

Be the Change

Samir Rice and Jacob Lindsey



Newark, New Jersey, is a city in the United States of America that is very close to New York City. There are a lot of people and buildings in Newark. Newark is a big city, and it has many problems with crime and violence. Samir is a thirteen-year-old boy who lives in Newark. The problems in Newark do not stop Samir from making a positive change in his community.

One day when Samir was at school, his teacher, Mr. Robinson, gave him



some special homework. Mr. Robinson asked Samir to go out into the city and look for the problems facing Newark. Then Samir could



find a way to fix the problems.

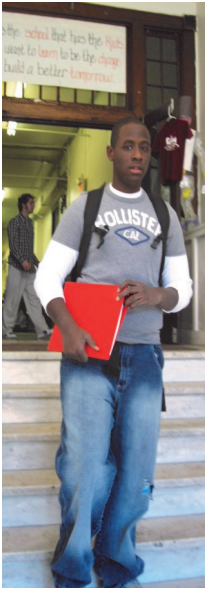
Samir walked down the street exploring Newark and saw some trash. He saw garbage in many places so he picked it up.

Samir saw more than just trash in Newark. He saw an opportunity to help the environment.

Samir walked a little farther, and he saw two girls fighting. Some people see a lot of violence in Newark, but Samir saw the



opportunity to teach people how to solve their problems peacefully. He talked to the girls, and they stopped fighting.



When other people look at Newark, they see poor people. Samir sees an opportunity for education. If students finish school and go to college, they can get good jobs and have better lives.

When Samir came home that day, his friend David came over.

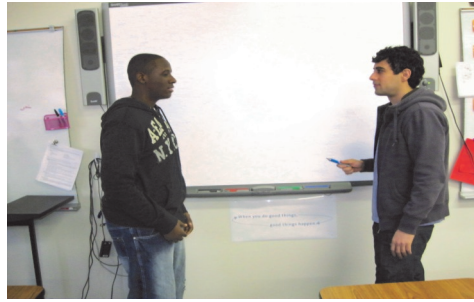
David wanted to join a gang.

When many people think of Newark, they think of gangs. Samir saw an opportunity to help his friend David. Samir told David to join an athletic team instead. David decided not to join a gang and instead joined the



basketball team with Samir.

The next morning Samir talked to Mr. Robinson about the problems he found in Newark. “What did you learn from this project Samir?” asked Mr. Robinson.



“To others, Newark may not seem like a great place, but for me it is home. When I see Newark, I see an opportunity for positive change,” Samir replied.

“Be the change you wish to see in the world.”

-Mahatma Gandhi



Samir Rice is an 8th grader at Rise Academy in Newark, New Jersey. He wants to go to law school to become a lawyer.

Jacob Lindsey is a freshman at Indiana University majoring in Germanic Studies. He wants to become a teacher of English as a foreign language.