

ORDINARY  
PEOPLE  
CHANGE  
the  
WORLD

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# I am Gandhi



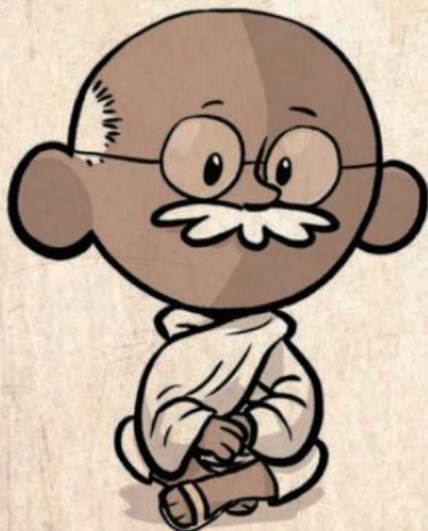
BRAD MELTZER

illustrated by Christopher Eliopoulos



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# I am Gandhi



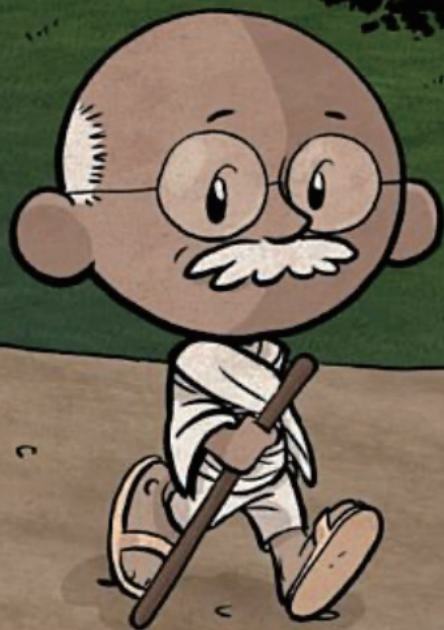
**BRAD MELTZER**  
*illustrated by* **Christopher Eliopoulos**



DIAL BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

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I am Gandhi.

Today, people call me strong.

Unafraid.

Unstoppable.

I wasn't always that way.

As a child growing up in India,  
I was shy.

Afraid of the dark.

I was also afraid of snakes.

OOH, A  
SNAKE~WANT  
TO SEE IT?

I WOULD  
VERY MUCH  
**NOT** LIKE  
TO SEE IT.



Can you tell I was small?

I spent most of my time  
with books.



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I wasn't good at sports, like soccer.

In fact, I'd run home after school, afraid that people would make fun of me.

But I liked taking nice long walks.

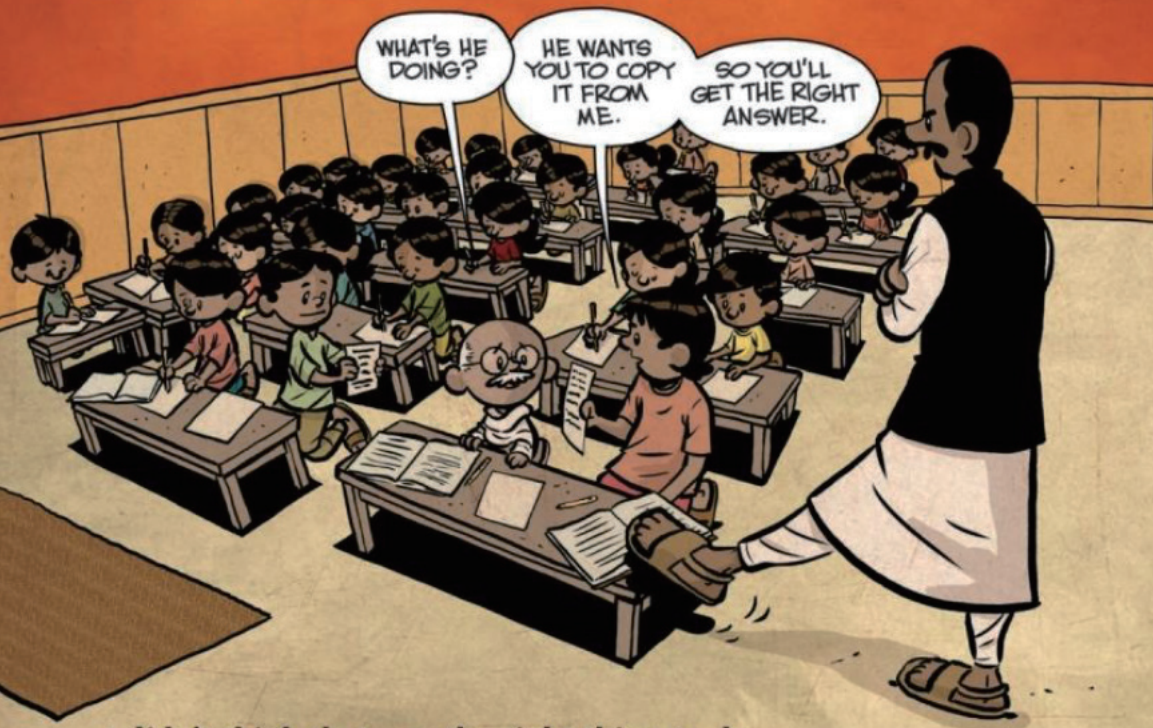


A LONG  
WALK IS A  
GREAT WAY  
TO SPEND  
THE DAY.

TRY IT—  
YOU'LL  
LIKE IT.

Even with all my books, I wasn't a great student.  
I was bad at multiplication.

And one day, when I got one of our spelling words wrong,  
the teacher pointed to another boy's paper.



I didn't think that was the right thing to do.  
That's not how you learn.  
When the teacher scolded me, I wasn't bothered.  
In my life, I did not copy others' work.

However, there was one story that was worth copying.  
It was a play I read in school about a man named Shravan Kumar.  
Shravan was so devoted to his parents that when they were too  
old to travel, he literally carried them on his back.



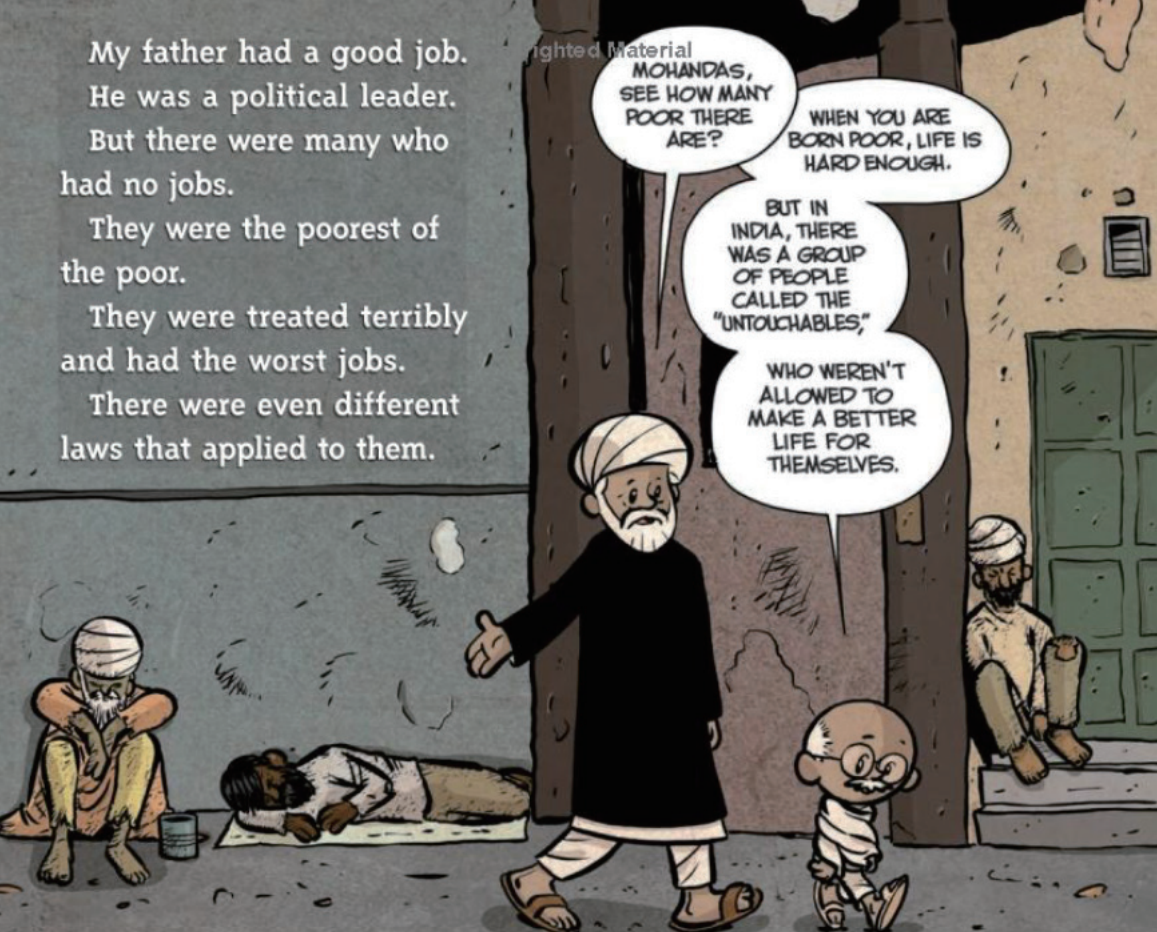
It was an example I wanted to follow.  
One person carrying others who needed help.

My father had a good job.  
He was a political leader.  
But there were many who  
had no jobs.

They were the poorest of  
the poor.

They were treated terribly  
and had the worst jobs.

There were even different  
laws that applied to them.



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MOHANDAS,  
SEE HOW MANY  
POOR THERE  
ARE?

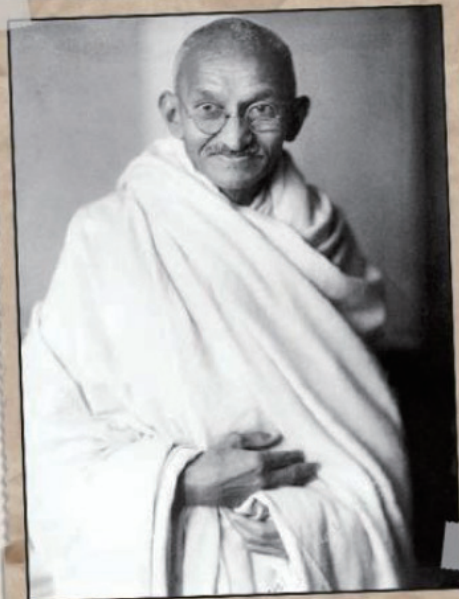
WHEN YOU ARE  
BORN POOR, LIFE IS  
HARD ENOUGH.

BUT IN  
INDIA, THERE  
WAS A GROUP  
OF PEOPLE  
CALLED THE  
"UNTOUCHABLES,"

WHO WEREN'T  
ALLOWED TO  
MAKE A BETTER  
LIFE FOR  
THEMSELVES.

Back then, the British were so powerful, they ruled India. To get  
a good job like my father, I eventually moved to London, England,  
and became a lawyer.

I even dressed up real fancy, trying to look rich and more British.



*"In a gentle way, you can shake the world."*  
—Gandhi

### Timeline



OCTOBER 2, 1869

Born in  
Porbandar, India

MAY 1883

Marries Kasturba  
Nakharji

APRIL 1893

Moves to

AUGUST 1894

Founds the Natal Indian  
Congress

SEPTEMBER 11, 1906

Introduces practice  
of Satyagraha



Gandhi at  
age seven



Gandhi at his  
spinning wheel



The Salt  
March



The current  
Indian flag

JANUARY 1915

Returns to India

APRIL 13, 1919

Jallianwala Bagh  
Massacre

MARCH 1930

Dandi Salt March

AUGUST 15, 1947

India's independence

JANUARY 30, 1948

Killed in Delhi, India,  
at age 78

OCTOBER 2, 2007

International Day of  
Nonviolence first celebrated  
in Gandhi's honor