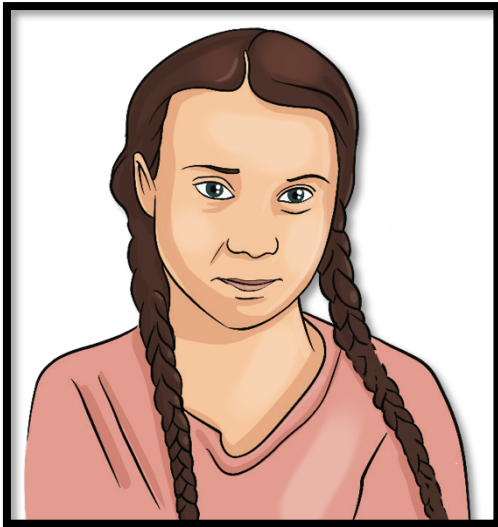


## Who is Greta Thunberg?



Now 19 years old, Greta Thunberg has become a global figure for starting an international youth movement against climate change.

Greta says she first learned about climate change when she was 8 and was **dismayed** by the fact not enough was being done in order to halt it. At first, she **pestered** her parents to change their lifestyle habits. Eventually they **relented**, and gave up air travel and meat. Being able to have an impact on their decision, Greta realized she might be able to **inspire** others to make changes for the benefit of the world. Instead of going to school in

September 2018, Greta made a large sign that read 'SCHOOL STRIKE FOR CLIMATE', and calmly sat down outside the Swedish parliament. She wanted to make politicians take notice and act to stop global warming.

Her very sudden rise to fame has surprised many. She has gained a lot of positive media attention for her campaigning, including interviews and articles in the hugely influential *Time* magazine, who have named her 'Person of the year' for 2019. In August 2019, publication and sales of children's books about the climate crisis reportedly doubled – again this being attributed to Greta's message being widespread and on all main news channels.

When Greta was 12, she was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, which is a form of autism. Despite her disability, Greta has found her straight talking manner effective in speaking to politicians from all over the world. Greta prefers to see her disability as her 'superpower' and not as a limitation. "I don't really like being in the center of attention. I'm not used to that. All my life I have been like the invisible girl at the back that no one sees or listens to." Greta has also been diagnosed as having selective mutism, which is an anxiety disorder, which prevents a person from speaking. Greta says that this means she "only speaks when necessary". "Being different is a gift," she told the BBC, "It makes me see things from outside the box. I don't easily fall for lies, I can see through things. If I would've been like everyone else, I wouldn't have started this school strike for instance."

Text adapted from: <https://bit.ly/36LoIWX>

**Definitions Activity:** Using context clues (hints from the words around them), write a definition of the bolded words in the second paragraph. Then, check your definition in a dictionary to see if you were correct.

Dismayed:

Pestered:

Relented:

Inspired:

**Adjective Activity:** What words would you use to describe Greta Thunberg's personality after reading about her life? Explain why you chose those words.

<b>Describing word:</b>	<b>Why you chose that word:</b>
Brave	She sat outside of parliament to protest even though she was just a kid.

**Comprehension Activity:** Using the information in the fourth paragraph, explain how Greta sees her neurodiversity as a superpower and not a limitation.

<b>Possible limitation:</b>	<b>How Greta transformed it into a positive:</b>
Doesn't like attention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Is able to observe the world around her.</li><li>- Is able to focus on the mission of combatting climate change and not fame</li></ul>

**Making Connections Activity:** How are you able to use any of your limitations and turn them into a positive?

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