LESSON 1
From Goal to Great

DESCRIPTION
This lesson helps students understand that achieving greatness begins with setting a goal. Students will learn about Sonia Sotomayor, who, in spite of difficult circumstances, set and achieved a goal, becoming the first Hispanic Supreme Court Judge.

IT’S IMPORTANT TO LEARN THIS BECAUSE...
setting a goal helps us to accomplish something important.

GOAL
• Students will identify a short term goal for academic success and/or classroom behavior.
MATERIALS NEEDED

- *Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx/La juez que creció en el Bronx* by Jonah Winter.
- Pictures of Sonia Sotomayor (Resources #37-38)
- Several Boulders (obstacles) cut apart (Resource #39)
- Tape
- Marker

PREPARE

- Pre-read *Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx/La juez que creció en el Bronx* by Jonah Winter.
- Use sticky notes to mark pages that emphasize Sotomayor’s goals and obstacles.
- Post pictures of Sotomayor young (Resource #37) and as a Supreme Court Justice (Resource #38) on the wall, leaving plenty of space in between the pictures to post several boulders.
- Think of a goal that you achieved and would like to share with your students. Be sure to think of the obstacles you encountered.

VOCABULARY

**Goal**
something that you really want to do

**Obstacle**
something that gets in the way of reaching a goal
Tell students about a goal that you had. Be sure to state why it was important to you.

Ask children whether reaching a goal is easy or hard. Accept all answers, but reiterate the point that many goals are hard to attain. Explain that difficulty is usually the result of obstacles. Define the word obstacle as something that gets in the way of reaching a goal.

Make the analogy between an obstacle and a boulder, showing a cut-out boulder. Explain that boulders are big rocks that often are in the middle of a road or path. They're obstacles because they stop progress and make your journey more difficult. Explain that obstacles, just like boulders, can stop a journey all together until one figures out how to move them or get around them.

Briefly describe one or two obstacles (boulders) you encountered while moving toward your goal. Hold up a boulder card each time you describe an obstacle. Be sure to keep this section brief, as you’ll want the majority of this lesson time to be spent on recalling the obstacles encountered in the book Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx.

Model

Read the book Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx to the students. As you read, pause and highlight the obstacles that Sotomayor encountered along her path to becoming a judge.
Lead the students in identifying the boulders that Sotomayor encountered. Write a brief statement on each boulder as the students recall the story. Post each boulder on the wall between the child and adult picture of Sotomayor after it has been labeled.

NOTE: Here are some obstacles from the book that the children might recall:

- Her father died.
- Her mother worked long hours.
- Her family didn’t have much money.
- She worked hard to get good grades.
- She moved away from home for college.
- She had a different experience from her classmates.
- She experienced prejudice (unfair treatment without cause or judgment).
PROCESS

Wrap Up

Review the vocabulary goal and obstacle. Pose the following challenges to the student:

1. Think of a goal that you would like to achieve at school this week.
2. Think of a goal that you would like to achieve with a friend at school this week.

Keeping the Lesson Alive

Each day this week, remind students about the goals they set. Ask the students to think about what they need to do that day to help them accomplish their goal by the end of the week.

CHANGEMAKERS JOURNAL

PROMPT: My goal for this week is to ____________.