

The Future Depends on What We Do in the Present

One day a girl named Tiana was watching television. “Mommy, why are those people being hurt, yelled at and their rights being denied,” she asked. She may not have known much about voting rights, but she knew one thing for sure when she looked at the TV ... she saw herself in the many faces on the screen. They had rights and beliefs similar to her own, and also wanted peace like her. That night all she could think about was what she had seen earlier. The next morning, she hopped up to get ready for school. As she walked over to the kitchen table, she saw a newspaper with a headline in bold letters that read, “Linzi Walter Stands up for Voting Rights to Make Things Fair but Fails.” Tiana had no idea what voting rights were or who Linzi Walter was, but she was determined to find out. Over the next few days, she learned more about the people who were standing up for rights, such as Linzi Walter, Molly Robins, Reese Howlzer, and Mandy Richards. Out of all those names what caught her attention was the story of Mandy Richards. Mandy stood up for what many people thought was crazy, but others thought was genius ... THE FUTURE! Her focus was making sure that people were doing what they could in the present to make sure that the future is great for kids. That made Tiana smile. When she got home from school, she told her mom that she wanted to be like Mandy Richards one day. “Mom, I really like what Mandy Richards does to help make the future better. She stands up for my generation, the future, and she looks like me,” Tiana said excitedly. Her mom was impressed and decided to treat Tiana to a trip to the nation’s capital in Washington, D.C. to see Mandy speak! Mandy talked about so many important topics such as, equality. She told the crowd that if people learn to stand together and not judge each other, then things will be better for the entire world in the future. Mandy didn’t stop there. Mandy also talked about how important it is for people to have access to proper healthcare resources, such as COVID-19 vaccinations. “Everyone should be able to afford decent healthcare,”

she said to the crowd. When Tiana went home she listed even more things that she cared about such as a solution to climate change, plastic pollution and global warming. Tiana wondered, "How can the world stop using so much plastic, recycle more and reduce the amount of gas and air pollution from factories." Tiana took a step further and started looking at the schools in her state and how different they were. Equity in Education was something she had heard about before but visiting the different schools let her see just how important it was to make sure all schools received the funding they needed for resources and teachers, so all students received a great education. Afterall, these are the people that would one day run the world. Tiana was proud of her work and decided to write a letter to Mandy and show her that she looked up to her! One day, not only did Mandy write Tiana back, but she invited her to be her special guest at her next event and let Tiana share some of her ideas with the audience and Congress members. Tiana was truly inspired. She went to bed that night and dreamt up the brilliant future to come. To this day she continues to be the change she wants to see in the world! In the future, Tiana plans to run for President so she can continue to help make the world a better place.