

## Chicago Changer

Reform means to make things better. Jane Addams saw things in Chicago to reform. She saw poor people living in crowded neighborhoods. The homes were so small that they not have enough rooms for all of the people who lived in them. The streets were filthy, but children played in the streets. People did not have places to get clean water or places to wash clothes—or themselves! Jane Addams wanted to help poor people have a better life, and she believed that helping poor people would make everyone’s life better. She would make major changes in the whole city of Chicago, progress that would affect everyone in the city.

In 1889 Jane Addams set up a place to help people. She called it Hull-House, which was a settlement house, an organization that helped immigrants to Chicago. When immigrants move to a new country, they need to find homes, jobs, and figure out how to live there. Most of the Chicago immigrants who came to Hull House did not speak or read English, so they needed to learn the language. Jane Addams wanted to teach them the skills they needed to live well on their own. When people came to thank her, that was fine, but she liked it better when they did not come back. She wanted them to be independent.

Jane Addams had more than one idea about how to help the people of Chicago, not only the immigrants that Hull House served. She herself lived in the same community where the poor people lived, which helped her to understand how desperate their situation was. She helped them work together to change things in their neighborhood by petitioning the government. She was one of Chicago’s first community organizers, dedicated to making it a better city, particularly for immigrants and people living in poverty.

Jane Addams met with Chicago’s leaders and told them how serious the challenges were and that they had to respond. Jane Addams was a powerful woman who met with the mayor and told him and the other leaders about the problems of poverty communities in the city. Sometimes the leaders listened and acted but often she had to keep reminding them to respond.

She was persistent, and she did accomplish a lot of progress. She improved the schools, got the city to build playgrounds, and improved safety in the factories. She even was able to get businesses to pay better wages. She even became the Garbage Inspector in her ward so she could make sure it was a cleaner and healthier place.

Jane Addams worked with many other people to help families and neighborhoods, and that helped the city itself. She became famous around the world for her hard work. She won a Nobel Peace Prize, a great honor. Jane Addams left Chicago an important legacy. She showed how one person can work with others to make progress for a whole city.

### Think More--Constructed Response

CCSSR8—evaluate support for a claim.

The passage claims that Jane Addams made major changes in Chicago. Identify the 3 strongest examples that support that claim.