In this excerpt principal Deborah Meier argues that high school should be more like kindergarten and describes the kind of smaller learning community she and her staff wanted to create. In small groups, you will discuss whether you agree with her rationale, and make connections to your own beliefs and hopes for your school.

DIRECTIONS:
1. (5 minutes) Read pages 48-49 of Chapter 3 (handout).
2. (2 minutes) Choose and highlight a quote that resonated strongly with you.
3. (20 minutes) In groups of 4, each person takes a turn sharing their quote, and the others react.
   Here’s how it works: Bob, Mary, Liz, and Harry are in a group and have each read the excerpt and chosen their quotes.

ROUND 1.
   o  Bob goes first – Shares his quote, he takes NO MORE than 2 minutes to explain why.
   o  Mary, Liz, Harry – Take 1 minute to react to what Bob has said.
   o  Bob then takes 1 minute to react to what Mary, Liz, Harry said

ROUND 2.
   o  Mary’s turn – Shares her quote, takes 2 minutes to explain why.
   o  Bob, Liz, Harry – Each takes 1 minute to react to Mary.

   And so on.

NOTE: This protocol is called The Last Word. It is designed to ensure participation and equity of airtime, and maintain focus discussion on a reading.