In this episode, we meet the six members of the Global Problem Solvers super-team. Each member exemplifies one of six attributes important to creating innovative solutions to social problems. Putri, the team leader, whose special power is teamwork, calls the teens together aboard an airship to see if the combination of their skills can solve a real-world issue.

The members of the Global Problem Solvers super-team, their home countries, and the attributes they exemplify include:

- **Adrien, France**: Creativity
- **Kelile, Malawi**: Social consciousness
- **Cristina, Brazil**: Entrepreneurial spirit
- **Beela, Jordan**: Digital skills
- **Putri, India**: Teamwork skills
- **Satoshi, Japan**: Critical thinking

**Worksheet**

1. **Match game!**
   The Global Problem Solvers are a team dedicated to using their special skills to create a better world. Which attribute of a Global Problem Solver best describes each team member?

   - Beela
   - Adrien
   - Satoshi
   - Kelile
   - Cristina
   - Putri

   - Social consciousness
   - Digital skills
   - Entrepreneurial spirit
   - Creativity
   - Teamwork skills
   - Critical thinking

2. Which special skills do you bring to global problem solving? Which attributes do you see in your classmates?

3. What have you or someone you know done to make the world—and that includes your own community—a better place?

4. Who is your global problem solving “hero”?
Global Problem Solvers: The Series – Season 1, Working Well

Episode 1.2 – The Problem
Teaching Companion

Episode Summary
This episode sets out a problem for the team—and the students—to solve, analyze and articulate, i.e., contaminated well water in the home community of Global Problem Solvers team-member Kelile. In Malawi, the team explores the cause of the broken well, the conditions that led to the problem, and the impact it is having on the local community. By directing students to see problems in terms of the fundamental causes and system-wide effects, this episode highlights why the defining characteristic of social entrepreneurship is its determination to identify solutions that go beyond quick fixes.

Worksheet

1. Select the three themes you hear in this episode?
   - Teamwork
   - Skateboarding
   - Identifying the problem
   - Marketing
   - Gathering data

2. How is the broken well affecting the village? The children?

3. Describe your own creative solution to maintaining the village wells. Feel free to use your imagination!

4. What social problems do you see in your community or country? How would you gather data about these issues?
Global Problem Solvers: The Series – Season 1, Working Well

Episode 1.3 – The Solution
Teaching Companion

Episode Summary
Having developed a more informed understanding of the water situation in Malawi, the Global Problem Solvers take an inventory of their skills and experience: What can they each contribute to developing an innovative solution? Pooling their talents, the Global Problem Solvers invent a network of sensors to determine when each well requires maintenance and start implementing their strategy in a small-scale test. But not everything works as anticipated.

Worksheet
1. Think of a problem in the community you live in, like pollution, traffic, or flooding. Describe a solution that could address your community’s problem.

2. Fill in the blank letters to uncover the key themes in this episode:
The Global Problem Solvers use their special powers to start building a network of sensors for the wells of one of Malawi’s twenty-eight districts. First, they use their special skills to solve a problem resulting from how their sensors interact with the surrounding physical environment—namely, Lake Malawi. Then, the team encounters issues resulting from how local residents, including the technicians themselves, are responding to the new technology. The team is inspired to solve this problem by a most unexpected source: a school of fish.

**Worksheet**

1. Sometimes, technology does not work the way we always intend. In addition to the critical thinking skills exemplified by our global problem solvers, what trait is highly important to being a global problem solver? And why is it important?

   Complete the word below to discover the trait.

   ```plaintext
   p_r_s_i_t_e_n_e
   ```

2. What kind of problems does the lake create for the sensors? How do the Global Problem Solvers deal with these issues?

3. Have you ever had an answer to a difficult problem come to you when you weren’t trying to solve it? While dreaming, playing, relaxing? What’s your “sudden inspiration” story?

4. If you were going to propose a technological solution to a social problem in your own community, what would it be? How could others in your community get involved to help this technology accomplish your goals and perhaps work even better than you’d planned?
Back in the airship, the Global Problem Solvers discuss an issue that is essential to their venture’s success: Who will implement their solution when they’re gone? They develop a business plan for their well sensor network that addresses key considerations, such as material resources, funding, profitability, marketing, social impact, and local connections. To fulfill this plan, they visit a factory in Malawi that manufactures similar sensor technology and persuade the owner to see how manufacturing well sensors would fit within his own business model.

**Episode Summary**

Back in the airship, the Global Problem Solvers discuss an issue that is essential to their venture’s success: Who will implement their solution when they’re gone? They develop a business plan for their well sensor network that addresses key considerations, such as material resources, funding, profitability, marketing, social impact, and local connections. To fulfill this plan, they visit a factory in Malawi that manufactures similar sensor technology and persuade the owner to see how manufacturing well sensors would fit within his own business model.

**Worksheet**

1. What do the Global Problem Solvers do in this episode to get through the whirlwind? Check all that apply.
   - Devise a business plan
   - Involve local people in the solution
   - Adapt existing resources to new solutions
   - Make flyburgers

2. A business plan helps entrepreneurs assess the viability of their idea, develop effective strategies for success, and attract needed investment, talent, and resources. What is the Global Problem Solvers’ business plan in Malawi?

3. Come up with an idea for a social enterprise. How would you summarize your idea in what is known in business as an “elevator pitch,” a succinct statement that can be delivered in thirty seconds or less? (Why is it called an elevator pitch? Imagine it as a sales pitch you can only make to someone during a brief elevator ride.)

4. What kind of social impact would your idea have? How would you measure the impact?
Global Problem Solvers: The Series – Season 1, Working Well

Episode 1.6 – Test and Retest
Teaching Companion

Episode Summary
Installing new technology is only one part of solving a social problem. Even the most thought-out solution will require ongoing data collection, troubleshooting, and maintenance. In this episode, the Global Problem Solvers enlist a team of technologically savvy Malawi teens to help respond to another of the country’s most difficult issues: seasonal flooding. To prevent sending technicians out to repair wells that cannot be fixed during the most severe floods, the sensors are adjusted to send out a special signal when a broken well cannot be accessed.

Worksheet

1. How do the Global Problem Solvers modify their sensors for when there’s flooding?

2. How were the local students so helpful in finding a solution? Why is this important?

3. Many everyday technologies help address social problems that once seemed impossible to solve. How do you imagine first responders knew of roadside emergencies before mobile phones?

4. What skills are you learning in school that make you an effective global problem solver? What would you like to learn to make you even better at it?
Global Problem Solvers: The Series – Season 1, Working Well

Episode 1.7 – Birth of a Social Enterprise
Teaching Companion

Episode Summary
The Global Problem Solvers have put their innovative solution in action, and the result is a venture that blends good business with doing good: a social enterprise. To help the venture thrive, the Global Problem Solvers gather information to measure what works and what can be improved. They also help spread the word through various forms of media, including social networks. Season 1 concludes with the team leader getting a call—the teens are needed elsewhere. The work of Global Problem Solvers is never done.

Worksheet
1. How would you define a “social enterprise?” How is it different from a typical business?

2. Which type of business (social enterprise or typical business) would you prefer to work for and why?

3. The Global Problem Solvers needed to “spread the word” in Malawi about their new solution. How did they do that? What is a similar business term for “spreading the word?”
   Please complete the word below to reveal the business term.
   m_r_k_e_i_g

4. What is the impact or social benefits of the Global Problem Solvers’ well sensors on Malawi?