



NexToMe

Find the lonely kids



The problem

On a regular basis, schools fail children. Given a class of students there is at least one student who is not popular, is bullied, teased or ignored by the classmates

Lonely students in a classroom are expected and often fall through the cracks

The idea for an app to help teachers identify lonely kids in a classroom came out of the grim and gory shooting on Feb 14 '18 and the many articles published in its wake

Studies and research are linking lonely kids as a high risk group for becoming violent adults. If only teachers could identify them... Hopefully this app simplifies the process for our already overworked teachers

Kathy Pitt, an Educator has been employing this idea for years to identify lonely kids: Have the children identify 4 people that they would like to work/sit with/get to know better

Use the choices to identify lonely kids

The app version simulates this experience making the analysis much easier for the teacher. There is a version of the app for students and one for teachers.

Students make their choices (mark the students they pick) on the app

Teacher use the app to setup class details, customize the questions and observe patterns

For low-tech student experience, OCR on printed sheets in which students mark their choices can also be used

Evolution of the solution

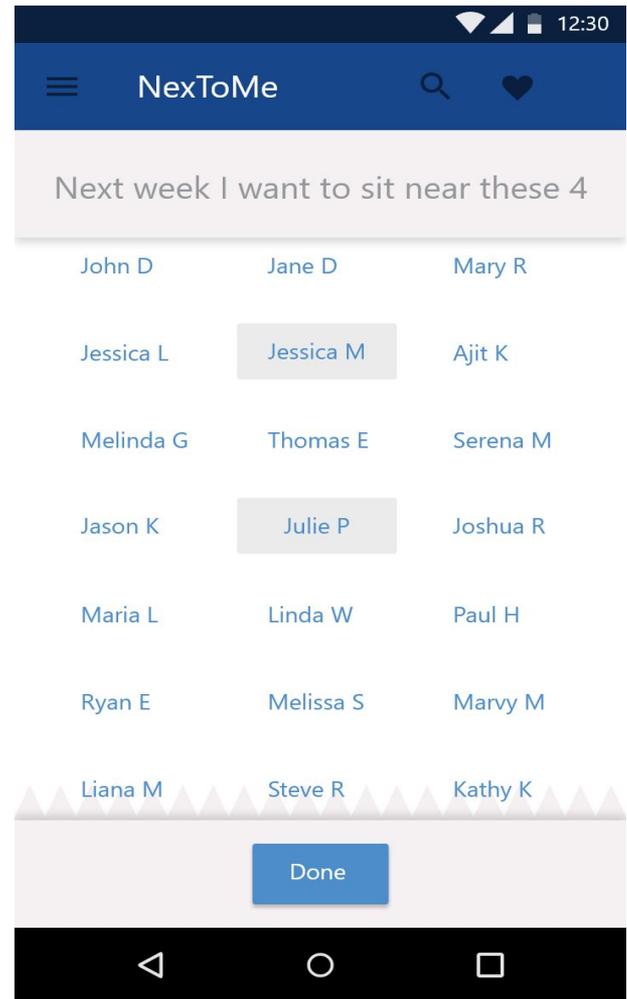
I am Divya Sundararajan, and I spent a big chunk of my adult life in US. I went to Grad school in Florida and the state and the country have a special place in my heart. As the parent of a toddler I am horrified by the loss of lives in the high school in Florida. [One article I read](#), struck a chord and left me pondering about implementing it in other classrooms. The idea by an Educator Kathy Pitt shared in the article is simple - ask students questions to identify whom they prefer to work with in a class and identify patterns of social behaviour from that info. I felt many teachers would *like* to implement this, math skills and time maybe a deterrent. And even otherwise, the analysis can be made much simpler and less time consuming with an app.

Violence or not, lonely kids go through a lot during their early years. Teachers are poised to help these children and even one person “seeing” them makes a big difference to that child. The simplicity of the app is that its still offers the educator the power to customize the questions they ask the class that week and to use the information as they see fit. The idea is to empower the teacher with additional information that they will otherwise not be privy to.

Student version

In the student version there is a screen for students to pick 4 partners for an activity, for eg. getting to know better next week. They can pick upto 4 partners and then hit “done”

Similar screen for picking one Class Hero (if the teacher has enabled it for the week)



Teacher version

The teacher version lets the teacher add new classes and students to a class

The teacher can set the question they would like to ask that week

The teacher can mark some “students of interest” they would like to track progress of in a class

The teachers can view different statistics on the social patterns in the class



Team

Divya Sundararajan - I developed a prototype for the app based on an Educator's practice in her classrooms. The idea behind the app is to take it to more educators without adding too much work to their schedule. I worked on the prototype in AdobeXD.