

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

Ally's Busy Day: The Story of a Service Dog. Maureen Pranghofer. Victoria, B.C.: Trafford, 2006.

Ally, a black lab golden retriever mix, was taken from an animal shelter the day before she was to be euthanized to become a service dog for Maureen, a totally blind quadriplegic.

Balloons over Broadway: The True Story of the Puppeteer of Macy's Parade. Melissa Sweet. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2011.

The story of the puppeteer Tony Sarg, captures his genius, his dedication, his zest for play, and his long-lasting gift to America—the inspired helium balloons that would become the trademark of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Before You Were Mine. Maribeth Boelts. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2007.

A young boy imagines what his rescued dog's life might have been like before he adopted him.

Brother Juniper. Diane Gibfried. New York: Clarion Books, 2006.

Brother Juniper lives in the hills of Assisi with Father Francis and seven other brothers. Brother Juniper is the most generous of the brothers. He is so generous that he will happily give the robe off his back to someone in need—even if that leaves him with nothing else to wear.

Buffalo Music. Tracey E. Fern. New York: Clarion Books, 2008.

After hunters kill off the buffalo around her Texas ranch, a woman begins raising orphan buffalo calves and eventually ships four members of her small herd to Yellowstone National Park, where they form the beginnings of newly-thriving buffalo herds.

Emma's Poem: The Voice of the Statue of Liberty. Linda Glaser: Boston: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010.

The story of Emma Lazarus, who, despite her life of privilege, became a tireless advocate for the immigrants who arrived in New York City in the 1880s and wrote a famous poem for the Statue of Liberty.

The Giant Hug. Sandra Horning. New York: Knopf, 2005.

When Owen sends a real hug to his grandmother for her birthday he inadvertently brings cheer to the postal workers as they pass the hug along.

The Guardian Team: On the Job with Rena and Roo. Cat Urbigkit. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2011.

The story of a dog and burro guarding sheep on a Wyoming ranch.

The Hallelujah Flight. Phil Bildner. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2010.

In 1932, James Banning, along with his co-pilot Thomas Allen, make history by becoming the first African Americans to fly across the United States, relying on the generosity of people they meet in the towns along the way who help keep their "flying jalopy" going.

Hardworking Puppies. Lynn Reiser. Orlando: Harcourt, 2006.

One by one, ten energetic puppies find important jobs as dogs helping people in different ways, including pulling sleds and saving swimmers.

Helen Keller: The World in Her Heart. Lesa Cline-Ransome. New York: HarperCollins, 2008.

Offers the story of the challenges faced by Helen Keller who, despite being blind and deaf, learned to communicate with the world through her own unstoppable determination and help from her devoted teacher, Anne.

Junkyard Wonders. Patricia Polacco. New York: Philomel Books, 2010.

Inspired by a teacher who believes each of them is a genius, a class of special-needs students invents something that could convince the whole school they are justifiably proud to be "Junkyard Wonders."

Kiki's Hats. Warren Hanson. Minneapolis: Tristan, 2007.

Kiki loves to knit hats and give them away, leading many other people to be generous, as well.

Me ... Jane. Patrick Mc Donnell. New York: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2011.

Holding her stuffed toy chimpanzee, young Jane Goodall observes nature, reads Tarzan books, and dreams of living in Africa and helping animals.

New York's Bravest. Mary Pope Osborne. New York, NY: Dragonfly Books, 2006.
Tells of the heroic deeds of the legendary New York firefighter, Mose Humphreys.

Nito Meets Chloe! The Continuing Tale of an Assistance Dog of the West. Judith M. Newton. Santa Fe, NM: Suntone Press, 2007.

Nito, an 'assistance dog' and a member of Assistance Dogs of the West, has a new assignment. He has just been matched up with Chloe, a little girl in a wheelchair and is looking forward to this new experience.

Owney, the Mail-Pouch Pooch. Mona Kerby. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2008.

In 1888, Owney, a stray terrier puppy, finds a home in the Albany, New York, post office and becomes its official mascot as he rides the mail train through the Adirondacks and beyond, crisscrossing the United States, into Canada and Mexico, and eventually traveling around the world by mail boat in 132 days.

Pascual and the Kitchen Angels. Tomie dePaola. New York: Puffin, 2006.

Pascual, a boy blessed by angels at his birth, receives divine help when the Franciscan monks make him their cook.

Pop's Bridge. Eve Bunting. Orlando: Harcourt Children's Books, 2006.

Robert and his friend Charlie, are proud of their fathers, who are working on the construction of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge.

Rain School. James Rumford. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2010.

The children arrive on the first day of school and build a mud structure to be their classroom for the next nine months until the rainy season comes and washes it all away.

A Sick Day for Amos McGee. Philip Christian Stead. New York: Roaring Brook, 2010.

Zookeeper Amos McGee always makes time to visit his friends who live at the zoo until the day he stays home because he is sick.

That Book Woman. Heather Henson. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2008.

A family living in the Appalachian Mountains in the 1930s gets books to read during the regular visits of the "Book Woman"—a librarian who rides a pack horse through the mountains, lending books to the isolated residents.

Veterans Day. Marlene Targ Brill. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 2005.

Explains what Veterans Day is, the history of this holiday, and how it is celebrated.

Why Am I Here? Matthew Kelly. West Palm Beach, FL: Beacon, 2010.

Matthew Kelly poses the eternal questions about the meaning of life through the eyes of a young boy. He explains the connection between the choices people make and the character they develop.

“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