

service 8

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus...

—Philippians 2.1-11

10 Inventors Who Changed the World. Clive Gifford. Lond: Kingfisher, 2009.

The legendary inventors include Galileo, Thomas Edison, Ben Franklin, and James Watt, in a graphic novel format.

31 Ways to Change the World: We are what We Do. Tanis Taylor. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2010.

This book contains 31 suggestions and activities that kids can do to help the environment and other people.

Adventures of Sheila the Therapy Dog: Based on a True Story. Debbie Fedorovich. Denver, CO: Outskirts Press, 2007.

Sheila is a therapy dog who has gone on many adventures to help people in need. Along with her owner, Debbie, the pair has visited nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, schools, libraries, and more.

Animal Rescue Team: Gator on the Loose! Sue Stauffacher. New York: Knopf, 2010.

Chaos ensues when Keisha's father brings an escaped alligator home to Carter's Urban Rescue, but it gets out of the bathroom while Grandma is guarding it.

Be the Change: Your Guide to Freeing Slaves and Changing the World. Zach Hunter. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007.

Describes the existence of slavery around the world today and what teenagers can do to fight against it, with an examination of incidents in the lives of leaders and slaves that have inspired the teenage author.

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta: Missionary of Charity. Mary Kathleen Glavich. Boston, MA: Pauline Books & Media, 2003.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the Yugoslavian nun who became a missionary to India, dedicated her life to serving the poorest of the poor, and founded the Missionaries of Charity, a congregation of Catholic sisters who carry on her work.

Combat-Wounded Dogs. Sunita Apte. New York, NY: Bearport, 2010.

Apte presents information on the use of dogs in the military and discusses their roles in past wars. She provides examples of their bravery in the Iraq War of 2003 and descriptions of the training and medical treatment available to them today.

The Day-Glo Brothers: The True Story of Bob and Joe Switzer's Bright Ideas and Brand-New Colors. Chris Barton. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2009.

This is the story of Joe and Bob Switzer, who experimented with ultraviolet lights and fluorescent paints and invented a new kind of color called Day-Glo.

Do Something! A Handbook for Young Activists. Nancy Lublin. New York: Workman, 2010.

Describes projects for the young activist, such as fighting hunger, ending poverty, and saving the environment.

Give a Goat. Jan West Schrock. Gardiner, ME: Tilbury House, 2008.

After hearing a story about a girl in Uganda whose life is changed for the better by the gift of a goat, a class of fifth-graders pulls together to raise funds to make a similar donation to someone in need.

Just for Elephants. Carol Buckley. Gardiner, ME: Tilbury House, 2006.

Buckley reveals the complexity and intelligence of elephants. She is the keeper of an elephant sanctuary.

Just Grace Goes Green. Charise Mericle Harper. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2009.

Grace can do a lot of things ... but can she save the planet? Or at the very least, can she help her best friend Mimi get her favorite stuffed animal back?

The Lemonade Club. Patricia Polacco. New York: Philomel Books, 2007.

When Marilyn and her teacher, Miss Wichelman both get cancer, they encourage each other and, aided by medical treatments and support from friends, they get better.

Lily's Victory Garden. Helen L. Wilbur. Ann Arbor, MI: Sleeping Bear Press, 2010.

Lily gets permission to plant a Victory Garden at the house next door, where the Bishops' son has died in the war, and slowly the garden helps Mrs. Bishop recover from her grief.

Miss Brooks Loves Books (and I Don't). Barbara Bottner. New York: Knopf, 2010.

A first-grade girl who does not like to read stubbornly resists her school librarian's efforts to convince her to love books until she finds one that might change her mind.

Mother Teresa. Demi. New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2005.

A biography of Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, known as Mother Teresa, who spent most of her life serving "the poorest of the poor" in Calcutta, India.

One Thousand Tracings: Healing the Wounds of World War II. Deborah Hopkinson. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2007.

The author describes her family's efforts to help their friends and others who were left homeless and hungry in the aftermath of World War II.

Pararescuemen in Action. Michael Sandler. New York: Bearport, 2008.

Learn about U.S. Air Force pararescuemen, a special group that performs tough rescues.

Passing the Music Down. Sarah Sullivan. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2011.

A boy and his family befriend a country fiddler, who teaches the boy all about playing the old tunes, which the boy promises to help keep alive.

Riparia's River. Michael J. Caduto. Gardiner, ME: Tilbury House, 2011.

When Gretchen, her twin brother Jason, their little sister Daphne, and a friend find their favorite swimming hole filled with green slime, they learn how the water became polluted and what can be done to clean it up.

Saint Francis of Assisi: A Life of Joy. Robert Francis Kennedy. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2006.

Tells the story of the man who became one of the most famous saints in the world, from his fun-loving youth through his career as a soldier to the years he spent serving God.

Sarah Emma Edmonds was a Great Pretender: The True Story of a Civil War Spy. Carrie Jones. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 2011.

A picture book biography of Sarah Emma Edmonds, a Canadian-born woman who served as a spy in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Shep: Our Most Loyal Dog. Sneed B. Collard. Chelsea, MI: Sleeping Bear Press, 2006.

The true story of a Montana dog that became a worldwide inspiration. In 1936, Shep watched as his master's body was placed on a train and shipped east.

Show Time. Sue Stauffacher. New York: Knopf, 2011.

Keisha's family's animal rescue center is asked to help at a nearby college that is being overrun with squirrels, while Keisha is trying to deal with her nervousness as she prepares for the regional jump-rope competition.

Special Delivery. Sue Stauffacher. New York: Knopf, 2010.

Ten-year-old Keisha and her family's animal rescue center face more challenges involving a baby crow in a mailbox and a skunk found in the nearby community garden.

The Vermeer Interviews: Conversations with Seven Works of Art. Bob Raczka. Minneapolis, MN: Millbrook Press, 2009.

Bob Raczka takes on the role of interviewer and the people in the paintings become his willing subjects.

Wild Lives: a History of the People & Animals of the Bronx Zoo. Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld. New York: Knopf, 2006.

Wild Lives takes readers through a century of zoo keeping at one of the most-beloved zoos in the world and shares what zoologists have learned over the years about keeping wild animals.

“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

—James 2.14-17