

I Can Make a Difference

Selected by Joan Pearce
Fiction—Picture Books

THE SMALLEST GIRL IN THE SMALLEST GRADE



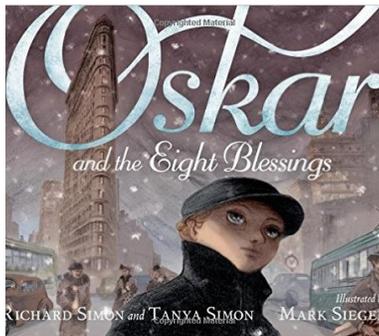
written by
JUSTIN ROBERTS

illustrated by
CHRISTIAN ROBINSON

The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade

by Justin Roberts, illus. by Christian Robinson

"Hardly anyone noticed young Sally McCabe, but Sally notices everything—from the twenty-seven keys on the janitor's ring to the bullying happening on the playground. One day, Sally has had enough and decides to make herself heard. And when she takes a chance and stands up to the bullies, she finds..." — From Publisher



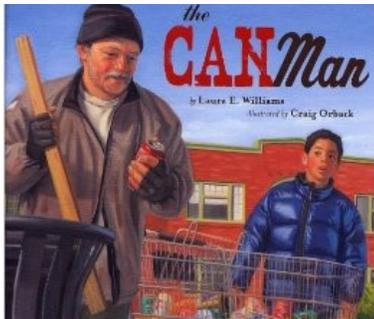
RICHARD SIMON and TANYA SIMON

Illustrated by
MARK SIEGEL

Oskar and the Eight Blessings

by Richard Simon, illus. by Mark Siegel

"A young Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany arrives in New York City on the seventh night of Hanukkah and receives small acts of kindness while crossing the city in order to reach his aunt's house." — From Follett



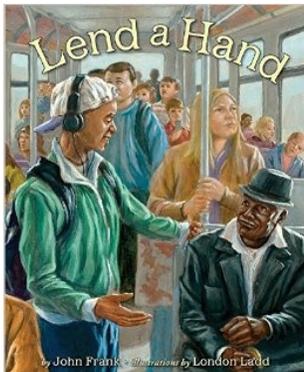
by Laura E. Williams

Illustrated by Craig Orback

The Can Man

by Laura Williams, illus. by Craig Orback

"After watching a homeless man collect empty soft drink cans for the redemption money, a young boy decides to collect cans himself to earn money for a skateboard until he has a change of heart." — From Follett



by John Frank, illustrations by London Ladd

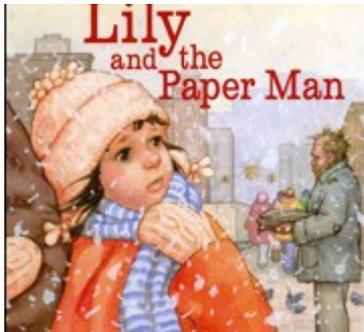
Lend a Hand: Poems About Giving

by John Frank, illus. by London Ladd

"14 free verse poems show young people in acts of sharing, caring, or kindness—from giving up a bus seat to an elder, or sharing a sandwich with a schoolmate who has no lunch, to donating hair for a patient's wig..." — From Publisher

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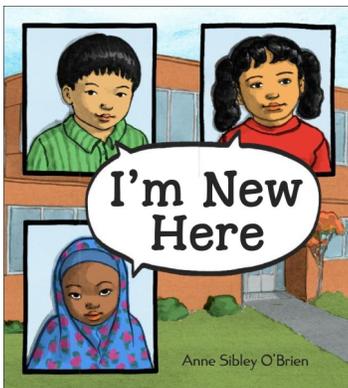
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Lily and the Paper Man

by Rebecca Upjohn, illus. by Renne Benoit

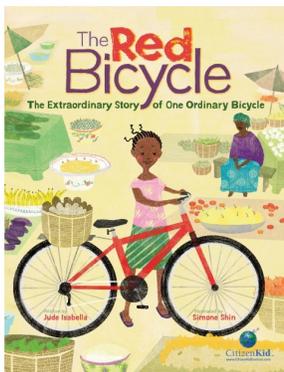
"Lily is afraid of the homeless man selling papers on the street, until the snow starts to fall and she fears he may be getting cold so comes up with a plan to help him." — From Follett



I'm New Here

by Anne Sibley O'Brien

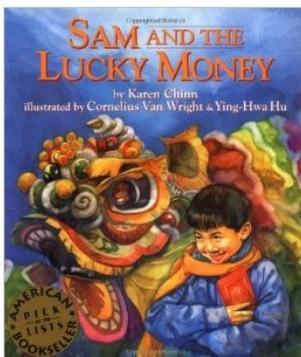
"Three students from different countries, all new to their American elementary school, have trouble speaking, writing, and sharing ideas in English. Through self-determination and with encouragement from their peers and teachers, the students learn to feel comfortable in their new school." — From Follett



The Red Bicycle

by Jude Isabella, illus. by Simone Shin

"The main character is a bicycle that starts its life like so many bicycles in North America, being owned and ridden by a young boy. When Leo outgrows his bicycle, Leo decides to donate it to an organization that ships bicycles to Africa. Leo's bicycle ends up in Burkina Faso, in West Africa where it gets a new owner..." — From Publisher



Sam and the Lucky Money

by Karen Chinn, illus. by Cornelius Van Wright

"This is the tale of a young boy eager to spend his "lucky money" on Chinese New Year day. As Sam searches the streets of Chinatown for ways to spend his four dollars, he stumbles upon a stranger in need. After he decides to give, rather than spend, his money, Sam realizes that he's "the lucky one." — From Publisher

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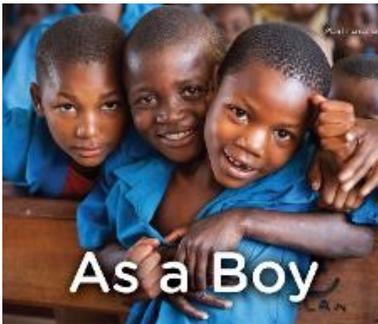
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One

by Kathryn Otoshi

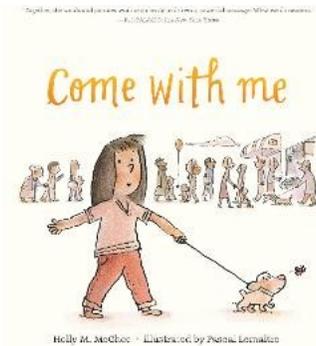
"Blue is a quiet color. Red's a hothead who likes to pick on Blue. Yellow, Orange, Green, and Purple don't like what they see, but what can they do? When no one speaks up, things get out of hand — until One comes along and shows all the colors how to stand up, stand together, and count. As budding young readers learn about numbers, counting, and primary and secondary colors, they also learn about accepting each other's differences and how it sometimes just takes one voice to make everyone count." - Publisher



As a Boy

by Plan International

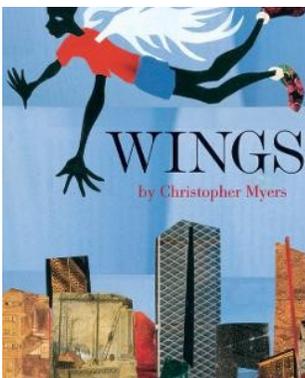
"Boys around the world are treated differently than girls just because of their gender. They are given an education and choices, but are also expected to be men, to work, to fight, to be brave. Amazing photographs of children are paired with simple text showing that these boys wish for the same choices and freedoms they have to be given to the girls and women in their lives. *As a Boy* is a valiant call for all children's voices to be heard." — From Publisher



Come With Me

by Holly M. McGhee

"When the news reports are flooded with tales of hatred and fear, a girl asks her papa what she can do to make the world a better place. "Come with me," he says. Hand-in-hand, they walk to the subway, tipping their hats to those they meet. The next day, the girl asks her mama what she can do--her mama says, "Come with me," and together they set out for the grocery, because one person doesn't represent an entire race or the people of a land." — From Publisher



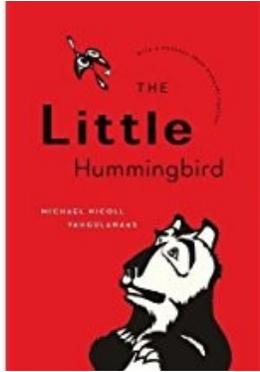
Wings

by Christopher Myers

"Ikarus Jackson, the new boy in school, is outcast because he has wings, but his resilient spirit inspires one girl to speak up for him and recognize his individuality." — From Publisher

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The Little Hummingbird

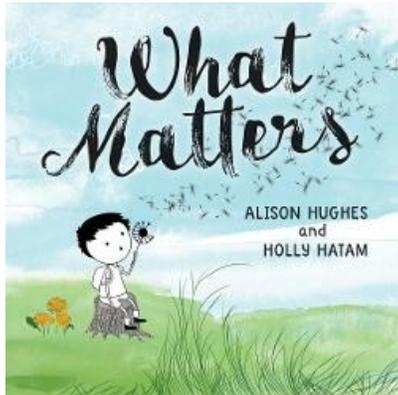
by Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas

"This inspiring children's book is based on a South American indigenous story about a courageous hummingbird who defies fear and expectations in her attempt to save the forest from fire. The illustrated story is supplemented by a natural and cultural history of hummingbirds, as well as an inspiring message from Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai." — From Publisher



The Fog by Kyo Maclear

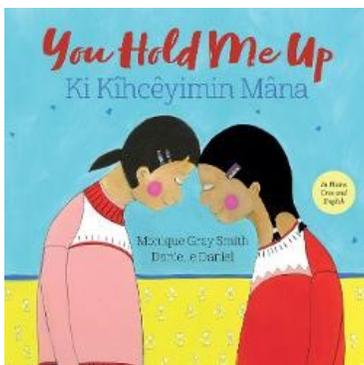
"Warble is a small yellow warbler who lives on the beautiful island of Icyland, where he pursues his hobby of human watching. But one day, a deep fog rolls in and obscures his view. The rest of the birds don't seem to notice. The more the fog is ignored, the more it spreads. When a Red-hooded Spectacled Female (Juvenile) appears, Warble discovers that he's not the only one who notices the fog." — From Publisher



What Matters

by Alison Hughes

"What happens when one small boy picks up one small piece of litter? He doesn't know it, but his tiny act has big consequences. From the miniscule to the universal, *What Matters* sensitively explores nature's connections and traces the ripple effects of one child's good deed to show how we can all make a big difference." — From Publisher



You Hold Me Up

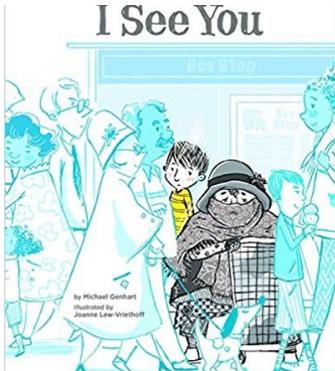
by Monique Gray Smith
(indigenous)

"This vibrant picture book, beautifully illustrated by celebrated artist Danielle Daniel, encourages children to show love and support for each other and to consider each other's well-being in their everyday actions." — From Publisher

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I See You

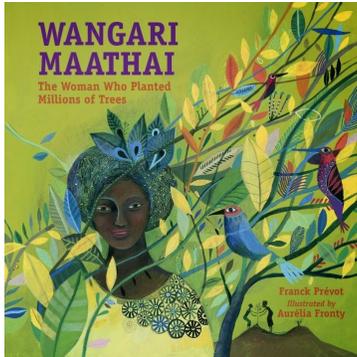
by Michael Genhart

"*I See You* is a wordless picture book that depicts a homeless woman who is not seen by everyone around her - except for a little boy. Over the course of a year, the boy is witness to all that she endures. Ultimately, in a gesture of compassion, the boy acknowledges her in an exchange in which he sees her and she experiences being seen. This book opens the door for kids and parents to begin a conversation about homelessness." - [amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca)

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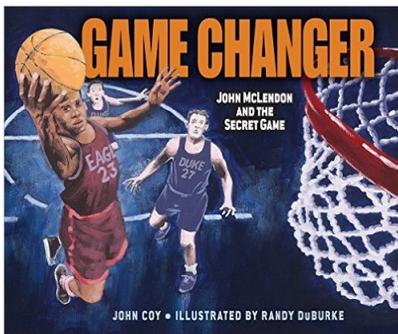
Non-fiction



Wangari Maathai: The Woman Who Planted Millions of Trees

by Franck Prévot, illus. by Aurelia Fronty

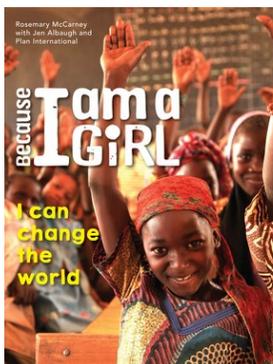
"Wangari Maathai received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for her efforts to lead women in a nonviolent struggle to bring peace and democracy to Africa through reforestation. Her organization planted over 30 million trees in thirty years." — From Publisher



Game Changer: John McLendon and the Secret Game

by John Coy, illus. by Randy DuBurke

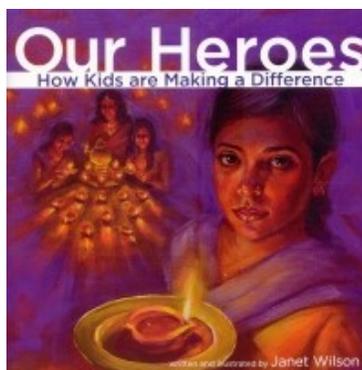
"In 1944, Coach John McLendon orchestrated a secret basketball game between the best players from a white college and his team from a black college. At a time of widespread segregation and rampant racism, this illegal gathering changed basketball forever." — From Publisher



Because I am a Girl: I Can Change the World

by Rosemary McCarney

"Because I am a Girl is a global initiative from Plan International to end gender inequality, promote girls' rights and lift millions of girls out of poverty. Each part begins with one real girl's story, illustrated with great photographs." — From Publisher



Our Heroes: How Kids are Making a Difference

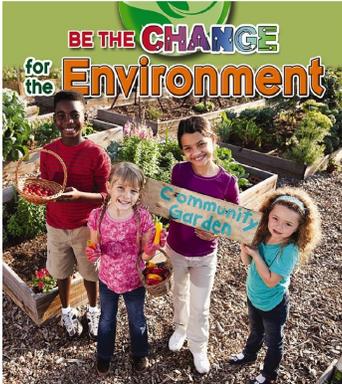
by Janet Wilson

"Biographies of ten children from around the world who opened up their hearts and minds to the injustices of the world and took action, changing their world for the better." — From Publisher

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Non-fiction

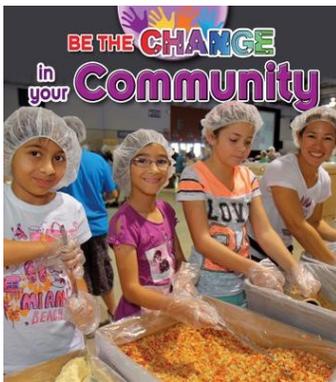


Be the Change for the Environment

by Megan Kopp

Series: Be the Change!

"Caring for the Earth is everyone's job. Readers will discover some of the different ways they can have a positive impact on the environment, from planting trees and eating locally grown foods to "pre-cycling" and protecting animal habitats..." — From Publisher

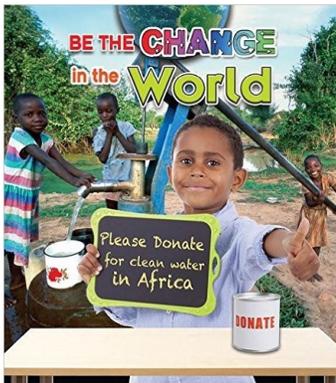


Be the Change in Your Community

by Megan Kopp

Series: Be the Change!

"This empowering title will help readers discover that they have the ability to create positive changes in their communities. Children will learn what it means to be a citizen of a community and find meaningful ways to act for the common good." — From Publisher



Be the Change in the World

by Lisa Dalrymple

Series: Be the Change!

"In this innovative title, young readers learn what it means to be a citizen of the global community. From water wells in Africa to global disaster relief, children will learn about different needs around the world and discover their own abilities to make the world a better place." — From Publisher



Be the Change in Your School

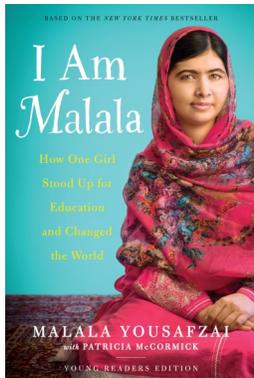
by Shannon Welbourn

"This motivating title inspires readers to brainstorm different ways they can use their interests, talents, and skills to enrich their school environments. From starting a welcome club for new students to organizing litter-less lunch days, there are countless ways kids can promote positive changes at their schools." — From Publisher

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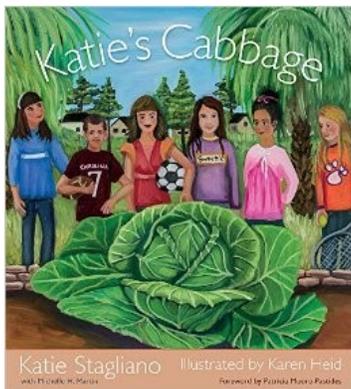
Non-fiction



I am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education... (Young Adult)

by Malala Yousafzai

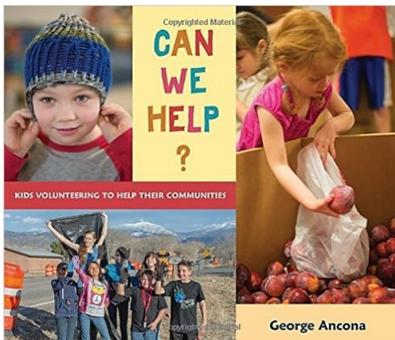
"Malala Yousafzai describes her fight for education under Taliban rule, the support she received from her parents to pursue an education, and how the Taliban retaliated against her by trying to kill her." — From Follett



Katie's Cabbage

by Katie Stagliano, illus. by Karen Heid

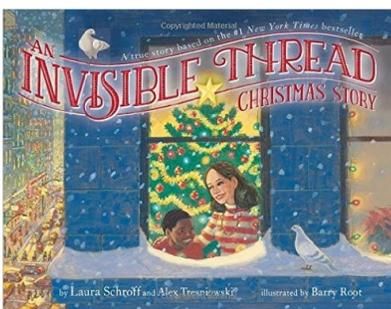
"Describes the real life story of Katie Stagliano's aspirations to end world hunger by starting her own vegetable farm, eventually raising a forty-pound cabbage and donating it to a local soup kitchen." — From Follett



Can We Help? Kids Volunteering to Help Their Communities

by George Ancona

"Describes how children can help their communities in different ways, from tending a community garden and training service dogs to volunteering to help people with disabilities and mentoring younger students." — From Follett



An Invisible Thread Christmas Story: A True Story

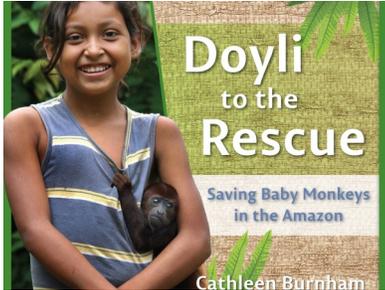
by Laura Schroff, illus. by Barry Root

"Based on a true story, a woman befriends a young boy while he is panhandling on the streets of New York City. A short time after they become friends, Laura realizes Maurice has never celebrated Christmas and invites him to spend Christmas with her family." — From Publisher

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Doyli to the Rescue: Saving Baby Monkeys in the Amazon

by Cathleen Burnham

"A 10 year-old girl named Doyli lives on an isolated island in the rainforest region of Peru. She rescues orphaned wild monkeys, and then cares for them until they are old enough to be released back into the wild."

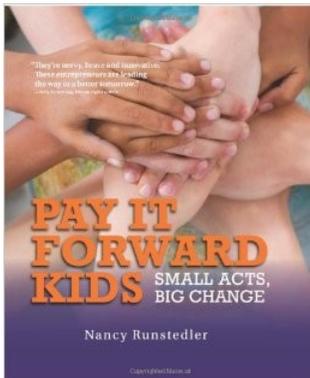
— From Follett



We March

by Shane W. Evans

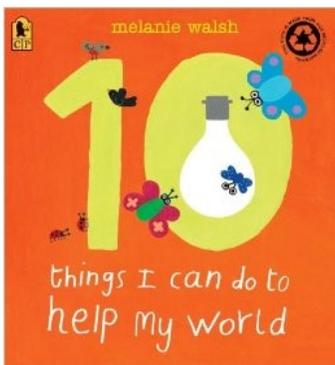
"On August 28, 1963, a remarkable event took place—more than 250,000 people gathered in the U.S. capital to participate in the march on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. The march began at the Washington Monument and ended with a rally at the Lincoln Memorial, where Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his historic speech." — From Publisher



Pay It Forward Kids: Small Acts, Big Change

by Nancy Runstedler

"Readers meet ordinary kids from across North America who have done extraordinary things, all on their own initiatives. They have set out to "pay it forward" to someone else, with astonishing results. The ripple effect of their deeds have inspired others to join their causes, and in some cases, start missions of their own." — From Publisher



10 Things I Can Do to Help My World

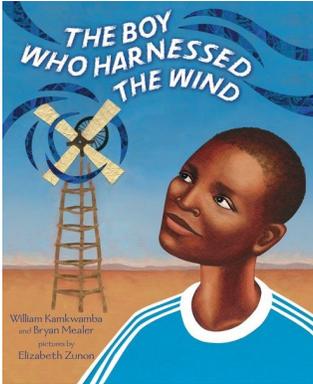
by Melanie Walsh

"Even young readers are able to help the environment. Do you remember to turn off the tap while you brush your teeth? Etc. A gentle reminder of the easy, everyday ways we can be kinder to the earth." — From Publisher

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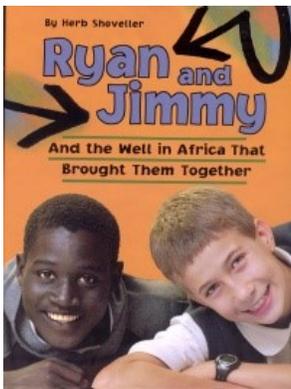
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Non-fiction



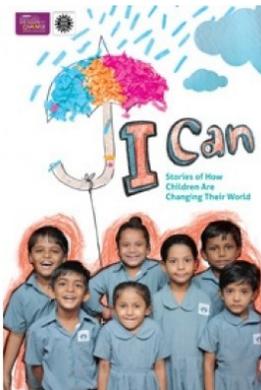
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind

by William Kamkwamba, illus. by Elizabeth Zunon
"When fourteen-year-old William Kamkwamba's Malawi village was hit by a drought, everyone's crops began to fail. Without enough money for food, let alone school, William spent his days in the library and figured out how to bring electricity to his village." — From Publisher



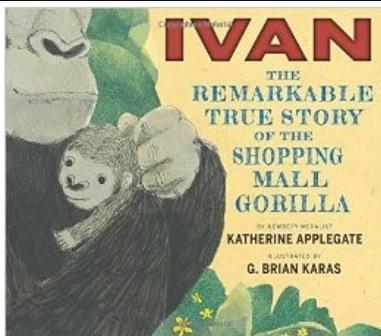
Ryan and Jimmy And the Well in Africa That Brought Them Together

by Herb Shoveller
"Chronicles the friendship of Ryan Hreljac and Akana Jimmy, who became pen pals after Ryan, a Canadian boy, raised money to build a well in Jimmy's village in Uganda, and explains how they became brothers." — From Follett



I Can: Stories of How Children Are Changing Their World

by Design for Change
"A collection of the most inspiring Design for Change stories from around the world." — From Follett



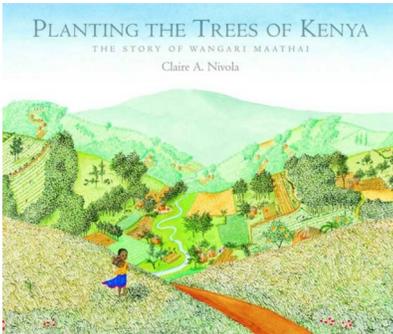
Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla

by Katherine Applegate, illus. by G. Brian Karas
"Captured as a baby, Ivan was brought to a Tacoma, Washington mall to attract shoppers. Gradually, public pressure built until a better way of life for Ivan was found at a Zoo in Atlanta." — From Follett

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Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai

by Claire Nivola

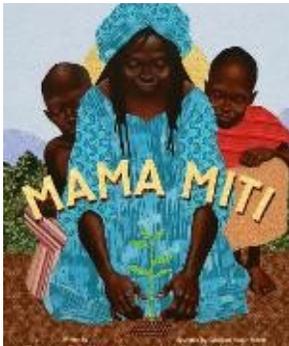
"With glowing water colour illustrations and lyrical prose, Claire Nivola tells the remarkable story of one woman's efforts (Wangari Maathai) to change the fate of her land by teaching many to care for it." — From Publisher



Be the Change Make It Happen: Big and Small Ways Kids Can Make a Difference

by Bernadette Russell

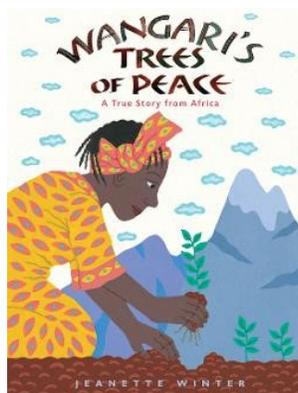
"Little actions that you make can have big consequences. From helping the planet through recycling and saving water, to promoting important causes with awesome art exhibitions, and partying to raise money for charity, there are many little ways you can help to make a difference in the neighborhood, the country and the world!" — From Publisher



Mama Miti

by Donna Jo Napoli

"The true story of Wangari Muta Maathai, known as "Mama Miti," who in 1977 founded the Green Belt Movement, an African grassroots organization that has empowered many people to mobilize and combat deforestation, soil erosion, and environmental degradation. Today more than 30 million trees have been planted throughout Mama Miti's native Kenya, and in 2004 she became the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize." — From Publisher



Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa

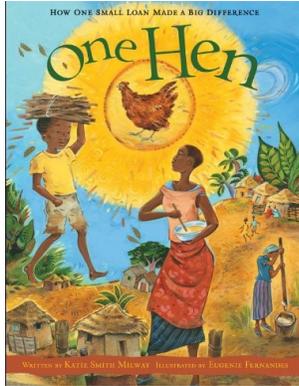
by Jeanette Winter

"As a young girl growing up in Kenya, Wangari was surrounded by trees. But years later when she returns home, she is shocked to see whole forests being cut down, and she knows that soon all the trees will be destroyed. So Wangari decides to do something--and starts by planting nine seedlings in her own backyard. And as they grow, so do her plans . . ." — From Publisher

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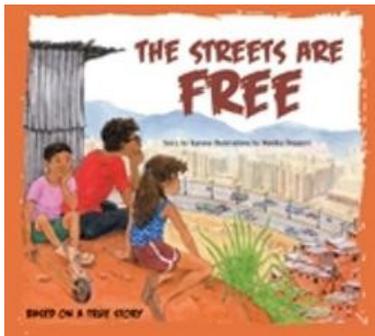
Non-fiction



One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference

by Katie Milway, illus. by Eugenie Fernandes

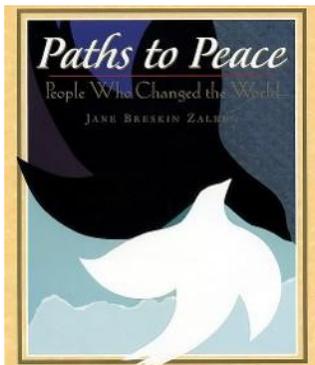
"Inspired by true events. *One Hen* tells the story of Kojo, a boy from Ghana who turns a small loan into a thriving farm and a livelihood for many. Kojo buys a hen, then turns it into a flock..." — From Publisher



The Streets are Free

by Kurusa

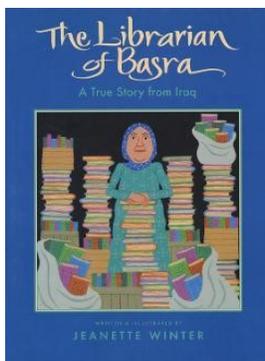
"This inspiring book is based on the true story of the children of the barrio of San Jose de la Urbina in Caracas, Venezuela. There are no parks where they live, and the children must play in the streets. They ask the mayor for an empty lot to build a playground, but all they get are campaign promises. They know that they are the only ones who will make something happen, so they get their friends and family involved until the whole barrio unites to create a space of their own." — From Publisher



Paths to Peace: People Who changed the World

by Jane Zalben

"With a stirring quote set within a stunning and incisive collage, Zalben sets the tone for each of the sixteen peacemakers she profiles in this book. Mahatma Gandhi, Eleanor Roosevelt, Cesar Chavez, Aung San Suu Kyi, and the most recent Nobel Prize winner, Dr. Wangari Maathai, are some of the people she chose to represent different eras and parts of the globe." — From Publisher



The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq

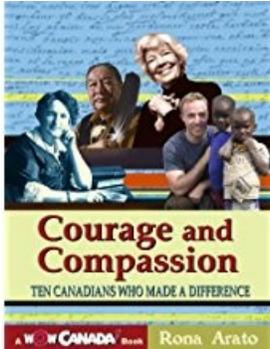
by Jeanette Winter

"Alia Muhammad Baker is a librarian in Basra, Iraq. For fourteen years, her library has been a meeting place for those who love books. Until now. Now war has come, and Alia fears that the library--along with the thirty thousand books within it--will be destroyed forever." — From Publisher

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Non-fiction



Courage and Compassion: Ten Canadians Who Made a Difference

by Rona Arato

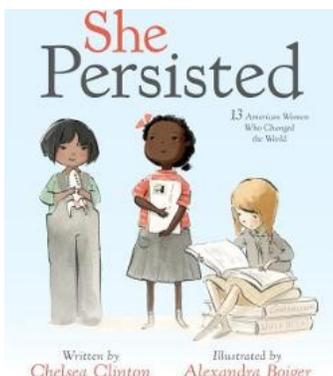
"*Courage and Compassion* profiles ten individuals whose incredible acts have protected the human rights that we hold most dear. The names and accomplishments of some will be immediately familiar to readers while others may be more unsung heroes, but all share a strong belief that they must act according to their conscience to make Canada and the world a better place." — From Publisher



Humanitarians (Women in Profile)

by Carlotta Hacker

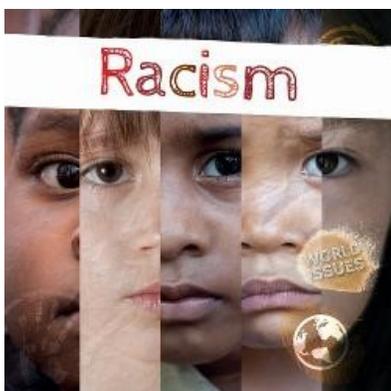
"In depth profiles of: Dolores Huerta- farm labor leader, Helen Keller- activist for the blind, Eleanor Roosevelt- social reformer, Mother Teresa- missionary nun, Diana, Princess of Wales- supporter of sick and disadvantaged, plus numerous brief profiles." — From Publisher (Gr. 5-8)



She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World

by Chelsea Clinton

"Chelsea Clinton introduces tiny feminists, mini activists and little kids who are ready to take on the world to thirteen inspirational women who never took no for an answer, and who always, inevitably and without fail, *persisted*. Throughout American history, there have always been women who have spoken out for what's right, even when they have to fight to be heard." — From



Racism

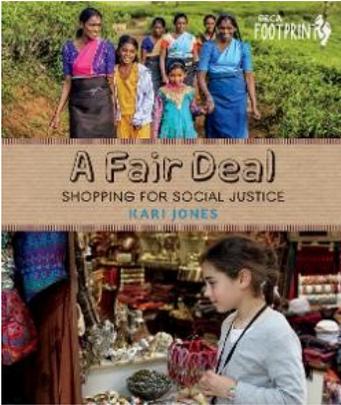
by Harriet Brundle
(Series: World Issues)

"What is racism? What are discrimination, prejudice, and racial stereotypes? Why are people racist, and how does racism happen? What does it feel like to experience racism? What impact do the media and the police have on racism? How can we help? Includes a case study of Australian Aboriginal people, and a timeline of racism throughout history, from the rise of the Nazi Party to the 1992 Los Angeles Rodney King verdict." — From Publisher

I Can Make a Difference

Selected by Joan Pearce

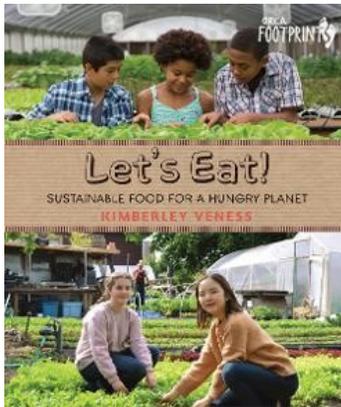
Non-fiction



A Fair Deal: Shopping for Social Justice

by Kari Jones (Series: Orca Footprints)

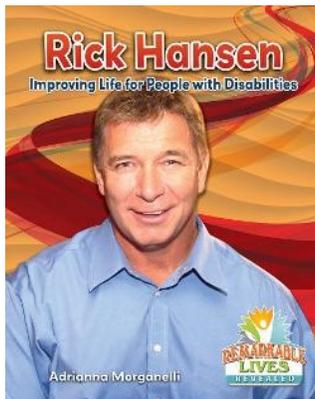
"Fair trade is not about spending more money or buying more stuff. It's about helping producers in developing countries get a fair price for their goods. In *A Fair Deal: Shopping for Social Justice*, Kari Jones provides a history of trade, explaining what makes trade systems unfair and what we can do about it." — From Publisher



Let's Eat! Sustainable Food for a Hungry Planet

by Kimberley Veness (Series: Kimberley Veness)

"All the food you eat, whether it's an apple or a steak or a chocolate-coated cricket, has a story. *Let's Eat* uncovers the secret lives of our groceries, exploring alternative-- and sometimes bizarre--farm technology and touring gardens up high on corporate rooftops and down low in military-style bunkers beneath city streets." — From Publisher



Series: Remarkable Lives Revealed

pub. By Crabtree. Titles:

Mae Jemison: Trailblazing Astronaut, Doctor, and Teacher

Malala Yousafzai: Defender of Education for Girls

Rick Hansen: Improving Live for People with Disabilities

Temple Grandin: Pioneer for Animal rights and Autism Awareness

William Kamkwamba: Powering his village

Wilma Rudolph: Track and field Champion



Series: How Do They Help?

by Melissa Sherman Pearl

Titles include:

Cell Phones for Soldiers, Coat-A-Kid

FUNDaFIELD, Jessie Rees Foundation

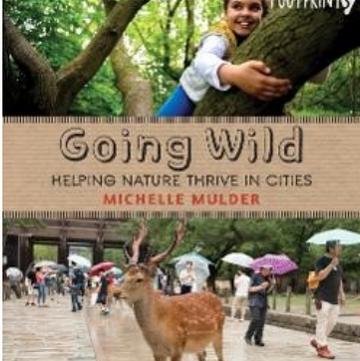
Kids Saving the Rainforest, Sheltering Books

Project TGIF, What's mine is Yours

I Can Make a Difference

Selected by Joan Pearce

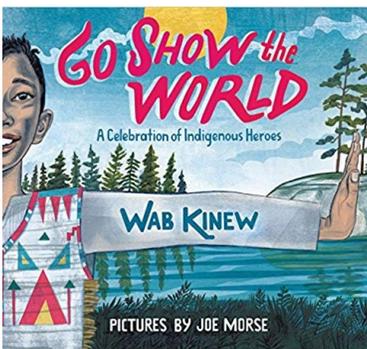
Non-fiction



Going Wild: Helping Nature Thrive in Cities

by Michelle Mulder

"The book also describes ways in which cities are encouraging plants and animals to thrive and discusses how kids can help. While Mulder approaches her topic with enthusiasm, she notes that balancing an urban ecosystem is a complex process and that not every animal makes a good neighbor. Readers intrigued by the idea of greener cities will find plenty of encouragement here, along with examples from around the world." - *Publisher*



Go show the World: A Celebration of Indigenous Heroes

by Wab Kinew

"Celebrating the stories of Indigenous people throughout time, Wab Kinew has created a powerful rap song, the lyrics of which are the basis for the text in this beautiful picture book, illustrated by the acclaimed Joe Morse. Including figures such as Crazy Horse, Net-no-kwa, former NASA astronaut John Herrington and Canadian NHL goalie Carey Price." - *amazon.ca*



The Brilliant Deep: Rebuilding the World's Coral Reefs

by Kate Messner

"A picture book biography of Ken Nedimyer, who started the Coral Restoration Foundation - an international group dedicated to resuscitating the world's coral reefs. Kate Messner and Matthew Forsythe brilliantly chronicle the groundbreaking efforts of one coral restoration pioneer, from his first optimistic experiment of transplanting coral - with the help of his daughter - to his founding of the Coral Restoration Foundation, and the foundation's continued efforts around the world to rebuild coral reefs." - *Pub.*