everyone who worked on the tour a generous share of the profits and donated millions to food banks – providing **hundreds of thousands of meals** for people across the world.

TAYLOR'S VERSION

When her former record company refused to give her ownership of her 'masters' (original recordings of her first six albums), Taylor **made a stand** by re-recording them as **'TAYLOR'S VERSION'**. In May 2025, she announced she had successfully bought them back – a **rare achievement** in the music industry, especially for a woman.

...You can FIGHT for what's yours, TAKE CONTROL of your work and SUCCEED on your own terms.

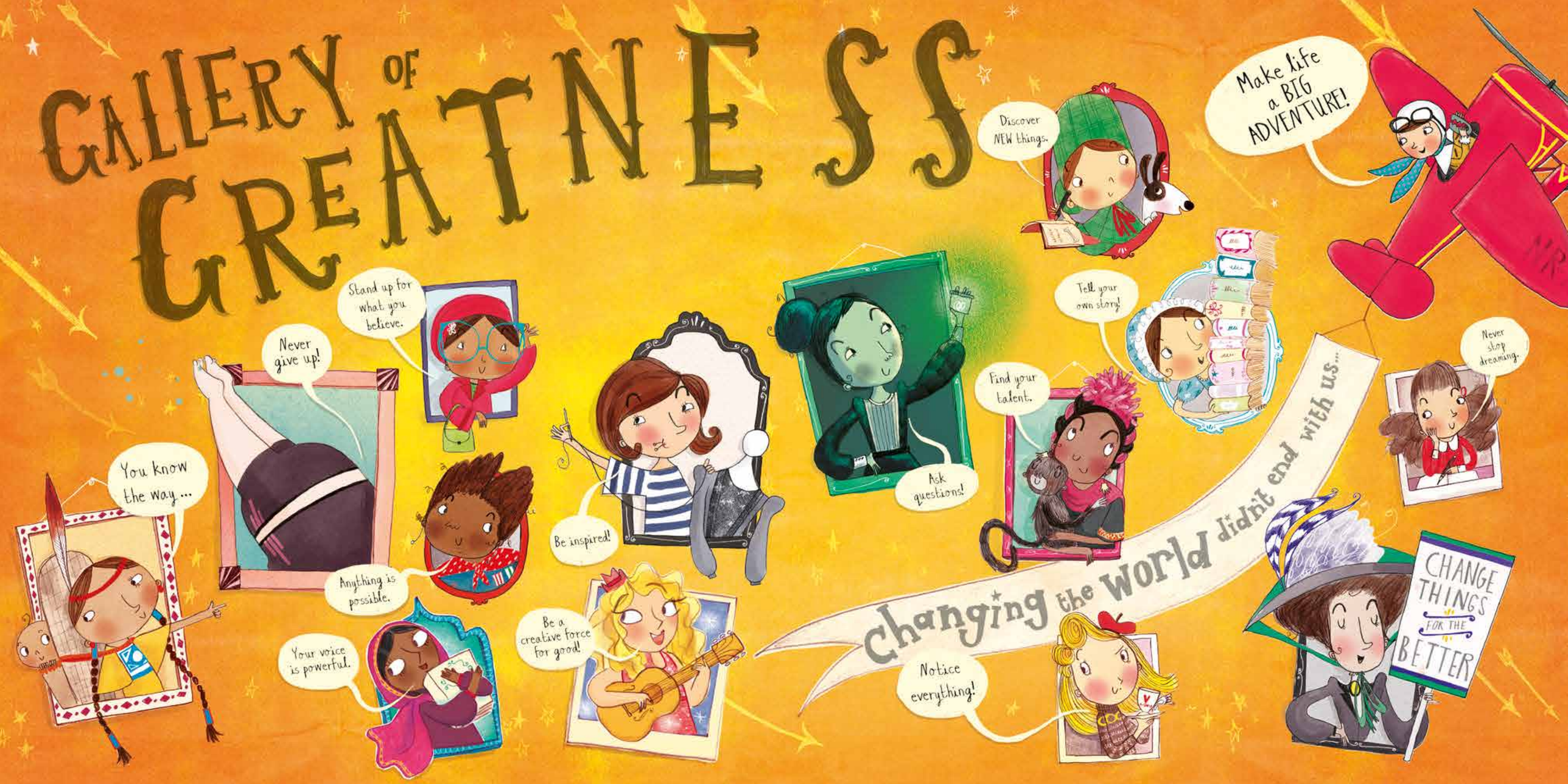
EQUALITY FOR ALL

In June 2019, Taylor Swift launched a petition supporting the **Equality Act**, which protects **LGBTQ+** people from being treated unfairly. **It gained nearly 10,000 signatures in its first hour** and surpassed 500,000 by August that year.

SWIFTIES 4 EVA

Some of Taylor's lyrics sparked a worldwide craze for **swapping friendship bracelets** at her concerts – a token of the **unity** and **positivity** that Taylor and her music encourage.

Taylor Swift's **incredible story** is still being written. Devoted Swifties can't wait to see where she will take them with her next inspiring era ...


GALLERY OF GREATNESS
Discover NEW things.
Make life a BIG ADVENTURE!
Stand up for what you believe.
Never give up!
Tell your own story!
Never stop dreaming.
You know the way...
Be inspired!
Ask questions!
Find your talent.
Changing the World didn't end with us...
Anything is possible.
Be a creative force for good!
Your voice is powerful.
Notice everything!
CHANGE THINGS FOR THE BETTER