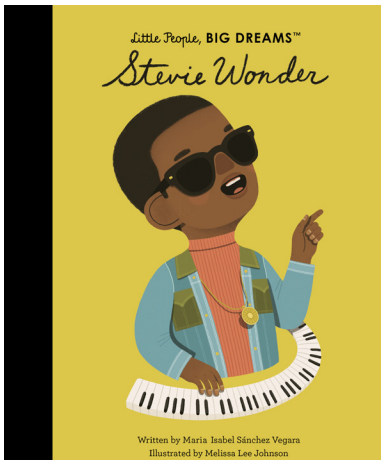


# Little People, BIG DREAMS™

## TEACHERS' GUIDE



Stevie Wonder

Little People, BIG DREAMS™

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### LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

Stevie Wonder lost his sight when he was just a few days old, but he never lost his ability to experience the beauty in the world. He grew up singing and playing different instruments and signed his first deal with Motown Records when he was only 11 years old. Stevie has spent his life making music and helping others, and he does both while spreading messages full of positivity and joy.

### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS IN THIS UNIT

1. Why is Stevie Wonder a dreamer we should know?
2. What happened to Stevie when he was a baby that makes his musical talents even more remarkable?
3. How did his parents and other grown-ups help Stevie in his music career?
4. What awards did Stevie earn throughout his life?
5. How did Stevie help people in his own community and around the world?

### CLASSROOM DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. When he was 11 years old, Stevie signed his first big music contract and his last name was changed from Judkins to Wonder. What does it mean to be a “wonder”? Why do you think the record label thought Stevie was a wonder? Ask the students to name something that makes them WONDERful.
2. Stevie often wrote songs about love and peace (p. 8). Even though the songs were written a long time ago, why are love and peace still important to us today? Ask students how they can

spread messages of love and peace.

3. Some people might have let being blind stop them from going after their dreams, but not Stevie. What is a dream you have? What will you do to make it come true?
4. Stevie is someone who others admire not just because of his musical talent but because of the kind of person he is. Ask the students to name someone who they admire and what that person does to inspire them.
5. Stevie wrote songs for important moments in his life, like his daughter being born (p. 10), or important moments in our history, like when Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday became a national holiday (p. 12). Ask students what important moment in their life they would ask Stevie to write a song about for them. Why was this moment so special that it deserves a song?

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

1. The book says, "He wouldn't grow to see the beautiful world around him, but he would feel it and hear it" (p. 3). Have students sit with paper and art materials in a comfortable spot in the classroom. Ask them to close their eyes while you play his song, "Overjoyed." After a minute or so, turn the music down and tell students they can draw a beautiful image they thought of while listening to the song. If students need more time, you can continue playing the song until they are ready to draw. If students are comfortable, they can share their images when everyone is done.
2. Gather pots, pans, and/or a variety of containers along with wooden spoons or other utensils. Allow the students to explore making music like Stevie did as a child (p. 4). Can two students take turns mimicking each other's beats? Can someone figure out a way to play a familiar beat like "The Ants Go Marching"?
3. Play "I Just Called to Say I Love You" for the students while you show them page 13. Make a chart of the different ways students in your class know how to say "I love you." Give each student a heart and have them write or draw to show their favorite way to say it. Remind them that people can say "I love you" with sign language or actions like a hug as well as with words.
4. Stevie's music and life make us think of words like FUN, JOY, PEACE, and LOVE. Have those words written on posters around the room and divide the students into four groups. While you play upbeat hits by Stevie (options could include "Sir Duke," "Signed, Sealed, Delivered, I'm Yours," "Superstition," or "Isn't She Lovely?" among others), encourage the groups to work together to decorate their words. Leave these posters up in the classroom to remind students of Stevie's messages.

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