

# Service Learning Annotated Bibliography

*By Amanda Dewey*

## Books

**Berenstain, Stan and Jan. (1999).** *The berenstain bears think of those in need.* New York: Random House, Inc.

This short picture book is great for preschool through elementary school aged children. Using familiar characters from *The Berenstain Bears* series, it teaches the importance of giving back to others by donating your time and possessions.

**Collier, Peter J., Cress, Christine M. and Reitenauer, Vicki L. (2005).** *Learning through serving: a student guidebook for service-learning across the disciplines.* Sterling, Virginia: Stylus Publishing.

This book is a guide for young adults who want to get the most out of service learning courses. It is most appropriate for upper high school and college level, and would be best suited for highly motivated and independent workers. It features chapters on topics from building and maintaining community partnerships to teamwork.

**Griffin-Wiesner, M.Ed, and Maser, Christ, M.S. (2008).** *Teaching kids to change the world: lessons to inspire social responsibility for grades 6-12.* Minneapolis: Search Institute Press.

This features 26 lessons based on eight “Principles of Social Responsibility,” from “Life is an Open-Ended Experiment” to “We Can Only Manage Ourselves.” The lessons feature easy-to-understand instructions, questions for follow-up discussion and some worksheets to copy. Though not explicitly about service learning, this book’s lessons establish a foundation of empathy and understanding about the world and people in it, which any parent or teacher would applaud. The lessons could be used by teachers in late elementary school and up.

**Halpin, Mikki. (2004).** *It’s your world- if you like don’t like it, change it.* New York: Simon Pulse.

This book is great for middle and high school students. It has chapters on the following topics: animals, racism, the environment, war, HIV/AIDS, school violence/bullying, women’s rights, civil rights and liberties and tolerance of GLBT youth. Each chapter provides an introduction to the topic and includes four sections: The At-Home Activist, The Campus Activist, The Community Activist and the 5-Minute Activist. Each chapter also features lists of books and websites that can be of help.

**Hoose, Phillip. (1993). *It's our world too! Young people who are making a difference.* Boston: Joy Street Books.**

If you're looking for inspirational short stories to inspire your students to make a difference, this book is for you. Part 1, which comprises most of the book, includes stories under the themes of taking stand, reaching out to others, healing the earth and creating a safer future. Part 2 features a "Handbook for Young Activists." The short stories are at a middle school reading level, but are also appropriate as read alouds for elementary school students. This book would be a great supplement to any school's character education program.

**Kaye, Cathryn Berger, M.A. (2004). *The complete guide to service learning: proven, practical ways to engage students in civic responsibility, academic curriculum, & social action.* Minneapolis: Free Spirit Publishing.**

This is the one book I feel every educator with an interest in service learning must own. It has proven invaluable to me as I've embarked on various projects; I've copied its blackline masters, littered it with post it notes and comments, and come back to it time and again when I need an idea or a resource for a project.

**KIDS Consortium. (2001). *Kids as planners: a guide to strengthening students, schools and communities through service-learning.* Lewiston, Maine: KIDS Consortium.**

This book has lots of activities and blackline masters. My favorite resources are ones that are easy to read and offer practical ideas I can implement the next day if I choose, and this book meets both those expectations. Teachers of all ages could use this book; it has chapters on planning and implementing a project, assessment and celebration.

**Lewis, Barbara A. (1995). *The kids' guide to service projects.* Minneapolis: Free Spirit Publishing.**

What is great about this book is that it includes over 500 project ideas organized by interest area, so you can either copy pages out of it to distribute to younger students or allow older students to peruse it on their own. The ideas are simple and straightforward, which makes them accessible to all ages. I used this book to help my students generate project ideas when they did group service projects based on their interests. This book would be great for teachers new to service learning who are looking for ideas on connecting curriculum to service projects.

**Lewis, Barbara A. (1998). *The kids' guide to social action.* Minneapolis: Free Spirit Publishing.**

This 211 page book would make a great addition to any social studies or government classroom. It includes one chapter that walks readers through the process of identifying a problem and figuring out a solution, another chapter on “Power Skills” from petition writing to campaigns, and features a tools chapter with more than twenty pages of reproducibles. Throughout the book, there are one page profiles of Kids in Action, which are great to share with students. There are also student work samples and many tip sheets that can easily be copied for classroom use. This book would work for students in grades 3 and up.

**Lewis, Barbara A. (2008).** *The teen guide to global action: how to connect with others (near and far) to create social change.* Minneapolis: Free Spirit Publishing.

This book is an excellent resource for students who want to make a difference, but need some help identifying where and how they will do it. It opens with inspiring stories and a chapter on finding a cause and working in groups. The rest of the chapters cover specific areas, including human rights, hunger and homelessness, peace and friendship, youth representation, health and safety, education and environment and conservation. Each chapter has a list of facts on the topic, local and global examples of ways to take action and profiles on “Difference Makers.” This book is packed with websites to further students’ work, and would be useful to educators of all ages, since it can be read aloud or given to students to use on their own.

**Miles, Betty. (1991).** *Save the earth: An action handbook for kids.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

This book has sections on land, atmosphere, water, energy, plants and animals and people. Each chapter gives some background information on the topic, amazing facts, a story about real kids who’ve contributed to the cause and a list of projects kids can do. It is a great resource for social studies or science teachers looking for ways to make the curriculum relevant for students of all ages.

**Olien, Rebecca. (2007).** *Kids care! 75 ways to make a difference for people, animals & the environment.* Nashville: Williamson Books.

*Kids Care* is a child-friendly book with colorful pictures and fonts. It is a book that an elementary or middle school child could easily pick up and peruse on his or her own. I have given it to students to help them brainstorm ideas, as it’s divided up into sections on people, pets and wildlife- topics toward which young adolescents in particular tend to be drawn. This book has simple ideas, so it is more suited for inspiring younger children and introducing them to service.

**Rusch, Elizabeth. (2002).** *Generation fix: Young ideas for a better world.* Hillsboro, Oregon: Beyond Words Publishing, Inc.

*Generation Fix* has eight chapters; the first seven have themes: school, peace, hunger and food, the environment, homelessness, illness, and equal rights. Each chapter features statistics pertaining to the topic, personal stories, suggestions of what can be done and quotes from real kids about how to solve the problem. The final chapter has some encouraging last words, as well as an extensive list of volunteer organizations by topic. This book is great to use as a read aloud to inspire and encourage all ages and would also be appropriate for middle or high school students to peruse independently.

**Shoenfeld, Robert Max. (2003). *Service-Learning: Student's guide and journal*. Seattle: Guide and Journal Publications.**

This guide would be great to use with students doing individual or small group service projects. It walks students through the process and helps them chart their progress and reflect along the way. There is a journal for each week where students rate by percentage various factors, including improvement of leadership skills, grades and communication skills. This type of journal would be most appropriate for upper middle school and high school, because it requires a great deal of self awareness on the part of the student. For more information, visit <http://servicelearn.com/>

**Shoveller, Herb. (2006). *Ryan and jimmy: And the well in africa that brought them together*. Kids Can Press.**

This is the inspiring story of a boy who decided he wanted to make a difference at a young age. Though I don't own this book, I am familiar with the story, and feel that it sends an important message: you're never too young to make a difference.

**Speckhart, Danielle. (2007). *The littlest volunteers*. Millburn, New Jersey: Junior League of the Oranges and Short Hills, Inc.**

This picture book tells the heartwarming story of Annie the Ant, who becomes inspired to help others after a visitor comes to her class to talk about community and giving back. It explains the concept of community and volunteering in a way that young children can understand, and empowers them to take action. This book would be appropriate for preschool through third grade.

**Taudte, Jeca. (2008). *MySpace/OurPlanet: Change is possible*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers.**

In case you couldn't tell from the title, this book is aimed at teens, and it does a great job of cultivating a need for change. There are nine chapters, and each one focuses on a different part a teen's life, from their health and body to their free time. Each chapter provides facts and easy ways to make a difference. This book

would be best for middle and high school students- it will hold their interest because it is written on their level.

## Websites

Learn and Serve America's National Service-Learning Clearinghouse  
<http://www.servicelearning.org/k-12home/index.php>

National Youth Leadership Council  
<http://www.nylc.org/>

National Service Learning Partnership  
[http://www.service-learningpartnership.org/site/PageServer?pagename=SL\\_index](http://www.service-learningpartnership.org/site/PageServer?pagename=SL_index)

Kids Consortium  
<http://www.kidsconsortium.org/>

Project Plan-It  
<http://www.ysa.org/planit/>

## Songs

These songs can be used as part of a character education program or as a reflection. I suggest showing YouTube videos of the songs and giving students paper copies of the lyrics to discuss afterwards.

- “World” by Five for Fighting
- “Waiting on the World to Change” by John Mayer
- “We are the World” by USA for Africa
- “Imagine” by John Lennon
- “Big Yellow Taxi” by Counting Crows
- “If Everyone Cared” by Nickelback
- “One Voice” by Billy Gilman
- “Man in the Mirror” by Michael Jackson
- “My Time on Earth” by Billy Gilman
- “What a Wonderful World” by Louis Armstrong

## Quotes

A good way to get students thinking deeper about service is through analyzing quotes. I have students get in pairs, pick a quote, and create a poster with the quote and an explanation of what it means to them. Also, be sure to clarify what quotes are, and how we use them. After you've completed a project, have students revisit the quotes and discuss how they apply to what they've done. Here are some good quotes to use:

"History starts now." –Five for Fighting

"Be the change you wish to see in the world." -Gandhi

"No act of kindness, however small, is wasted." -Aesop

"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it for someone else." – Benjamin Franklin

"As long as space remains, as long as living beings remain, I will remain in order to serve." –Dalai Lama

"Everyone can be great because everyone can serve." Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." –Margaret Mead

"To make a difference is not a matter of accident, a matter of casual occurrence of the tides. People choose to make a difference." – Maya Angelou

"The earth is not ours; it is a treasure we hold in trust for future generations." African Proverb

"From what we get, we can make a living; what we give, however, makes a life."-Arthur Ashe

"If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door." –Milton Berle

"Generosity is the first step toward peace." Buddhist saying

"If you don't like the way the world is, you change it. You have an obligation to change it. You just do it one step at a time." –Marian Wright Edelman

"What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other?" George Eliot

"When spider webs are woven together, they can tie up a lion." –Ethiopian proverb

"A different world cannot be built by indifferent people." –Horace Mann

"The future depends entire on what each of us does every day." Gloria Steinem