

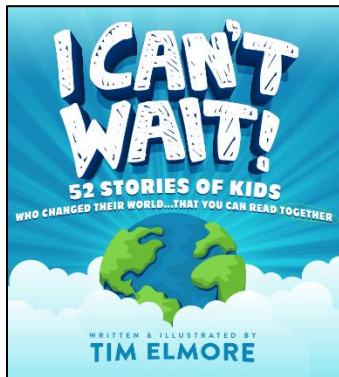
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I CAN'T WAIT!

52 Stories of Kids Who Changed Their World That You Can Read Together

New Book Highlights Real-Life Game-Changing Kids to Inspire and Motivate Children and Young Adults to Tap into Their Creativity, Skills, and Talents



Atlanta, GA: Growing up today is remarkably different than it was for kids today. As adults we often see the negative effects on children like the desire for instant gratification, depression, and overstimulation and distraction from excessive screen time. It can feel impossible to engage with kids in conversation or create meaningful relationships with them. How do we get them to listen and engage with us on important topics?

Dr. Tim Elmore, founder, and CEO of Growing Leaders, has dedicated his life to developing the next generation of students and equipping them to connect with others and think and act like leaders. He believes when children and young adults are encouraged to become problem solvers, they look beyond themselves as they influence and partner with others.

Dr. Elmore is the author of thirty-five books, including his newest release, ***I CAN'T WAIT: 52 STORIES OF KIDS WHO CHANGED THEIR WORLD ... THAT YOU CAN READ TOGETHER*** (Maxwell Publishing), which spotlights ordinary young people who accomplished the extraordinary.

Instead of hoping or expecting someone else to solve their problems or serve them, the young people featured in Dr. Elmore's book took risks and tapped into their creativity, passion, and determination to become inventors, activists, and living examples of the mantra "I can't wait!"

Readers will learn more about a diverse group of kids, teens, and young adults from various races and backgrounds and periods in history who showed the rest of the world what can be done by youth who catch a vision. Among those featured include:

- **Virgil Smith:** An eighth grader who used an air mattress to rescue seventeen of his neighbors trapped inside their homes when Hurricane Harvey hit Dickson, Texas, in 2017. He did not let fear or his asthma deter him and later received several awards, including the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's Young Hero Award.
- **Kenton Lee:** While visiting Kenya, this college student noticed that children were outgrowing their shoes and cutting them open to make room for their toes, so he invented expandable shoes. He has since distributed over 400,000 pairs to kids and families around the world and founded his own nonprofit, Because International, to alleviate poverty.
- **Lucy Blaylock:** At eight years old, Lucy decided to sew blankets for kids suffering from cancer, autism, and bullies. By age eleven, she had sewn over 500 blankets for kids in fourteen countries. Lucy later sewed 1,100 masks for kids and healthcare workers during COVID-19.
- **Denis Estimon:** A Haitian immigrant who felt lonely at school, Denis started a lunch group for other lonely students called We Dine Together. Since graduating, he has founded hundreds of chapters in schools throughout the United States.
- **Marsai Martin:** A fourteen-year-old actress who starred on *Black-ish* and became the youngest Hollywood executive producer on a major film, *LITTLE* (2019). Marsai attributes her success to meeting with many different people, listening to their guidance, and remaining flexible with her ideas.

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Other young people highlighted and recognized for their innovative ideas include a young boy who lost his eyesight and created the Braille system for the visually impaired (Louis Braille); a young girl who made lemonade sweetened with honey and then founded her own company, which dedicates 10 percent of its profits to charities committed to saving bees (Mikaila Ulmer); a teenager who watched his mother endure a brutal battle with breast cancer and later invented a bra that detects cancer early (Julián Ríos Cantú); a tenth grader who invented a flashlight that runs off body heat (Ann Makosinski).

Each figure's story concludes with a link to a video about their life and accomplishments and discussion questions to encourage insightful conversations between adults and young people. Dr. Elmore hopes these inspiring true stories of the talents and virtue exemplified by each person will inspire kids of all ages to spark change in their own worlds.

For additional information visit www.icantwaitbook.com

About the Author:



Dr. Tim Elmore is the founder and CEO of Growing Leaders, an Atlanta-based nonprofit organization encouraging and equipping emerging leaders. Since founding Growing Leaders in 2003, Dr. Elmore has spoken to over 500,000 leaders in businesses, universities, athletic teams, and nonprofit organizations. Dr. Elmore was also listed in the top 100 leadership speakers in America by *Inc.* magazine.

He has published over 35 books, including *Habitudes: Images That Form Leadership Habits and Attitudes*, *The Eight Paradoxes of Great Leadership: Embracing the Conflicting Demands of Today's Workplace*, and *A New Kind of Diversity: Making the Different Generations on Your Team a*

Competitive Advantage.

Dr. Elmore has appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, and *Psychology Today* and has been featured on FOX News, *Fox & Friends*, and CNN's Headline News.

He and his wife, Pam, have two adult children and live outside of Atlanta. Learn more about Tim and his work at TimElmore.com and his nonprofit at growingleaders.com.

Suggested Interview Questions:

1. Dr. Tim, what inspired you to write *I Can't Wait!?* Is this book strictly for children?
2. Considering your years of experience in developing and equipping leaders, how would you say the current generation of children differs from previous generations?
3. Who are some of the young people we meet in this book?
4. How did you decide which young adults to feature? What do they share in common?
5. Why do you feature questions at the end of each short chapter?
6. Why are young people the perfect age to develop into leaders?
7. How can a parent or adult identify leadership potential in a child?
8. How can parents and adults use this book to motivate young people to harness their creativity?
9. How can parents and caregivers support young people in fulfilling their potential?
10. Where can we learn more about the book, *I Can't Wait!?*