BOOK to ACTION

PUTTING WORDS INTO ACTION

TOOLKIT

Tips and resources to help you get started with a Book-to-Action program at your library.

Get involved in a great book, and in your community!

http://booktoaction.library.ca.gov

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Book-to-Action builds on the traditional book club concept, but in addition to providing an opportunity to collectively read and discuss a book, **Book-to-Action** enables readers to put their new-found knowledge into action by engaging in a community service project related to the book's topic.

Click to Navigate through the Toolkit. Navigate from the Table of Contents to the Tips and Recommended Books and Civic Engagement Activities. Click on the highlighted URLs to visit suggested websites for more information. In the resources section, click to download templates and graphics to promote and enhance your library's Book-to-Action programs and activities.

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At the heart of this program is selecting a good book, a book that not only enlightens readers about a socially relevant subject, but also pulls readers in from the first page.

Strengthening the Role of Public Libraries in Civic Engagement and Community-Building

Public libraries are uniquely positioned to cultivate friendly, casual relationships with our library customers that are critical to fulfilling our role as a community hub. On a daily basis, we meet and interact with people from all walks of life, with wide-ranging interests, talents, and needs. At the same time, we are positioned to survey the activities of local organizations that seek the participation of local residents in community-betterment projects and campaigns. Add to that our constant contact with outstanding, engaging books that inform and educate about timely, relevant social issues, and we have all the variables that add up to Book-to-Action.

To learn more, watch the 4-minute video, "***From Book to Action: One Library's Story***" at: ***http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tOkDOYR5Pb4***

Book-to-Action is a program that extends the library's role in supporting community-building activities by augmenting the conventional book group with a civic engagement project. Launched by the Multnomah County Library in 2008, the program model was introduced to California in 2011 by the Hayward Public Library as part of the State Library's Transforming Life After 50 initiative. Starting with the entertaining and enlightening book *Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer* by Oakland resident and journalist Novella Carpenter, the Hayward Library organized successful Book-to-Action events that consisted of book discussions, an author presentation, and an opportunity for residents of all ages to volunteer in a local middle school garden.

Subsequently, the California State Library offered small Library Services Technology Act grants in 2012 to libraries throughout California to implement their own Book-to-Action programs. Librarians organized an inspiring range of programs, bringing their communities together to first read and then talk about books that have an immediate relevance in today's world. To deepen understanding of the reading material, many libraries hosted author events and all organized civic engagement activities that embodied the book's central ideas or themes. At the focus

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- This toolkit has been created to help libraries experiment with this new program model.
- Identify a book from the list of those recommended here, or from your own sources, that engages your community in both discussion and action.
- Form partnerships with local non-profit organizations doing valuable work in a field related to the topic of your selected book.
- Bring community members together to volunteer in a community-building activity related to the subject of the book and the mission of your partnering agency(ies).
- If possible, invite the book's author, or an expert on the book's subject, to speak.
- Spread the word about your Book-to-Action series as broadly as you can.

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of these programs were books that both grabbed people's attention and, often, their hearts. Books that both informed and motivated readers – not just to put the books back on the shelf when the discussion ended, but to come together to participate in a meaningful community-centered activity: putting words into action. **Participants described their experience with Book-to-Action as "motivating," "empowering," "uplifting," "powerful," and "thought-provoking."**

You'll likely find that you're not only motivating local residents to do something positive in their communities, but also increasing their appreciation of the library's leadership in promoting civic engagement. You can anticipate that local residents will start to approach the library with ideas for future Book-to-Action series, and before long, you'll have a steady base of volunteers who will look forward to your next Book-to-Action series. You may even find a group of volunteers who want to share some of the responsibilities of organizing the next series by helping with outreach, fundraising, or other tasks.

Gathered here are some basic guidelines for organizing a successful Book-to-Action program in your local community. Book-to-Action will appeal not only to an intergenerational audience of adult readers and volunteers, but can also be directed to younger community members: students who attend local schools and after-school groups.

At the heart of this program is selecting a good book, a book that not only enlightens readers about a socially relevant subject, but also pulls readers in from the first page. We offer a list of books on a variety of topics that come recommended by readers, librarians, booksellers, and publishers. It's not intended to be a comprehensive list, but a starting place.

We hope you'll share your successes and lessons learned from your experience with the California Center for the Book, which oversees and provides ongoing support for this program model. Fill out and return the "Our Library's Book-to-Action Story" form. Based on your feedback we hope to further expand this toolkit to serve and inspire other libraries in their Book-to-Action programs.

Good Luck!

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Here are some tips to help you organize a successful Book-to-Action program.

Tip #1: Allow Ample Time to Plan – But Don't Get Stalled

Allow at least a few months to consider your options and plan accordingly. Develop a rough timeline that will help you select dates and potential activities. Know when not to organize a major activity because of conflicting community events, holidays, or school schedules. And remember, even the most careful planning doesn't mean that everything will work out as you anticipated. If you encounter snags along the way, don't get discouraged. Be willing to compromise and be flexible. Have at least one back-up community-engagement activity in mind, in case, for example, the organization you had hoped to partner with is not able.

Tip #2: Do Some Research

Unless you have a topic and potential book already in mind, start off by doing a brief inventory of the non-profit organizations or informal volunteer networks that are active in your community. Identify national organizations that might have local or regional chapters in your community. (Arthur Blaustein's *Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport: The Ultimate Volunteer Handbook* – Skyhorse Publishing, 2011 – provides a useful and current roster of organizations.)

You probably already know a lot of people and organizations whose efforts are making a difference in your community. Contact your citywide volunteer coordinator, if there is one, and find out which organizations are actively recruiting volunteers. It is likely there are potential collaborations within your library or with a city or county-

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level department, perhaps with the Friends of the Library, a literacy organization, or a department that provides services to residents. Or maybe you are interested in supporting a statewide activity that offers opportunities for local engagement, like the annual California Coastal Cleanup Day or Hunger Action Day.

Perhaps you'll identify a need in your community that isn't currently being met. Once you start looking, you may be astounded by the number of potential partnerships or community-engagement activities that await you.

Tip #3: Seek Input from Potential Partners and Volunteers

Discuss goals and priorities at the city or county level to help you identify the area of service you will focus on. If you have time, conduct a survey of library members to determine which areas of community service are most popular, and to begin to recruit potential volunteers. Consider forming a Book-to-Action advisory committee composed of library staff members and some of the known movers and shakers in your community who can advise on potential community projects and campaigns. Or consult informally with community leaders to help you evaluate possible partnerships.

It's likely that partnering organizations or members of the community will have more knowledge in the book's subject than you do. Acknowledge their expertise and welcome their involvement. If possible, incorporate a community member with special knowledge or experience as a guest speaker at one of your programs. Perhaps they will feel a deeper level of commitment to the issue, and will be willing to share some of the work involved in program preparation.

You may decide to focus on one subject matter over another based on your assessment of which organizations are most enthusiastic about a partnership, which project or activity is most suitable for recruiting the largest number of volunteers, or which is likely to

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have the biggest impact in your community.

Determine the terms or requirements of participating partners or co-sponsors. Perhaps you'll want to ask every co-sponsor to make a minimum cash contribution towards publicity materials or an author's fee. Or maybe you're more interested in a sponsor making a commitment to promote the Book-to-Action program to their constituents, and doing outreach about the event. Keep in mind that not all non-profit or community organizations you wish to collaborate with will be in the position to participate as equal Book-to-Action program organizers. A worthwhile organizational partner might want to play more of a receiving, rather than an active, role in the program. Just be sure that the organization you work with welcomes volunteers that the library organizes to participate in an agreed upon civic engagement activity. Whatever the requirements are, be as clear as you can at the outset about your expectations, so all parties involved understand the terms of the collaboration.

This toolkit includes a list of recommended books to get you started.

Tip #4:
Understand the Appeal of an Engaging Book

Making your book selection might be the hardest task on your "to-do" list. An ideal book is one that both entertains and educates your community about an important social issue and that can be readily tied to a civic engagement activity. You probably won't have time to read every book on your selection short list, but be ready to do some sampling. You can only properly endorse a book that you or the selection committee feels enthusiastic about, so give yourself time to do some reading. Chances are if you're hooked by the first 20-50 pages, others will be too.

Review comments from readers posted on Amazon.com, GoodReads.com, or LibraryThing.com to get a feel for the book's strengths and weaknesses. Like any book group selection, nothing is going to please every reader equally. Differences of opinion about the book will stimulate interesting and thought-provoking discussions.

This toolkit includes a list of recommended books to get you

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started. Reading lists invariably leave out overlooked options or become soon outdated, so don't limit yourself to this list. Use the criteria that guided our selections as a foundation to select a book that speaks to the interests and needs of your community.

Readers often develop a special connection to the featured book when they have an opportunity to meet the author and gain insights about the author's background and purpose in writing the book.

Tip #5: Invite the Author or a Subject Expert as a Guest Speaker

If your budget allows, invite the author to your library to enhance the experience of your Book-to-Action participants. Readers often develop a special connection to the featured book when they have an opportunity to meet the author and gain insights about the author's background and purpose in writing the book. Audience members may become inspired to participate in the Book-to-Action program after they have had a chance to listen to the author or guest speaker.

If possible, make direct contact with the author to make the event arrangements. You will need to determine the fees required by the author and develop a contract specifying the time and date of the presentation, and outlining your expectations, including whether you want the author to make a presentation, read from the book, answer audience questions, or sign books. Make sure you tell the author about the Book-to-Action program. It's possible the author will offer you a discounted rate, or schedule the event when he or she is in the area for another event, and thus bring down the cost. Or explore the possibility of a joint author event with your local community bookstore.

If the author is in high demand, you might be required to make arrangements through the author's representative, publisher, or speakers' bureau. Authors often set their fees high to reduce the number of inquiries and potential engagements. After all, the business of an author is to write, and presentations take away valuable writing time. Anticipate that the fees for a high-profile author might be prohibitively costly. If that's the case, a good alternative is to invite a subject expert from a nearby college, university, or nonprofit organization.

Find out whether the author prefers to provide copies of the book and

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handle book sales, or whether the author prefers that the ordering and selling of books be taken care of by a bookstore or third party.

The author event is an important occasion to drum up interest in the civic engagement project. Consider inviting a representative from an organization you will be working with or supporting, to make a passionate pitch for volunteer engagement in a future activity. Circulate a sign-up sheet to gain a commitment from potential volunteers.

Tip #6: Choose a Realistically Achievable Civic Engagement Activity

Embrace your role as a connector, not as an activist, and make that clear to the program participants and volunteers you enlist. Your first priority as a librarian or library support staff member is to keep your library functioning in all the core ways that your constituents depend on. As you get involved in a compelling community service project with huge demands, community members might apply pressure on your library to devote more time than you have. The civic engagement activity you choose to support should be a short-term project aimed at raising awareness about an issue addressed by the book you have selected. Once the civic engagement activity is over, it will be up to community members to decide whether to devote more of their personal time and energy to the issue or community partnership. It's not the library's job to sustain the demanding day-to-day work associated with a challenging social problem, as much as you might wish you could.

Tip #7: Involve Local Schools and Community Colleges

Find out if there are opportunities to partner with teachers or parents to promote the Book-to-Action program in local schools. Contact local community colleges or universities to let them know about the book you have selected, and to encourage them to offer extra credit to their students to attend the author event or partici-

pate in the civic engagement activity. Teachers may not have the flexibility to incorporate your book selection in the student curriculum, but if you have enough lead time, you could encourage teachers to devote a classroom lesson to an excerpt from the book. Middle school and high school students are often required to fulfill a certain number of hours of community service, so make sure they know about the civic engagement component of the program.

Tip #8:
Be Flexible and Don't Be Afraid to Experiment

Don't feel like you have to have every detail figured out in order to move forward. For example, it can be hard to anticipate how many volunteers you will be able to enlist for a community-based activity you have never organized before. Be frank with both the partnering organizations and your program participants that this is the first time you have organized a Book-to-Action program. Expect that you'll need to make decisions about things you didn't anticipate as you go along.

Book-to-Action is designed as a series of at least two or three events, and you will want to encourage community members to experience the full impact of the program by participating in every aspect of the series: the book discussion, author event, and civic engagement activity. Don't be disappointed, however, when someone participates in only one of the events. Welcome participation at any level.

If you are accustomed to organizing an annual "One Community, One Book" program, consider adding an "action" component to your next series. With the right book selection, a community service project can provide added enhancement and meaning to your program participants.

You are embarking on a learning experience along with your program participants and community partners. Trust that you'll not only learn a lot from your experience, but that everything you learn will better prepare you for your next Book-to-Action program.

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Tip #9:
It's Okay to Start Small – But Set Long-term Goals

You don't have to have a big budget to organize a Book-to-Action series, though being able to devote some funds to book purchases, outreach materials, and speakers' fees will be helpful. If you've organized a One Book, One Community program, chances are you devoted a significant amount of funding for purchasing books for free distribution to community members. If purchasing books to give away is an option for your Book-to-Action program, great. If not, purchasing 10-15 copies of the book selection for circulation in your library is all you need to get started. Be prepared to help customers locate copies of the book from other nearby libraries, interlibrary loan, or a local bookstore.

Start with modest goals – but keep your eyes on long-term goals for expanding the reach and impact of the program. You're likely to have more success with every Book-to-Action program you organize. Once community members have had a chance to experience the power and potential of the program first-hand, they may be willing to get involved in promoting the next program to their friends and neighbors, and throughout the community.

Tip #10:
Form a Partnership with Your Local Bookstores

If you are not already teaming up with a local bookstore to promote author events or other book-related programs, Book-to-Action provides you a perfect opportunity to initiate a partnership. Bookstores are logical partners, willing to help you promote the book selection to their customers, handle book purchases and sales at an author or associated event, and encourage local participation in the series. An independent bookstore is likely to not only share your interest in promoting literacy and "giving back" to the community, but may also have the flexibility to get actively involved in promoting the program. (Contact the Northern California

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Independent Booksellers Association[1] or the Southern California Independent Booksellers Association[2] - for help in locating the nearest independent bookseller in your area.) Ask your local bookstores if they will offer a discount on books purchased at their store. (Do this in advance of printing your outreach materials, so you can advertise the discount.) Developing a strong relationship with your local independent bookstore can open up new opportunities for both parties to support each other's success.

Tip #11:
Publicize, Publicize, Publicize

Outreach and publicity is essential to the success of your Book-to-Action program. Don't limit publicity to just your library's calendar of events or a poster on the library bulletin board. Book-to-Action offers your library new opportunities to reach out to people who aren't already taking advantage of their local library. Give people a chance to recognize that the library is expanding its role in the community.

In addition to informing organizations whose members will be most interested in your program, you'll want to broadly distribute information about your program in the community.

Develop a press release and send it to every local newspaper, magazine, radio, and television station. Use the Toolkit Press Release Template to help you write a concise announcement. Send it out at least two weeks before your event, or according to the requirements of each media outlet. One or two weeks before the event, make follow-up calls to verify that the press release has been received. Include a high-resolution photograph (300 dpi) of the book cover or author, to increase chances that the announcement stands out on the page, and catches the eye of readers.

1. www.nciba.com

2. www.scibabooks.org

Distribute your brochures, leaflets, postcards, and/or posters at local schools, cafes, and community centers. Adapt the Toolkit Brochure Template, or Bookmark Template to advertise your program.

Ask if the editors will print an article before the event, or if they might consider attending the event and writing a follow-up report. See if there is a public relations officer at the city or county level willing to assist you with publicity. Make use of city or regional websites, cable channels, billboards, or other government-sponsored media or outreach resources.

Distribute your brochures, leaflets, postcards, and/or posters at local schools, cafes, and community centers. Adapt the Toolkit Brochure Template, or Bookmark Template to advertise your program.

Make use of social networks like facebook, flickr, goodreads, and twitter to expand awareness of the program.

Consider videotaping a special event like the author's presentation for broadcast on the city's or local cable television. Enlist the involvement of skilled camera operators who can make sure that the sound and lighting is optimal for broadcast quality. City or county media specialist employees who have access to high quality cameras and equipment might be willing to provide this service at a discounted rate, or even for free. If possible, add the DVD for circulation in the library's catalog at a later date.

Tip #12:
Enlist Volunteers through VolunteerMatch and at Book-to-Action Events

VolunteerMatch is an excellent resource for attracting volunteers to your Book-to-Action series. If you aren't already recruiting volunteers for core and specialized library services, take advantage of the California State Library's "Get Involved: Powered by Your Library" website[3]. Get Involved is a statewide initiative designed to expand the visibility and contributions of skilled volunteers in public libraries. List your volunteer opportunities at www.volunteermatch.org, which will also link your listings to other major volunteer opportunity aggregators that VolunteerMatch partners with, such as California Volunteers. You can list short-term volunteer opportunities, as well as long-term functions. Aim high. Want someone to help with graphic design? Or to be on site to photograph or film special events? Perhaps you want someone who will manage Book-to-

3. http://www.library.ca.gov/lds/getinvolved.html

Action publicity or fundraising. You may attract the involvement of a high school or college intern seeking resumé-building experience, or a baby boomer looking for a meaningful opportunity to use their special skills and experience to make a difference in their community.

Don't be afraid to ask everyone who shows an interest in the book selection, author event, or other related Book-to-Action events to make a commitment to volunteer in the planned civic engagement activity. Making an open invitation to an audience or group to participate in a civic engagement activity may not yield as many volunteers as you need or hope for. Tell people you need an advance commitment. Send around a sign-in sheet. Send out follow-up emails or make phone calls to ask people to reply with a promise to volunteer on a specific date and time. Participants are much more likely to show up when they're needed if they know they are being counted on.

One of the long-term benefits of engaging volunteers in Book-to-Action projects is that we cultivate future advocates and active supporters of library services.

Tip #13:
Invite Diverse Opinions and Manage Controversy

When you focus on a book that highlights a social issue, you can expect that people won't always agree with the author or with each other about the best way to address a social problem. Don't shy away from a book that takes a stand. If the book is well-researched and supports its arguments for recommended social changes, your library can play an important role in facilitating discussions that allow people to reflect on and either agree with or challenge the book's conclusions. Let your community know that you see your library most importantly as a facilitator of civic discussion. On the other hand, be

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in touch with your community, and know when to steer clear of particularly divisive issues.

Facilitate discussions that give people permission to respectfully disagree with each other. Diverse opinions will contribute to an interesting discussion. Set some ground rules that discourage judgment, name-calling, the domination of one participant, or a heated disagreement between two parties. Invite people to share information about organizations that are addressing the problem both locally and nationally. If you perceive that someone is trying to "take over" the discussion, emphasize your role in allowing everyone the opportunity to speak and participate. When you see the discussion veering off track, remind people that time is limited, and steer the discussion back on track.

Be sure to let participants know that you value their input and feedback. Be prepared to consider book selections that community members recommend for future programs. The program's success can be measured in part by how much community members feel collective pride in the program outcomes, and whether they feel motivated to get involved in the library's next Book-to-Action program. Invite enthusiastic participants to join in the planning of future programs.

Tip #14: Evaluate Your Program and Stay in Contact with Participants

If you think you might want to organize Book-to-Action programs in the future, it's very important that you find out who attended your first program, and to invite participant feedback. Circulate a sign-in sheet and an evaluation form that allows people to give feedback about the program anonymously, if they wish. Give program participants an opportunity to indicate whether they want to be contacted about future Book-to-Action programs.

Use existing email lists to reach avid readers who are already attending book groups, author events, or other related activities. Those contacts, along with the contacts you collect at Book-to-Action programs, will help you to notify and mobilize Book-to-Action participants and volunteers in the future.

Tip #15:
Document Your Library's Book-to-Action Story in Photos and Videos

A picture is worth a thousand words, so make sure you document your events and activities with photographs and, if possible, videos. Write a short summary of what made your program special and meaningful, and what you learned from the experience.

Invite program participants to help you promote a future program by asking them to articulate their experience in front of a camera. It is much more powerful to hear testimonies from those who joined your Book-to-Action program than it is to hear library staff talk about the steps they took to organize a Book-to-Action program. Highlighting the positive experiences of Book-to-Action participants is the best and most authentic advertisement you can produce. Testimonials can both demonstrate how Book-to-Action works, and motivate others to join your future efforts.

Send your success stories to the California Center for the Book to help other libraries learn from your experiences. (Fill out "Our Library's Book-to-Action Story" and send it to the California Center for the Book, with photos or links to videos posted on YouTube or other social networks.)

Watch the Solano County Library Compassion to Action Video.

Solano County Library organized a "Compassion to Action" program in 2012, with a civic engagement project that recruited volunteers to become "navigators" at an Opportunity Conference to help local community members work their way out of poverty.

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Recommended Books and Activities

The following books have been recommended by readers, librarians, booksellers, and publishers as both engaging and well-suited for civic engagement activities. We have provided some general suggestions for potential community service projects, which you will need to investigate further for applicability in your local area. We suggest that before you make your final book choice, read at least a portion of the book and browse reviews to determine if the book is a good fit for your community and your goals.

The general guidelines that have been applied to selecting a book are as follows:

- **Book should be highly readable and engaging for a general audience, preferably no longer than 350 pages in length;**
- **Preferably published within the last 3-5 years and available in trade paperback (though hardcovers will be considered; eBook, audio, and Spanish translation formats a plus);**
- **Subject should address a relevant social issue, without being highly controversial or divisive;**
- **Book should be readily matched to local civic organizations doing work in a variety of non-profit and civic-service focused areas, or a community-building activity;**
- **Nonfiction titles will lend themselves to this kind of series if they are inspiring and thought-provoking rather than "how-to" in nature. Fiction will also be considered.**
- **California authors are a plus as are authors or subject experts available for appearances at a reasonable cost.**

You will notice that we have made exceptions to some of these guidelines when making recommendations, just as we expect you will do so when you consider a book that does not appear on this list. We have identified, to the best of our ability, California authors, with the symbol (CA) preceding the author's name. It was not in the scope of these guidelines to provide the cost of author visits, as they will vary depending on the location and timing of events.

It is noted if a library has previously used one of these recommendations for a Book-to-Action program. Review published library program materials, including videos, you can find online to help you determine if that book is a good choice for your reading community, and adopt or adapt program details as necessary.

In addition to identifying books suitable for adults, we have provided book recommendations for younger readers, which can be selected independently or in concert with an adult selection. The terms related to age, applied very loosely, correlate accordingly:

- **"Younger" (K-4th grade)**
- **"Middle" (3rd-7th grade)**
- **"Older" (8th-12th grade)**

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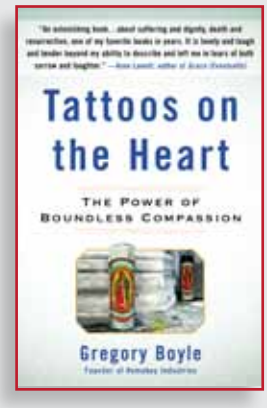
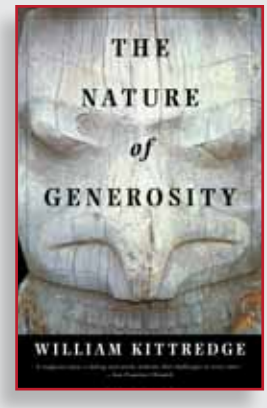
COOPERATION, COMPASSION, AND THE POWER OF GIVING

ADULTS

Armstrong, Karen. ***Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*** (240 pp, 2010, Anchor Books/Random House, paper, eBook & audio). Nonfiction. A thought-provoking book from a popular writer on religious affairs, which sets out a program to lead people toward a more compassionate life. Selected by the Solano County Library for a "Compassion to Action" program in 2012, with a civic engagement project that organized volunteers to become "navigators" at an Opportunity Conference to help local community members work their way out of poverty. Watch video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgvN2BPAcug&feature=share&list=UUAGGWgVl-4AloyP-gHAKZHQ



(CA) Boyle, Gregory. ***Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*** (240 pp, 2010, Free Press/Simon & Schuster, paper, eBook & audio; available in Spanish from Free Press: *Tatuajes en el corazón*). Nonfiction. For twenty years, Jesuit priest Gregory Boyle has run Homeboy Industries, a Los Angeles gang-intervention program located in the gang capital of the world. This book distills his experience working in the ghetto into a moving series of parables inspired by faith.

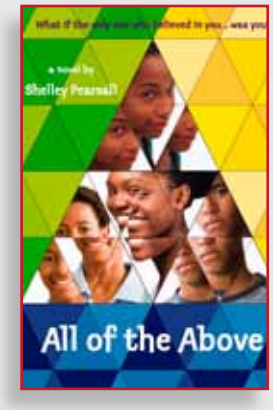


Kittredge, William. ***The Nature of Generosity*** (288 pp, 2001, Vintage/Random House, paper & eBook). Nonfiction. A natural sequel to the acclaimed memoir *Hole in the Sky*, Kittredge addresses the "ordinary yearning to take physical and emotional care." Shattering the myth that survival of the fittest means "survival of the violent, or the cruelest, or the selfish," Kittredge imagines a world in which altruism dominates–and offers ample evidence that this is not an unreachable utopian ideal.

(CA) Mehta, Pavithra K. and Suchitra Shenoy. ***Infinite Vision: How Aravind Became the World's Greatest Business Case for Compassion*** (336 pp, 2011, Berrett-Koehler Publishers, paper, eBook & audio). Nonfiction. In the late 1970s, Dr. Venkataswamy

(better known as Dr. V) began to pursue an impossible dream: to cure the world of blindness. The tiny clinic he founded in India defied conventional business logic and is now the largest provider of eye care on the planet. At Aravind, patients choose whether to pay or not. (35-minute "Infinite Vision" film available from Snag Films, online at: http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/infinite_vision) Selected by the Hayward Public Library for a Book-to-Action program in 2012, with a civic engagement activity that mobilized volunteers to give away free books to non-regular readers at an event associated with the first U.S. World Book Night.

MIDDLE & OLDER



Pearsall, Shelley. ***All of the Above*** (234 pp, 2008, Little Brown Books for Young Readers/Hachette Book Group, paper & eBook). Fiction/Based on a True Story. Four diverse teens and their school's math club work to build the largest tetrahedron in the world.

(CA) Tenzer, Debbie. ***Do One Nice Thing: Little Things You Can Do to Make the World a Lot Nicer*** (256 pp, 2009, Crown Archetype/ Random House, hardcover & eBook). Nonfiction. Inspires readers to do weekly "nice deeds" to make a difference in the world, big or small, without using a lot of money or spending a lot of time.

YOUNGER

Christensen, Candace. ***The Mitten Tree*** (32 pp, 2009, Fulcrum Publishing, paper & eBook). Picture Book. A lonely woman anonymously knits mittens for cold hands in her community.

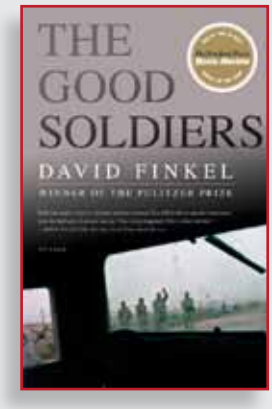
Lyon, George Ella. ***You and Me and Home Sweet Home*** (48 pp, 2009, Atheneum/Richard Jackson Books/Simon & Schuster, hardcover). Picture Book. Describes a community coming together to build a house—a home—for a family.

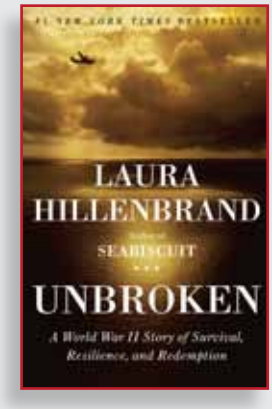
Consider these activities for this category of books:

- Locate a Boys and Girls Club in your community (http://www.bgca.org), and find out how you can help organize volunteers to assist one of their upcoming youth development programs.
- Consider partnering with a local school or youth leadership organization to organize an educational fundraiser for the Homeboy

Industries in Los Angeles (http://homeboyindustries.org).

- Promote literacy in your community by partnering with a library-based literacy organization or get involved with the annual U.S. World Book Night program by hosting book givers and organizing a WBN book giveaway event.
- Is there a Habitat for Humanity chapter in your town? Find out if you can organize volunteers to help build a home for a needy family.
- Learn to knit, crochet, and craft items to give away to hospitals, rest homes, family shelters, and others in need. Find lots of patterns and connect with ways to give at http://www.projectlinus.org/ (Check out the no-sew fleece blanket pattern for an easy project kids can do!)
- Check out http://doonenicething.com/ and find lots of ways people are making the world a kinder place.





UNDERSTANDING WAR & CROSSING CULTURAL BOUNDARIES

ADULTS

Finkel, David. ***The Good Soldiers*** (336 pp, 2009, Picador/Macmillan, paper, eBook & audio). Nonfiction. Reporting from the front lines of the war in Iraq, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist tells an eternal tale of wars for all time.

Hillenbrand, Laura. ***Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*** (496 pp, 2010, Random House, paper, large print, eBook & audio). Nonfiction. Relates the story of U.S. airman Louis Zamperini, who survived when his bomber crashed into the sea during World War II. He spent forty-seven days adrift in the ocean before being rescued by the Japanese Navy, and was held as a prisoner until the end of the war. Selected by the Torrance Public Library for a Book-to-to Action program in 2012, with a civic engagement project that recorded oral histories of local WWII veterans.

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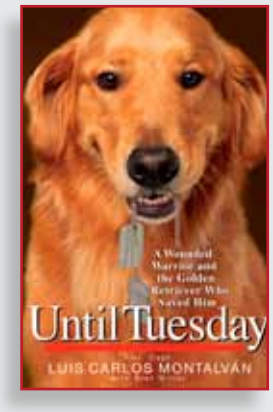


Montalván, Luis Carlos with Bret Witter. ***Until Tuesday: A Wounded Warrior and the Golden Retriever Who Saved Him*** (288 pp, 2011, Hyperion Books/Walt Disney Company, paper, eBook & audio). Nonfiction. After returning from two tours in Iraq, a highly decorated U.S. Army captain suffered from crippling post-traumatic stress disorder. His introduction to Tuesday, a golden retriever trained to assist the disabled, helped him to recover from psychological wounds and restore his spirit. Selected by the Lodi Public Library for a Book-to-to Action program in 2012, with a civic engagement project that formed a variety of partnerships to provide service dogs and support for disabled veterans. Watch video at: http://youtu.be/p3-h3vBCdEw

MIDDLE & OLDER

Clements, Andrew. ***Extra Credit*** (183 pp, 2009, Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster, paper, eBook & audio). Fiction. Sixth graders in Illinois and Afghanistan bridge a huge cultural divide by exchanging letters and sharing about their lives. (Middle)

House, Silas and Neela Vaswani. ***Same Sun Here*** (297 pp, 2012, Candlewick Press, hardcover, eBook & audio). Fiction. 12-year-old penpals (one an Indian immigrant in NYC and the other a Kentucky coal miner's son) explore topics such as environmental activism, immigration, and racism in their letters.

Sullivan, Mary. ***Dear Blue Sky*** (248 pp, 2012, Nancy Paulsen Books/ Penguin Group, hardcover & eBook). Fiction. Correspondence between an Iraqi girl and an American girl, whose brother is a soldier in Iraq, explores the complexities of war and conflict.

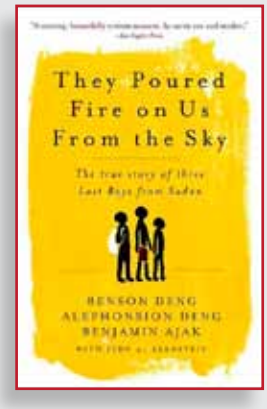
Consider these activities for this category of books:

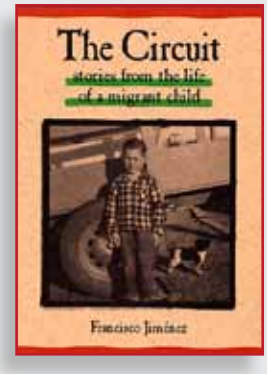
- Find a local volunteer opportunity through the White House's "Joining Forces: Taking Action to Serve America's Military Families" campaign (http://joiningforces.allforgood.org)
- Contact the local Veterans Affairs Medical Center in your area to determine if there's a way volunteers can reach out to and support rehabilitating veterans.
- Learn about the Americans with Disabilities Act law regarding ser-

vice dogs. Can you help make service dogs of veterans and disabled people feel welcome at the library and in other public places?

- Ask community members to write letters to the library describing their experience during a significant historical event or an act of tragedy or heroism. Read or display the letters at the library; raise funds to publish and distribute a small book of the collected letters in the local community.

- Determine whether your city has a "Sister City" relationship with another country, and participate in a letter-writing exchange. If not, connect to new friends in another place (another country, another city, or just another school) by setting up a penpal exchange through a school or library.





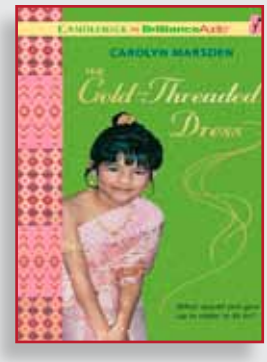
IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

OLDER & ADULTS

Deng, Alephonsion, et al. ***They Poured Fire On Us From the Sky: The True Story of Three Lost Boys from Sudan*** (311 pp, 2005, PublicAffairs Books, paper, eBook & audio). Nonfiction. Moving and thought-provoking story of Sudanese children escaping the civil war in their country and moving to the United States. (Older)

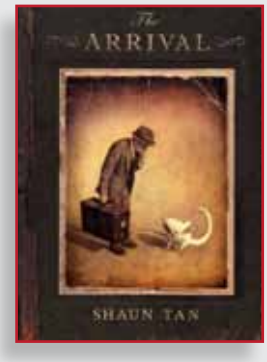
(CA) Jiménez, Francisco. ***The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child*** (144 pp., 1999, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, paper, eBook, audio; available in Spanish from Sandpiper/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt: *Cajas de cartón)*. Nonfiction. A moving collection of twelve short stories (the first of three memoirs) presented from the perspective of a young boy, in which the author narrates his childhood experiences growing up in a family of Mexican migrant farmworkers. Selected by the Santa Clara City Library for a Book-to-Action program in 2012, with a civic engagement project that raised awareness about migrant farm workers and the immigrant experience to teen mothers, as well as to promote library services to families enrolled in Santa Clara Unified School District's Migrant Education Program. Watch video: http://youtu.be/G7Azxe8sADE

Lê, Thi Diem Thúy. ***The Gangster We Are All Looking For*** (160 pp, 2003, Anchor Books/Random House, paper & eBook). Fiction. The life of a Vietnamese family in America observed through the knowing eyes of a child.



YOUNGER & MIDDLE

(CA) Marsden, Carolyn. ***The Gold-Threaded Dress*** (73 pp, 2002, Candlewick Press, paper, eBook & audio). Fiction. An immigrant girl from Thailand is bullied and threatened by her new classmates.



Tan, Shaun. ***The Arrival*** (128 pp, 2007, Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic, hardcover). Graphic Novel. A wordless tale of a man who makes a new life for himself and his family in a completely unfamiliar culture. All ages.

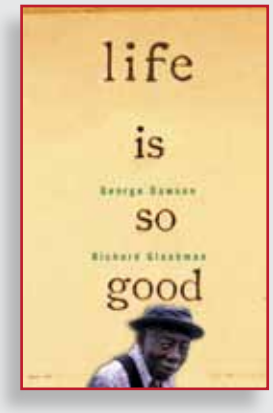
Consider these activities for this category of books:

- Visit the International Rescue Committee website (http://www.rescue.org/volunteering) – find opportunities to mentor refugee families, teach English or job search skills, process and sort donations, and create fundraising drives.
- Host a shopping trip to a grocery store and an "American" cooking class for neighbors who are new to America, then turn the tables and learn how to prepare a meal from them.
- Hold a fashion show featuring traditional clothing from other places, cultures, and/or time periods; admission to the show is a bag of clothes to donate to a refugee relief organization.
- Help kids get to know your town and some of the community trends and customs. Start a kids' blog with practical and fun information for kids who have recently arrived from another place.

HOMELESSNESS, POVERTY, HUNGER, AND HARD TIMES

ADULT

Bloom, Jonathan. ***American Wasteland: How America Throws Away Nearly Half of Its Food, and What We Can Do About It*** (384 pp, 2010, Da Capo Lifelong Books/Perseus Book Group, paper & eBook). Nonfiction. Jonathan Bloom wades into the garbage heap to unearth what our squandered food says about us, why it matters, and how you can make a difference starting in your own kitchen—reducing waste and saving money.



Dawson, George and Richard Glaubman. ***Life Is So Good: One Man's Extraordinary Journey through the 20th Century and How He Learned to Read at Age 98*** (272 pp, 2000, Random House, paper, eBook & audio). Nonfiction. In this remarkable book, 103-year-old George Dawson, a slave's grandson who learned to read at age 98, reflects on his life and offers valuable lessons in living as well as a fresh, firsthand view of America during the twentieth century.

(CA) Eggers, Dave. ***Zeitoun*** (342 pp, 2009, Vintage/Random House, paper, eBook & audio; available in Spanish from Random House Mondadori). Nonfiction. When Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans in 2005, Abdulrahman Zeitoun, a prosperous Syrian-American and father of four, chose to stay through the storm to protect his house and business. In the days after the storm, he traveled the flooded streets in a secondhand canoe, helping those he could. A week later, Zeitoun abruptly disappeared.

Kozol, Jonathan. ***Fire in the Ashes: Twenty-five Years Among the Poorest Children in America*** (368 pp, 2012, Crown Publishers/Random House, hardcover, eBook & audio). Nonfiction. This culminating work about a group of inner-city children returns to the scene of Kozol's prize-winning books *Rachel and Her Children* and *Amazing Grace*, to share their journeys as they grow into adulthood.

(CA) Lopez, Steve. ***The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music*** (304 pp, 2010, Berkley Trade/Penguin Group, paper, eBook & audio). Nonfiction. The true story of journalist Steve Lopez's discovery of Nathanial Ayers, a former classical bass student at Julliard, playing his heart out on a

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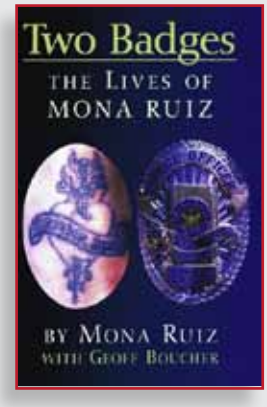
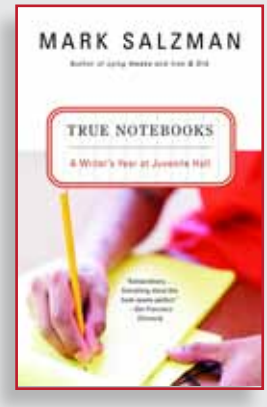
two-string violin on Los Angeles' Skid Row.

(CA) Phelps, Carissa with Larkin Warren. ***Runaway Girl: Escaping Life on the Streets, One Helping Hand at a Time*** (320 pp, 2012, Viking Adult/Penguin Group, hardcover & eBook). Nonfiction. An attorney, motivational speaker, and youth advocate, Carissa Phelps works as part of a global collective to help local and international survivors of sex trafficking rebuild their lives. Her life story was the subject of the award-winning film documentary "Carissa" (http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/carissa)



Pringle, Peter, editor. ***A Place at the Table: The Crisis of 49 Million Hungry Americans and How to Solve It*** (320 pp, forthcoming in February 2013, Participant Guide/Public Affairs, paper & eBook). Nonfiction. Forty-nine million people—including one in four children—go hungry in the U.S. every day, despite our having the means to provide nutritious, affordable food for all. Inspired by the acclaimed film documentary of the same name, this companion book offers insights from those at the front lines of solving hunger in America. Includes a chapter "Seven Steps to Ending Child Hunger by 2015."

(CA) Ruiz, Mona with Geoff Boucher. ***Two Badges: The Lives of Mona Ruiz*** (288 pp, 2005, Arte Publico Press, paper). Nonfiction. One woman's private war to escape the street gangs that have carved her barrio into turfs where one misstep leads to violence. Selected by the Santa Ana Public Library for a Book-to-Action program in 2012, with a civic engagement project that organized volunteer youth to clean up and restore picnic tables in a city park. Watch video: http://youtu.be/pDCe96qoK_w



(CA) Salzman, Mark. ***True Notebooks: A Writer's Year at Juvenile Hall*** (352 pp, 2004, Vintage/Random House, paper, eBook & audio). Nonfiction. Chronicles the author's first years teaching at Central Juvenile Hall, a lockup for Los Angeles's most violent teenage offenders. In voices of indelible emotional presence, the boys write about what led them to crime and about coming to terms with their crime-ridden pasts. Insightful, comic, honest and tragic, an object lesson in the redemptive power of writing.

Seider, Scott. ***Shelter: Where Harvard Meets the Homeless*** (304 pp, Continuum, 2010, paper & eBook). Nonfiction. Every win-

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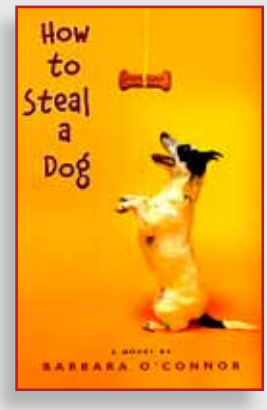
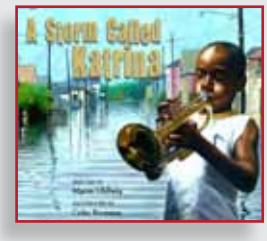
ter night the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter brings together society's most privileged and marginalized groups under one roof: Harvard students and the homeless. It is the only student-run homeless shelter in the U.S – transformative for the homeless men and women, the Harvard student volunteers, and the wider society into which both groups emerge each morning.





YOUNGER & MIDDLE

(CA) Grimes, Nikki. ***Rich: A Dyamonde Daniel Book*** (95 pp, 2009, Putnam Juvenile, hardcover, eBook & audio). Fiction. A girl's new classmate turns out to be homeless and living in a shelter. See books by same author in this series, including *Almost Zero*.

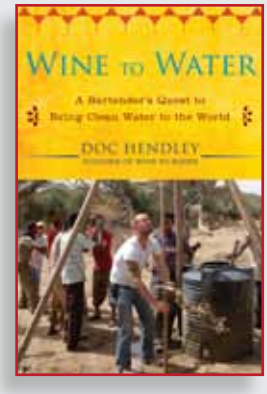
O'Connor, Barbara. ***How to Steal a Dog*** (192 pp, 2009, Square Fish/Macmillan, paper, eBook & audio). Fiction. When her family becomes homeless, a girl embarks on a desperate plan to steal a dog, collect reward money, and help her family back into permanent housing. (Middle)

(CA) Uhlberg, Myron. ***A Storm Called Katrina*** (40 pp, 2011, Peachtree Publishers, hardcover). Picture Book. A family struggles to survive when Hurricane Katrina hits their city.

Consider these activities for this category of books:

- Partner with a local organization or government agency that accepts volunteers to provide light landscaping services and home repair assistance to seniors and disabled people.
- Organize volunteers to help your local Friends of the Library to sort and sell used books, and donate proceeds to a literacy organization.
- Have a spring (or summer, or fall) cleaning block party to collect quality household goods and clothes to help a family in crisis.
- Cook and serve a special breakfast at a homeless shelter. Meet with the director and residents to find out more about homelessness in your area.
- Organize a food drive for a local food bank.

- See if you can donate books to a local juvenile hall; organize a book drive and seek volunteer high school students to collect books that will be meaningful to incarcerated youth.
- Contact local restaurants, cafes, and grocery stores to see if they will work with volunteers to distribute unwanted food to a local food bank or homeless shelter.
- Find inspiration for helping out neighbors in need from the gallery of ideas, big and small, on Feed the Children's website: (http://www.feedthechildren.org/site/PageServer?pagename=org_specialprojects_ideas) or fill a shoebox with non-food treats to send to an impoverished kid in the US or abroad: (http://www.feedthechilddren.org/site/PageServer?pagename=org_kids_stuff_USA)



HUMANITARIAN AID, INTERNATIONAL RELIEF, AND MICROCREDIT

ADULTS

Hendley, Doc. ***Wine to Water: A Bartender's Quest to Bring Clean Water to the World*** (288 pp, 2012, Avery/Penguin Group, hardcover & eBook). Nonfiction. Small-town bartender Doc Hendley launched a series of wine-tasting events to raise funds for clean-water projects and traveled to Darfur, Sudan, to outsmart terrorist attacks on water sources. His authoritative account of a global crisis is an inspirational tale that proves how ordinary people can improve the world.

Kidder, Tracy. ***Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World*** (352 pp, 2003, Random House, paper, eBook & audio). Nonfiction. From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author is the story of a gifted doctor who set out to do all he could to diagnose and cure infectious diseases and to bring the lifesaving tools of modern medicine to those who need them most.

Kristof, Nicholas D. and Sheryl WuDunn. ***Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*** (320 pp, 2009, Vintage/Random House, paper, eBook & audio). Nonfiction.

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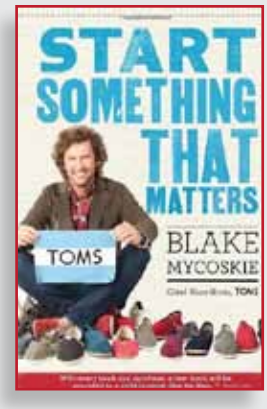

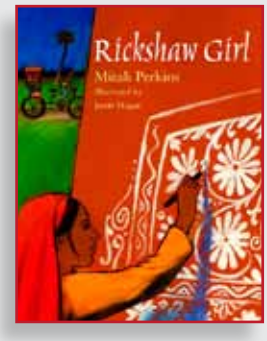

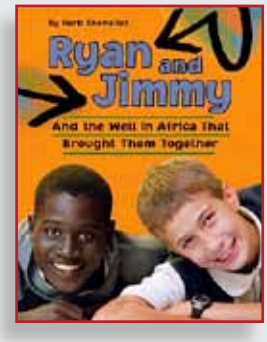

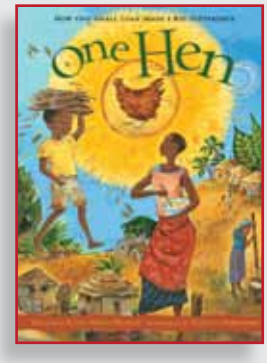

From Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists, a passionate call to arms against the oppression of women and girls in the developing world. Contains guide: "Four Steps You Can Take in the Next Ten Minutes." Companion 4-hour documentary film series produced by Independent Lens & PBS.

Mycoskie, Blake. ***Start Something That Matters*** (224 pp, 2011, Spiegel & Grau/Random House, paper, eBook & audio). The story of the man behind TOMS Shoes and One for One, the innovative business model that marries fun, profit, and social good. The author presents six simple keys for creating or transforming your own life and business, from discovering your core story to being resourceful without resources.

Yunus, Muhammad. ***Creating a World Without Poverty: Social Business and the Future of Capitalism*** (320 pp, 2008, PublicAffairs/Perseus Book Group, paper & eBook). Nonfiction. Economics professor and Nobel Peace Prize winner Yunus stopped teaching theory and began lending small amounts of money, $40 or less, without collateral, to the poorest women in the world. Thirty-three years later, the Grameen Bank has helped seven million people live better lives building businesses to serve the poor and inspired the micro-credit movement, which has helped 100 million of the poorest people in the world escape poverty.

MIDDLE & OLDER

Perkins, Mitali. ***Rickshaw Girl*** (91 pp, 2007, Charlesbridge Publishing, paper). Fiction. Set in Bangladesh, this is the story of a young artist who uses her talents to help her impoverished family. (Middle)

Shoveller, Herb. ***Ryan and Jimmy: And the Well in Africa That Brought Them Together*** (56 pp, 2006, Kids Can Press, paper). Nonfiction. How one boy's efforts led to an international effort to provide clean drinking water in places where safe wells did not exist.

YOUNGER

Milway, Katie Smith. ***One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference*** (32 pp, 2008, Kids Can Press, hardcover). Fiction/Based on a True Story. A tale of a boy in Ghana whose purchase of one hen helps his whole community escape poverty.

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Consider these activities for this category of books:

- Choose a microcredit-funded project in California to support through Global Giving (http://www.globalgiving.org/), such as the Homegirl Cafe, which helps women leave gangs in Los Angeles; or Grid Alternatives, which installs solar electric systems for low-income families throughout California.

- Contact Relief International (http://www.ri.org/) to see how you can organize volunteers to raise support for emergency relief, development assistance, or program services to vulnerable communities worldwide.

- Join the CARE Action Network (http://www.can.care.org) to learn how to organize an event to educate local policy makers to take action against poverty and injustice.

- Check out the Wine to Water website (http://winetowater.org) and consider hosting a benefit wine tasting, community walk, or other event in your community, school, or home to raise funds for clean water in a country like Sudan, India, Cambodia, Uganda, Ethiopia, or Haiti.

- Visit the One for One website (http://www.toms.com/) and consider organizing a "Style Your Sole" party: place a bulk order of plain, canvas TOMS shoes at a discount, and customize those shoes at a public event.

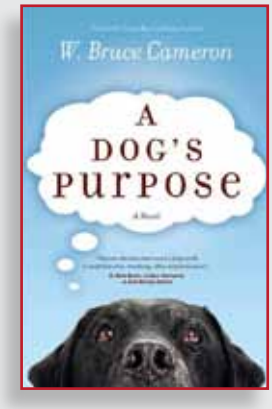
- Mitali Perkins invites readers to contact her and learn more ways to connect with front-lines international relief and development work via microfinance. Host an art-making fundraising event and send the donations to an international microfinance effort. Example: Find a park, parking lot, or gym and roll out a very long piece of butcher paper. Invite your whole community to come make art for a day. Ask businesses and individuals to sponsor a section of the paper by making a pledge to the cause.

- Try "Read to Feed" or another of the Heifer Project's fundraising ideas: http://www.heifer.org/getinvolved/fundraising-ideas

RESCUING AN ANIMAL

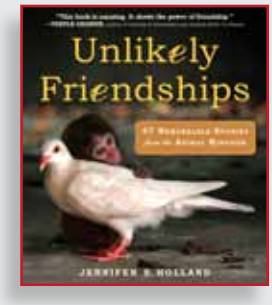
OLDER & ADULTS

Brown, Jenny. ***The Lucky Ones: My Passionate Fight for Farm Animals*** (304 pp, 2012, Avery/Penguin Books, hardcover & eBook) Nonfiction. *The Lucky Ones* introduces readers to Brown's crowning achievement, the renowned Woodstock Farm Animal Sanctuary she established with her husband in 2004. With a cast of unforgettable survivors, including a fugitive slaughterhouse cow named Kayli; Albie, the three-legged goat; and Quincy, an Easter duckling found abandoned in New York City, *The Lucky Ones* reveals shocking statistics about the prevalence of animal abuse throughout America's agribusinesses.



(CA) Cameron, W. Bruce. ***A Dog's Purpose: A Novel for Humans*** (333 pp, Forge Books/MacMillan, 2010, paper, eBook & audio). Fiction. One endearing dog's search for his purpose over the course of several lives, touching on the universal quest for an answer to life's most basic question: Why are we here? See also other books on similar themes by this author, including *A Dog's Journey: Another Novel for Humans* and *Emory's Gift*: *A Novel*.

Hammond, Charmaine. ***On Toby's Terms*** (264 pp, 2010, Bettie Youngs Book Publishers, paper & eBook). Nonfiction. An endearing story of a trouble-making adopted Chesapeake Bay retriever who teaches his owners that he is the one to lay out the terms of being the dog he needs to be. Selected by Oceanside Public Library as a Book-to-Action program in 2012, with a civic engagement activity in partnership with Love on a Leash and the San Diego Humane Society. See also *Toby, the Pet Therapy Dog and His Hospital Friends*, a children's book by the same author.



Holland, Jennifer S. ***Unlikely Friendships: 47 Remarkable Stories from the Animal Kingdom*** (210 pp, Workman Publishing, 2011, paper & eBook). Nonfiction. One heartwarming tale after another demonstrate animals who, with nothing else in common, support each other and bond in the most unexpected ways. Illustrated with full-color photographs. (See related books for Younger & Middle.)

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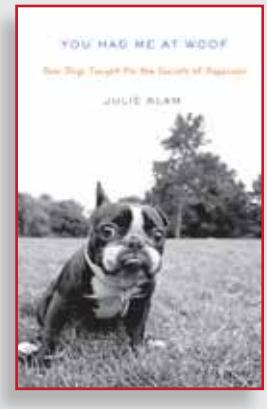
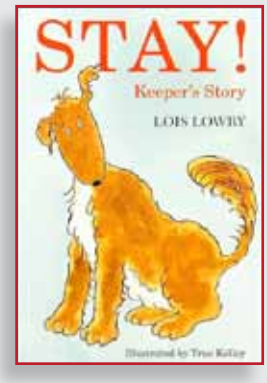


Klam, Julie. ***You Had Me at Woof: How Dogs Taught Me the Secrets of Happiness*** (240 pp, Riverhead Books/Penguin Group, 2010, paper, eBook & audio). Nonfiction. The often hilarious and always sincere story of how one woman discovered life's most important lessons from her relationships with her canine companions. See also other books on similar themes by this author, including *Love at First Bark: How Saving a Dog Can Sometimes Help You Save Yourself.*

MIDDLE

Auch, Mary Jane. ***A Dog on His Own*** (153 pp, 2009, Holiday House Books for Young People, paper & audio). Fiction. A dog escapes a shelter, survives on his own, and ultimately finds friendship—all told in his own words. (Middle)

YOUNGER & MIDDLE



Holland, Jennifer S. ***Unlikely Friendships for Kids: The Dog & The Piglet: And Four Other Stories of Animal Friendships*** (48 pp, Workman Publishing, 2012, hardcover & eBook). Non-fiction. Stories from the original book written as chapter books, with a compelling message of hope, friendship and differences overcome. See others in series, including *The Monkey & The Dove* and *The Leopard & The Cow.*

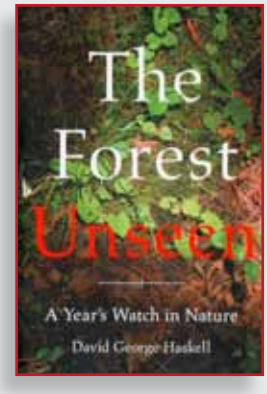
Lowry, Lois. ***Stay! Keeper's Story*** (127 pp, 1999, Yearling/Random House, paper). Fiction. A dog protagonist searches for home (in the form of his sister).

Consider these activities for this category of books:

- Organize volunteers to partner with a California chapter of Love on a Leash (http://www.loveonaleash.org/), to support their efforts to promote and offer pet-provided therapy.
- Visit the Farm Sanctuary website (http://www.farmsanctuary.org) and organize volunteers to support the Adopt-a-Farm-Animal project or one of the farm animal sanctuaries in California.
- Help shelter pets find a new home! Talk to your local animal shelter to find out how you can help.
- Older volunteers (usually 14 and up) can play with animals, help

groom and feed them, and introduce them to new families.

- Younger volunteers can make posters to advertise adoption events or volunteer with parental supervision.
- Host an adoption event at your library.
- Send a care package to a military dog! For example: http://www.give2thetroops.org/k9s.htm



PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

ADULT

Haskell, David George. ***The Forest Unseen: A Year's Watch in Nature*** (288 pp, 2012, Viking Press/Penguin Group, hardcover & eBook). Nonfiction. A biologist visits a one-square-meter patch of old-growth Tennessee forest almost daily for one year to trace nature's path through the seasons, bringing the forest and its inhabitants to vivid life.

Hawken, Paul. ***Blessed Unrest: How the Largest Social Movement in History is Restoring Grace, Justice, and Beauty to the World*** (352 pp, 2007, Penguin Books, paper, eBook & audio). Nonfiction. Exploring the diversity of the worldwide social and environmental change movement – its innovative ideas and strategies – it will inspire all who despair of the world's fate.

Hohn, Donovan. ***Moby-Duck: The True Story of 28,800 Bath Toys Lost at Sea and of the Beachcombers, Oceanographers, Environmentalists, and Fools, Including the Author, Who Went in Search of Them*** (416 pp, 2011, Penguin Books, paper, eBook & audio). Nonfiction. Donovan Hohn's research into the loss of thousands of bath toys at sea began an odyssey that led him to troubling revelations about plastics polluting the seas. Selected by the Santa Barbara Public Library for a Book-to-Action program in 2012, partnering with City of Santa Barbara Recycling Education Program and student volunteers for a city clean-up activity. Watch video: http://youtu.be/VnSjmSHrfDA

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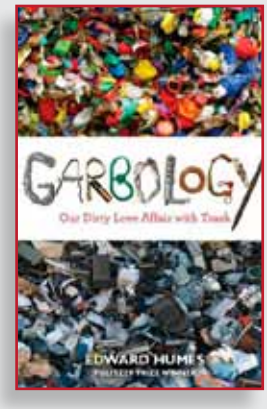

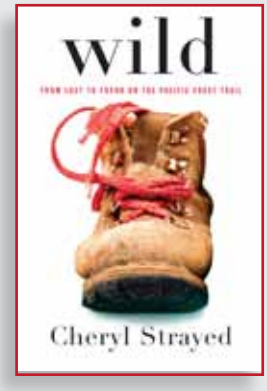

(CA) Humes, Edward. ***Garbology: Our Dirty Love Affair with Trash*** (288 pp, 2012, Avery/Penguin Group, hardcover & eBook). Nonfiction. Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist investigates the trail of the 102 tons of trash that are generated annually by the average American over the course of a lifetime—and how some families, communities, and even nations are finding a way back from waste to discover a new kind of prosperity.

Jones, Van. ***The Green Collar Economy: How One Solution Can Fix Our Two Biggest Problems*** (272 pp, 2009, HarperOne/HarperCollins, paper & eBook). Revised and updated, Van Jones's provocative bestseller delivers a viable plan for solving the two biggest issues facing the country today—the economy and the environment.

Louv, Richard. ***Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*** (390 pp, 2008, Algonquin Books, paper, eBook & audio). Nonfiction. Gathering thoughts from parents, teachers, and scientific experts, child advocacy expert Louv argues for a return to an appreciation for the natural world. Not only can nature teach kids science and nurture their creativity, he says, nature needs its children: where else will its future stewards come from? Louv's book is full of ideas for change. Selected by the Mission Valley Library in San Diego, with *Fifteen Minutes Outside* and *I Love Dirt!* (see below) for a Book-to-Action program in 2012, partnering with the Tecolote Nature Center to involve children in seed-planting activities and cultivation of native plants.

Strayed, Cheryl. ***Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail*** (336 pp, 2012, Knopf, hardcover, eBook & audio). Nonfiction. A powerful, blazingly honest memoir: the story of an eleven-hundred-mile solo hike that broke down a young woman reeling from catastrophe—and built her back up again.

MIDDLE & OLDER

Hiaasen, Carl. ***Hoot*** (292 pp, 2002, Yearling Books/Random House, paper, eBook & audio). Fiction. Kids stand up to corporations in defense of burrowing owls whose habitat is on a planned development site. (Middle)

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Napoli, Donna Jo. ***Mama Miti: Wangari Maathai and the Trees of Kenya*** (40 pp, 2010, Paula Wiseman Books /Simon & Schuster, hardcover & eBook). Picture Book, nonfiction. The story of an African Nobel Prize winner whose grassroots environmental protection efforts led to over 30,000,000 trees being planted in Kenya. (Older)

YOUNGER & MIDDLE

Cohen, Rebecca P. ***Fifteen Minutes Outside: 365 Ways to Get Out of the House and Connect with Your Kids*** (256 pp, 2011, Sourcebooks, paper & eBook). Nonfiction. Simple and inspiring, this book is bursting with hundreds of easy ways to get your family out into nature a little bit every day.

Ward, Jennifer. ***I Love Dirt!: 52 Activities to Help You and Your Kids Discover the Wonders of Nature*** (144 pp, 2008, Roost Books/ Shambhala Publications, paper & eBook). Nonfiction. No matter what your location—from a small patch of green in the city to the wide-open meadows of the country—each activity is meant to promote exploration, stimulate imagination, and heighten a child's sense of wonder.

Consider these activities for this category of books:

- Check out the National Wildlife Federation's "Be Out There" campaign website at http://www.nwf.org/be-out-there.aspx and consider rallying volunteers to organize an activity like Ranger Rick's Geocache Trails outdoor treasure hunt in a local park or nature center.

- Locate your local Sierra Club chapter (http://www.sierraclub.org) and recruit volunteers to participate in a service outing, which combines an outdoor activity (such as hiking) with a community service (like park maintenance). Or consider one of many volunteer options that the Sierra Club routinely offers, including, for example, a program that offers inner-city youth outdoor experiences.

- Organize a trash collection activity in local parks and on city streets as part of the Zero Waste Movement of "Pick Up America" (http://www.pickupamerica.org)

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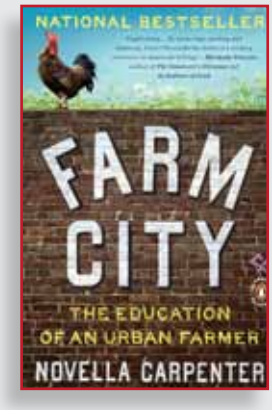
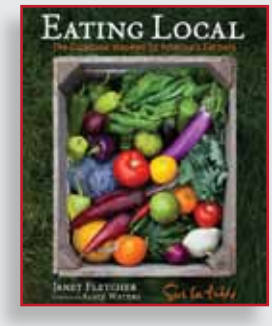
- Volunteer at an animal rescue organization and learn how to stand up for endangered animals and their habitats in your community.

SOWING SEEDS, URBAN FARMING, AND HEALTHY EATING

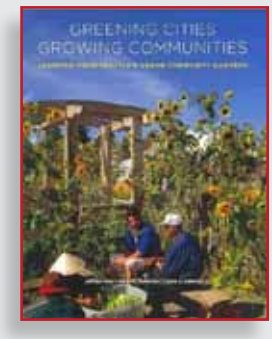
OLDER & ADULT



(CA) Carpenter, Novella. ***Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer*** (288 pp, 2009, Penguin Books, paper, eBook & audio). Nonfiction. An entertaining and educational memoir about the author's development and tending of an urban farm in an abandoned lot next door to her inner-city Oakland house. Selected by the Hayward Public Library for a Book-to-Action program in 2011, with a civic engagement activity that mobilized volunteers to participate in a community garden work day at a local middle school garden. Watch video: http://youtu.be/tOkDOYR5Pb4



(CA) Fletcher, Janet. ***Eating Local: The Cookbook Inspired by America's Farmers*** (320 pp, 2010, Andrews McMeel Publishing, hardcover). Nonfiction. Food columnist and winner of three James Beard awards, Fletcher packs lots of information and beautiful photographs into a book documenting family farms and community supported agriculture projects around the country.

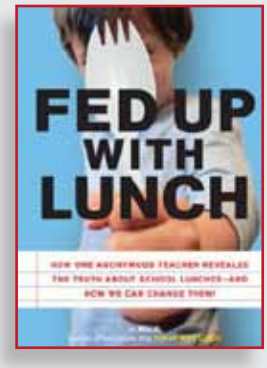


Hou, Jeffrey, et. al., ***Greening Cities, Growing Communities: Learning from Seattle's Urban Community Gardens*** (232 pp, 2009, University of Washington Press, paper). Nonfiction. Although there are thousands of community gardens across North America, only Seattle and a few other cities include them in their urban development plans. While the conditions and experiences in Seattle may be unique, the city's programs offer insights and lessons for other cities and communities.

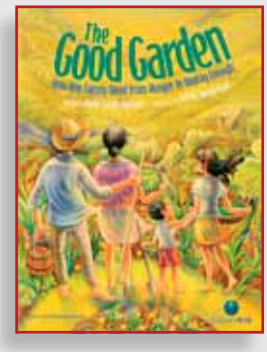
(CA) Masumoto, David M. ***Epitaph for a Peach: Four Seasons on My Family Farm*** (256 pp, 1995, HarperOne, paper & eBook). Nonfiction. A lyrical, sensuous and thoroughly engrossing memoir of one critical year in the life of an organic peach farmer.

(CA) Pollan, Michael. ***In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto*** (256 pp, 2008, Penguin Books, paper, eBook & audio). Nonfiction. "Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants." This simple guideline goes to the heart of this book, which answers questions the author posed in his bestselling *The Omnivore's Dilemma*. Selected by the Hayward Public Library for a Book-to-Action program in 2011, with a civic engagement activity that brought community members together for a multicultural potluck meal at a local community garden.

Ray, Janisse. ***The Seed Underground: A Growing Revolution to Save Food*** (217 pp, 2012, Chelsea Green Publishing, paper & eBook). Nonfiction. With a literary lyricism that prompted a *New York Times* writer to proclaim her the Rachel Carson of the south, the author presents inspiring stories of ordinary gardeners whose aim is to save time-honored, open-pollinated seed varieties that will be lost if people don't grow, save, and swap the seeds.



Wu, Sarah. ***Fed Up with Lunch: The School Lunch Project: How One Anonymous Teacher Revealed the Truth About School Lunches—And How We Can Change Them!*** (208 pp, 2011, Chronicle Books, hardcover & eBook). Nonfiction. When school teacher Mrs. Q forgot her lunch one day, she had no idea she was about to embark on an odyssey to uncover the truth about public school lunches. Shocked by what her students were served, she resolved to eat school lunch for an entire year, chronicling her experience anonymously on a blog (http://FedUpwithLunch.com) that received thousands of hits daily, and was lauded by such food activists as Mark Bittman, Jamie Oliver, and Marion Nestle.



MIDDLE

Milway, Katie Smith. ***The Good Garden: How One Family Went from Hunger to Having Enough*** (32 pp, 2010, Kids Can Press, hardcover). Picture Book. A story of a poor Honduran family learning sustainability techniques for growing food and ways to directly support their own family.

Reynolds, Jan. ***Cycle of Rice, Cycle of Life*** (48 pp, 2009, Lee & Low Books, hardcover). Nonfiction. A photographic story of sustainable farming from the island of Bali.

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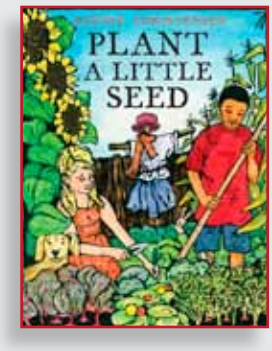


YOUNGER

Brisson, Pat. ***Wanda's Roses*** (32 pp, 2000, Boyds Mills Press/Highlights for Children, paper). Picture Book. A community creates a lovely rose garden in a vacant lot.

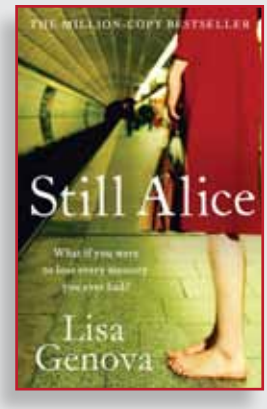
Christensen, Bonnie. ***Plant a Little Seed*** (32 pp, 2012, Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, hardcover). Picture Book. Children work together to grow something wonderful in a community garden.

Consider these activities for this category of books:

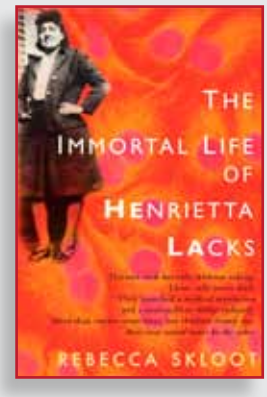
- Find out about joining or starting a community garden in your area.
- Invite community supported agriculture farms to speak at an educational event, and, if possible, arrange for the library to be a drop-off point for fresh produce food subscriptions.
- Join or start a volunteer foraging group in your community, to share and utilize unclaimed fruit from urban fruit trees.
- Some areas, such as Los Angeles, are participating in community-driven initiatives to plant more trees and greenery in ultra-urban areas. http://www.milliontreesla.org/
- Host a gardening program at your library in which everyone learns how to cultivate and plant seeds, and start seedlings to grow at home. Create a facebook page or social networking site where families can post pictures and updates of their mini-gardens, and organize a community potluck dinner featuring the produce at harvest-time!
- Start a seed-sharing program at your library to help promote the preservation of heirloom varieties.
- "Adopt a highway" in your area to plant flowers or pick up trash. (If every highway has already been "adopted," contact the adopters and find out if you can join them on clean-up day.)
- Start a joint community gardening project in which immigrants and citizens share agricultural skills for local, sustainable farming. Find out more here: http://www.rescue.org/new-roots-america

HEALTH AND AGING

ADULT

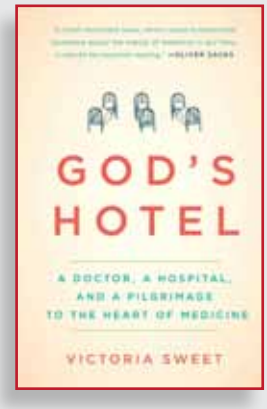


Buettner, Dan. ***The Blue Zones: 9 Lessons for Living Longer from the People Who've Lived the Longest*** (336 pp, 2nd. ed., 2012, National Geographic, paper & eBook) Nonfiction. Since publishing his bestselling *The Blue Zones*, longevity expert and National Geographic Explorer Dan Buettner has discovered a new Blue Zone and launched a major public health initiative. *The Blue Zones, Second Edition* expands his bestselling classic on longevity, drawing on his research from extraordinarily long-lived communities—Blue Zones—around the globe to highlight the lifestyle, diet, outlook, and stress-coping practices that will add years to your life and life to your years. Selected by the Multnomah County Library for the first Book-to-Action program in 2008, with a civic engagement project that organized volunteers to help out at the National Conference on Positive Aging.



Genova, Lisa. ***Still Alice*** (292 pp, 2009, Gallery Books/Simon & Schuster, paper, eBook & audio). Fiction. Neuroscientist turned novelist presents the story of a 50-year-old Harvard professor's sudden descent into early onset Alzheimer's disease.

Skloot, Rebecca. ***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*** (400 pp, 2010, Broadway/Crown Publishing Group, paper, large print, eBook, & audio). Nonfiction. Scientists knew Henrietta Lacks as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine.



(CA) Sweet, Victoria. ***God's Hotel: A Doctor, a Hospital, and a Pilgrimage to the Heart of Medicine*** (384 pp, 2012, Riverhead/Penguin Group, hardcover & eBook). Nonfiction. A descendant of the Hôtel-Dieu (God's Hotel) that cared for the sick poor in the middle ages, San Francisco's Laguna Honda Hospital was the last almshouse in the country. Anyone, artist or thief, who had fallen on hard times ended up there, where Sweet practiced a kind of "slow medicine" and learned the value of caring for body and soul.

Vonnegut, Mark. ***Just Like Someone Without Mental Illness Only More So: A Memoir*** (224 pp, 2011, Bantam Books/Random House,

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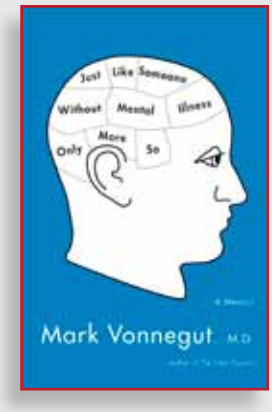
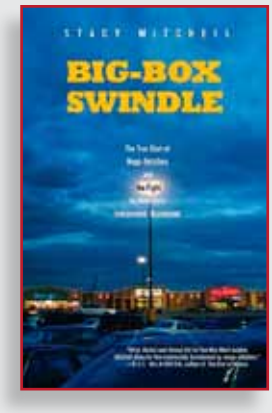
paper & eBook). Nonfiction. More than thirty years after the publication of his memoir *The Eden Express*, Mark Vonnegut (son of novelist Kurt Vonnegut) continues his story in this funny account of coping with mental illness and finding his calling.



Consider these activities for this category of books:

- Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death and the only illness among the top ten for which there is no known effective prevention, disease modifying treatment, or cure. Organize volunteers to circulate the "Stop Alzheimer's Petition" of the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (http://www.alzfdn.org/AFAServices/napa_survey.html); or recruit volunteers to distribute information about National Memory Screening Day during the month of November at sites nationwide).
- Visit the "Take Action" section of the Mental Health America website (http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net) to find a short-term advocacy project for volunteers. Find a local MHA affiliate to see if there's a local project that volunteers can support.
- Call your local hospital to find out if there's a short-term volunteer project or special event.
- Contact the American Red Cross (http://www.redcrossblood.org) to organize a blood drive at your library.



SUPPORTING LOCAL ECONOMIES

ADULTS

Mitchell, Stacy. ***Big Box Swindle: The True Cost of Mega-Retailers and the Fight for America's Independent Businesses*** (344 pp, Beacon Press, 2006, paper & eBook). Nonfiction. Illustrates how mega-retailers are fueling many of our most pressing problems, from the shrinking middle class to rising pollution and diminished civic engagement—and shows how a growing number of communities and independent businesses are effectively fighting back.

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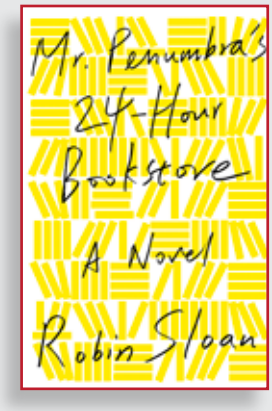


Shuman, Michael. ***The Small-Mart Revolution: How Local Businesses Are Beating the Global Competition*** (285 pp, 2007, Berrett-Koehler Publishers, paper & eBook). Nonfiction. Shuman argues that locally owned businesses are more beneficial to their communities than massive chains like Wal-Mart, and outlines strategies that small and home-based businesses—and, by extension, consumers, investors and policymakers—can follow to compete against the world's largest companies.

(CA) Sloan, Robin. ***Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore*** (304 pp, 2012, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, hardcover, eBook & audio). Fiction. The Great Recession has shuffled Clay Jannon out of his life as a San Francisco Web-design drone—and serendipity and sheer curiosity has landed him a new gig working the night shift at Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore, a hole-in-the-wall San Francisco business.

MIDDLE

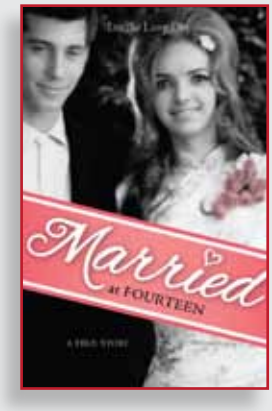
Clements, Andrew. ***Lunch Money*** (222 pp, 2005, Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster, paper & eBook). Fiction. Twelve-year-old Greg, who has always been good at moneymaking projects, is surprised to find himself teaming up with his lifelong rival, Maura, to create a series of comic books to sell at school.

Consider these activities for this category of books:

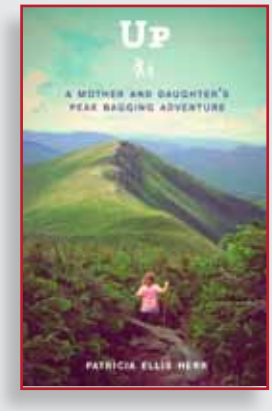
- Contact your local chamber of commerce or neighborhood business association to see how you can support its "Buy Local Program."
- Contact a local independent bookstore or business and offer to organize or support a "cash mob" event or "Small Business Saturday" campaign for the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Educate the community about the benefits of supporting independently owned and operated small businesses. Provide refreshments and, if possible, live entertainment.
- Organize students to sell their original artwork, crafts, or comic books in association with a "Buy Local" event, and donate money raised to support a school project.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT OF GIRLS

ADULTS



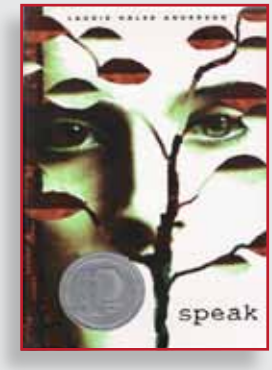
(CA) Day, Lucille Lang. ***Married at Fourteen: A True Story*** (352 pp, 2012, Heyday, paper). Nonfiction. The autobiography of a woman who married at age 14, gave birth to her first child at 15, divorced at 16, and went back to school at 18. Today she is an award-winning poet and holds several advanced degrees, including a Ph.D. in science and mathematics education from the UC Berkeley. Her successful quest shows that we need not give up, no matter how far we have veered from our goals.



Herr, Patricia Ellis. ***Up: A Mother and Daughter's Peakbagging Adventure*** (256 pp, 2012, Broadway Books/Random House, paper & eBook). Nonfiction. A mother recounts her determination to foster independence and fearlessness in her daughter, and their exhilarating–and sometimes harrowing–adventures climbing all forty-eight of New Hampshire's highest mountains.

Ledbetter, Lilly with Lanier Scott Isom. ***Grace and Grit: My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond*** (288 pp, 2012, Crown Archetype, hardcover, eBook). The courageous story of the woman at the center of the historic discrimination case that inspired the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act–her fight for equal rights in the workplace, and how her determination became a victory for the nation.

MIDDLE & OLDER



Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***Speak*** (208 pp, 1999, Farrar, Straus and Giroux/Macmillan, paper, eBook & audio). Fiction. A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school. (Older)

Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***Wintergirls*** (288 pp, 2009, Penguin, paper, eBook & audio). Fiction. Eighteen-year-old Lia comes to terms with her best friend's death from anorexia as she struggles with the same disorder. (Older)

Stead, Rebecca. ***When You Reach Me*** (208 pp, 2010, Yearling Books/Random House, paper, eBook & audio). Fiction. Newbery award winner. As her mother prepares to be a contestant on a 1970s television game show, a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space. Dealing with issues of race, friendship, social class and time travel, this story echoes a theme of actions and consequences in a non-preachy, relatable tone.

YOUNGER

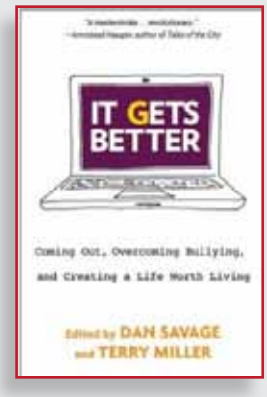
(CA) Krull, Kathleen. ***Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Woman*** (44 pp, 2000, Sandpiper, paper). Nonfiction. Biography of the African-American woman who overcame crippling polio as a child to become the first woman to win three gold medals in track in a single Olympics.

Consider these activities for this category of books:

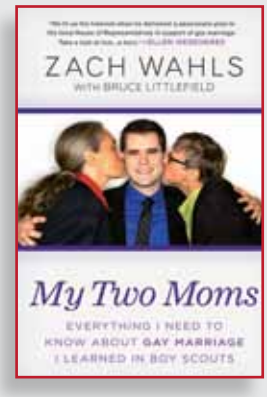
- Contact your local chapter of the American Association of University Women (http://www.aauw.org/) and organize volunteers to support one of its projects to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. Support a project that encourages girls to consider a career in math or science.
- Locate a Boys and Girls Club in your community (http://www.bgca.org/), and organize volunteers to lead girls on an outdoor hike or adventure that includes a physical challenge.
- Contact a local shelter for abused women and find out how volunteers can raise funds, clothing, or other support.
- Organize a discussion group on body image and eating disorders for teenage girls at the library; invite an expert facilitator to lead the discussion.

LGBTQ, MARRIAGE EQUALITY & ANTI-BULLYING

OLDER & ADULTS



Savage, Dan and Terry Miller, eds. ***It Gets Better: Coming Out, Overcoming Bullying, and Creating a Life Worth Living*** (352 pp, 2011, Plume/Penguin Group, paper, eBook & audio). Nonfiction. Many young people face daily tormenting and bullying, and this is especially true for LGBT kids and teens. In response to a number of tragic suicides by LGBT students, syndicated columnist and author Dan Savage uploaded a video to YouTube with his partner, Terry Miller. Speaking openly about the bullying they suffered, and how they both went on to lead rewarding adult lives, their video launched the It Gets Better Project YouTube channel and initiated a worldwide phenomenon.



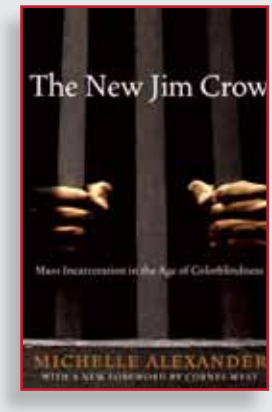
Wahls, Zach. ***My Two Moms: Lessons of Love, Strength, and What Makes a Family*** (256 pp, 2012, Gotham Books/Penguin Group, hardcover, eBook & audio). Nonfiction. On January 31, 2011, Zach Wahls addressed the Iowa House Judiciary Committee in a public forum regarding full marriage equality. The nineteen-year-old son of a same-sex couple, Wahls proudly proclaimed, "The sexual orientation of my parents has had zero effect on the content of my character." Hours later, his speech was posted on YouTube, where it went viral. By the end of the week, everyone knew his name and wanted to hear more from the boy with two moms.

Consider these activities for this category of books:

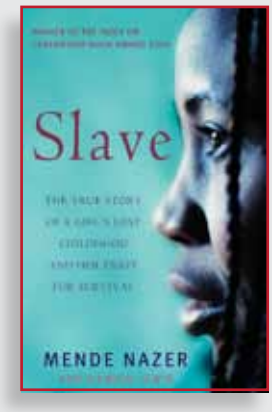
- Form partnerships with the Gay Straight Alliance clubs at local high schools, community colleges, and universities in your area.
- Organize a LGBTQ film and discussion series to raise community awareness about LGBTQ civil rights issues, marriage equality, and anti-bullying campaigns.
- Organize volunteers who want to help with fundraising for a local LGBTQ program.

CIVIL RIGHTS AND MODERN SLAVERY

ADULTS



Alexander, Michelle. ***The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*** (336 pp, 2012, The New Press, paper, eBook & audio). Nonfiction. A *New York Times* bestseller and winner of multiple awards, this exposé by a rising legal scholar argues that "we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it." By targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system relegates millions to a permanent second-class status, even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness.



Nazer, Mende and Damien Lewis. ***Slave: My True Story*** (368 pages, PublicAffairs/Perseus Book Group, 2005, paper, eBook & audio). A shocking true story of contemporary slavery: a young girl, snatched from her tribal village in Africa, survives enslavement in Sudan and London before making a courageous escape to freedom. Read Mende Nazer's most recently published book *Freedom* (278 pp, 2012, Endeavor Press, eBook only).

OLDER

McCormick, Patricia. ***Sold*** (263 pp, 2006, Hyperion Book CH, paper, eBook & audio). Fiction. A thirteen-year-old girl in modern day Nepal is sold into slavery in India without hope of escape.

Purcell, Kim. ***Trafficked*** (384 pp, 2012, Viking Juvenile, paper & eBook). Fiction. A seventeen-year-old girl in modern day Moldova is brought to the United States to work in slavery for a Los Angeles family.

Consider these activities for this category of books:

- Contact a local civil rights organization that is working on mass incarceration in the United States, including the ACLU (http://aclu.org), the NAACP, (http://www.naacp.org) the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights (http://www.lawyerscommittee.org), and the Center for Constitutional Rights, and organize a letter-writing campaign or other awareness-raising event.

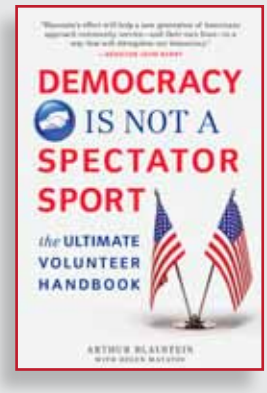
- Learn more about modern-day abolition through some of these websites and find out more about how you can be a voice for those who are trapped in slavery. http://www.antislavery.org; http://www.freethechildren.com; http://www.freetheslaves.net ; http://www.iabolish.org

- See if your city or region has any anti-trafficking organizations. Find out more ways you can get involved in awareness projects or collecting donations for after-care programs (which help take care of trafficked people post-rescue).

INSPIRING IDEAS

ADULTS

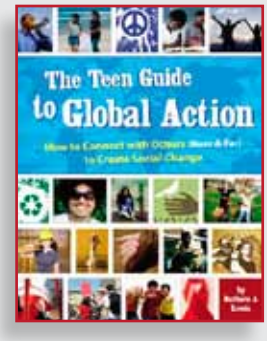
Blaustein, Arthur, with Helen Matatov. ***Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport: The Ultimate Volunteer Handbook*** (272 pp, 2011, Skyhorse Publishing, paper & eBook). Nonfiction. More than a simple resource guide, this unique handbook includes interviews, anecdotes, and commentary from the top folks in nonprofit and service fields and ties together the strands of volunteering, community service, and civic engagement.



MIDDLE & OLDER

Lewis, Barbara A. ***The Kid's Guide to Service Projects*** (160 pp, 2009, Free Spirit Publishing, paper & eBook). Nonfiction. A former schoolteacher shares over 500 service project ideas for kids, community groups, and classrooms wanting to make a difference. (Middle)

Lewis, Barbara A. ***The Teen Guide to Global Action: How To Connect with Others (Near & Far) to Create Social Change*** (144 pp, 2007, Free Spirit Publishing, paper & eBook). Nonfiction. A list of resources and project ideas for teenagers who want to turn their concerns and passions into action steps. (Older)



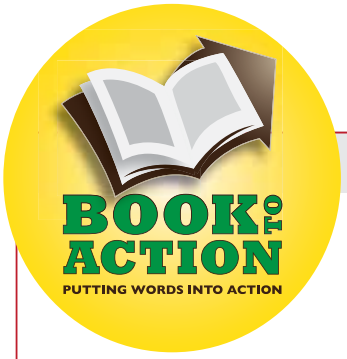
Sundem, Garth. ***Real Kids, Real Stories, Real Change: Courageous Actions Around the World*** (176 pp, 2010, Free Spirit Publishing, paper & eBook). Nonfiction/Biography. Thirty stories of children from around the world who used their talents and passions to make the world a better place in big and small ways. (Middle)

Other ideas for librarians and teachers:

Take a look at the recommendations from this study, *Graffiti, Poetry, Dance: How Public Library Art Programs Affect Teens Part 2: The Research Study and Its Practical Implications:* http://www.yalsa.ala.org/jrlya/2012/09/graffiti-poetry-dance-how-public-library-art-programs-affect-teens-part-2-the-research-study-and-its-practical-implications/#more-170

Though the projects in this research study were all art-based, the authors make some recommendations that would be useful in planning any type of civic engagement project for teenagers. For example, they note that one theme from their research is that teens want to help but don't want to be forced to help or taught civic lessons in didactic ways. Offer an array of options and follow through with the one the teens want to do, not necessarily the librarian's most convenient choice!

Sample Participant Feedback Form. Download and modify as you wish.



GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK

Recently you participated in a special book club through your local library called **"Book to Action."** It included reading and discussing a book, a visit by the author or subject expert, and a community service project related to the book. We would like to know about your experience(s) to determine if we should offer this opportunity again.

1. In addition to reading the book, did you attend a book discussion meeting?

Yes___ No____ Comments:

2. Did you attend a presentation by the author of the book?

Yes___ No____ Comments:

3. Did you learn something new and valuable about a current topic by reading and discussing the book chosen for the project?

Yes___ No____ Comments:

4. Did you participate in the community service project offered?

Yes___ No____ (if no, skip to question 7) If you participated in one or more projects, please list here:

5. Did you learn something new and valuable about a service need in your community?

Yes___ No____ Comments:

Please provide your contact information if you would like to be contacted about helping with or participating in future Book-to-Action programs.

Name _____ **Email** _____ **Phone** _____

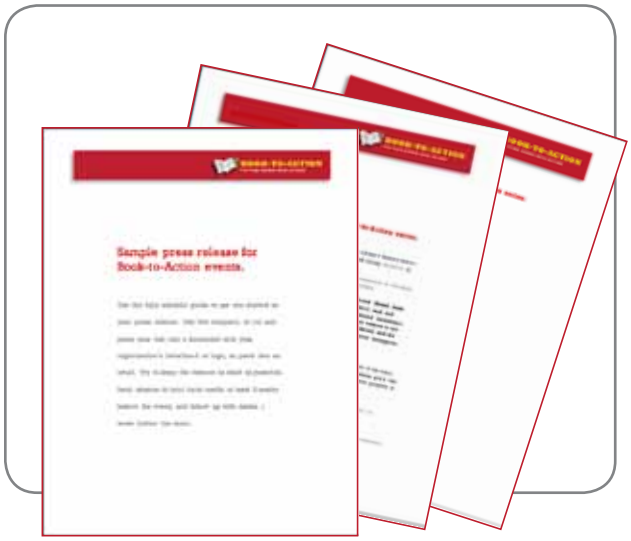
BOOK-TO-ACTION

RESOURCE KIT

Link directly to the handy downloadable resources on this page to help you create the materials you'll need to promote your library's Book-to-Action program and activities.

Fully Editable Brochure Template-MS Word

Create a professional looking brochure with all the important details of your Book-to-Action program and activities.



Fully Editable Press Release Template-MS Word

Create a professional looking Press Release with all the important details of your Book-to-Action program and activities.

Scalable Camera-ready Logos

Use any of these camera-ready Book-to-Action logos (in jpeg format) in printed materials, from flyers to postcards, to posters.

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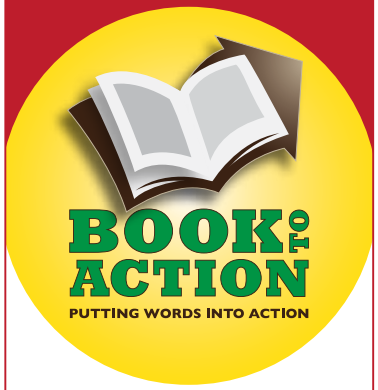
discuss
with a book group

meet
the author

ACT
volunteer in your community



BOOK-TO-ACTION builds on the traditional book club concept, but in addition to providing an opportunity to collectively **READ** and **DISCUSS** a book, Book-to-Action enables readers to put their new-found knowledge into **ACTION** by engaging in a community service project related to the book's topic. To learn more about Book-to-Action programs in California libraries, visit the California State Library's Book-to-Action website. Download a toolkit and other resources that can help you bring Book-to-Action to your community.

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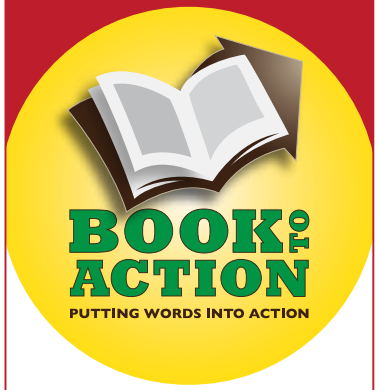

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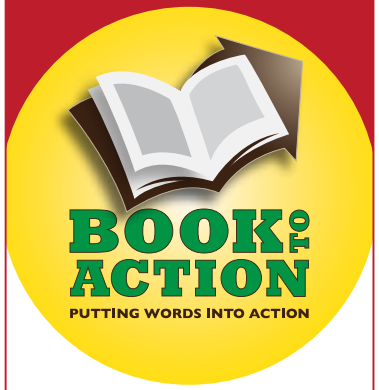

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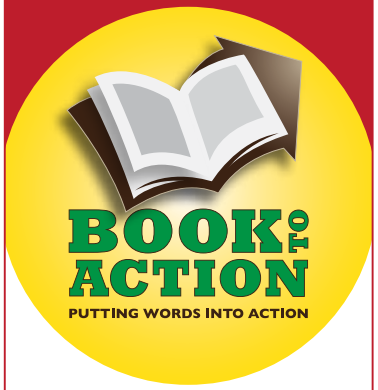

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Download and fill out this form in Word Format.

TOOLKIT EVALUATION FORM

Please tell us if you found this Toolkit useful, if you have suggestions for books that you'd like to recommend to other Book-to-Action program organizers, or anything else you'd like to comment on.

Library:_____

Program Organizer Name(s):_____

Email Address:_____**Phone Number:**_____

How the Toolkit was most useful to you:

How the Toolkit was least useful to you/what you'd recommend for changes, if the opportunity is available to edit the Toolkit:

Recommendations for Book-to-Action Book selections and related civic engagement activities:

Any other comments:

Return this form via email to Mary Menzel (mmenzel@calbook.org) or by mail c/o Mary Menzel, California Center for the Book, 694 S. Oxford Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90005. Questions? Call Mary (213) 738-7055 x10

Download and fill out this form in Word Format.

OUR LIBRARY'S BOOK-TO-ACTION STORY

Tell us about your Book-to-Action program, and share your successes and lessons learned, so others can benefit from your experience!

Library:_____

Program Organizer Name(s):_____

Email Address:_____ **Phone Number:**_____

Date of Event(s):_____

BookSelection:_____

Partner(s):_____

Civic Engagement Activity:

Highlights/Successes:

Challenges/what we wish we could have done differently:

Please send along copies of program flyers, a few of the best photos documenting the event(s) (or the URL where photos are posted), newspaper coverage of the event, video documentation (if available), and anything else you think might be of interest, so we can highlight selected material with other Book-to-Action program organizers.

Return this form via email to Mary Menzel (mmenzel@calbook.org) or by mail c/o Mary Menzel, California Center for the Book, 694 S. Oxford Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90005. Questions? Call Mary (213) 738-7055 x10

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