STELLA: And I know what you're thinking. You know, I'm up here bagging out inspiration

and you're thinking, "Jeez, Stella, aren't you inspired sometimes by some

things?" And the thing is, I am. I learn from other disabled people all the time

I'm learning not that I am luckier than them, though. I am learning that it's a

genius idea to use a pair of barbecue tongs to pick up things that you dropped.

[Laughter] I'm learning that nifty trick where you can charge your mobile phone

battery from your chair battery. Genius. We are learning from each other's

strength and endurance, not against our bodies and our diagnoses, but against

a world that exceptionalizes and objectifies us.

I really think that this lie that we've been sold about disability is the greatest

injustice. It makes life hard for us. And that quote, "The only disability in life is a

bad attitude," the reason that that's bullshit is because it's just not true, because

of the social model of disability. No amount of smiling at a flight of stairs has

ever made it turn into a ramp. Never.

[Laughter and applause]

Smiling at a television screen isn't going to make closed captions appear for

people who are deaf. No amount of standing in the middle of a bookshop and

radiating a positive attitude is going to turn all those books into braille. It's just

not going to happen.

I really want to live in a world where disability is not the exception, but the norm

"Buffy the Vampire Slayer" isn't referred to as achieving anything because she's.

doing it sitting down. I want to live in a world where we don't have such low

expectations of disabled people, that we are congratulated for getting out of bed.

and remembering our own names in the morning. I want to live in a world where

we value genuine achievement for disabled people, and I want to live in a world

where a kid in year 11 in a Melbourne high school is not one bit surprised that

his new teacher is a wheelchair user.

Disability doesn't make you exceptional, but questioning what you think you

know about it does. Thank you.

[Applause]

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Source: Young, S. (June 9, 2014). I'm not your inspiration, thank you very much.

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