



## RECOMMENDED READING

### PRESCHOOL AND EARLY ELEMENTARY

[The Giving Box: Create a Tradition of Giving with Your Children](#) by Fred Rogers (giving). Ages 7 and up. The folktales and fables in this small volume encourage children in the spirit of giving. A “giving box” is also included – a simple way to make donating to charity a family ritual.

[The Kid’s Guide to Service Projects: Over 500 Service Ideas for Young People Who Want to Make a Difference](#) by Barbara A. Lewis (general project ideas). Ages 8 and up. Find services ideas—big and small—that inspire or interest you and learn how to expand on them.

[The Quiltmakers Gift](#) by Jeff Brumbeau (fable about greed). When a generous quilt maker finally agrees to make a quilt for a greedy king but only under certain conditions, she causes him to undergo a change of heart.

[The Mitten Tree](#) by Candice Christiansen (generosity). Touching message and delightful illustrations, adults and children will enjoy this intergenerational tale of generosity for years to come.

[Is There Really a Human Race](#) by Jamie Lee Curtis (relationships and good choices). Relishing the journey of life and making good choices along the way—because how we live and how we love is how we learn to make the world a better place, one small step at a time.

[A Castle on Viola Street](#) (homelessness) by DyAnne DiSalvo. Andy’s hardworking family gets their own house at last by joining a community program that restores old, abandoned houses.

[The Trees of the Dancing Goats](#) (generosity) by Patricia Polacco. Trisha loves Hanukkah and her family learns about sick neighbors and finds a way to help them. Based on a long-cherished childhood memory, this story celebrates the miracle of true friendship and giving.

[The Lady in the Box](#) (homelessness) by Ann McGovern. It is wintertime in the city and freezing cold, but not everyone is inside and warm. Ben and his sister Lizzie know that there is a lady who lives outside in a box over a warm air vent. The children worry about the kind-looking lady, and begin sneaking food and clothes out of their apartment for her. Gently told and powerfully illustrated in rich hues, *The Lady in the Box* deals candidly with the issue of homelessness.

[How to Heal a Broken Wing](#) (kindness) by Bob Graham. In a city full of hurried people, only young Will notices the bird lying hurt on the ground. With the help of his sympathetic mother, he gently wraps the injured bird and takes it home. In classic Bob Graham style, the beauty is in the details: the careful ministrations with an eyedropper, the bedroom filled with animal memorabilia, the saving of the single feather as a good-luck charm for the bird’s return to the



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sky. Wistful and uplifting, here is a tale of possibility – and of the souls who never doubt its power.

[One Winter's Day](#) (sharing with friends) by Christina Butler. When a fierce windstorm blows away Little Hedgehog's nest, he puts on his winter clothes and sets off for Badger's warm house. On his way, Hedgehog meets his friends, all shivering in the wind and snow. One by one, Hedgehog gives away his cozy mittens, hat, and scarf. But will Little Hedgehog make it through the storm to safety without his warm clothes? A delightful story about sharing with others, with soft flocking wherever Little Hedgehog's mittens, hat and scarf appear.

[My Friend Fred](#) (sharing with friends/siblings) by Hiawyn Oram. Grace and her dog, Fred, do everything together. Fred is mine, thinks Grace. My friend Fred. Grace's sister, Sarah, who has lots of friends, tells Grace that Fred is the family dog, not just her dog. One day when Sarah's friends come over she invites Fred the family dog to play ball. Grace does not want to share Fred. She takes him to her room and shuts the door tight. But for the first time ever, Fred does not want to play with her. Grace learns that friends don't keep friends all to themselves in this heart-warming doggy tale about sharing

[One of Each](#) (sharing with friends) by Mary Ann Hoberman. Oliver Tolliver lives all alone and has one of everything in his little house—one table, one chair, one apple, and one pear. A friend feels his house leaves no room for anyone else. In the end, he realizes that sharing makes room for friends.

[The Spiffiest Giant in Town](#) (generosity with friends) by Julia Donaldson. When George the giant spies a shop full of wonderful clothes, he decides to treat himself to a new outfit. He puts on his new shirt, pants, shoes, and tie, and is immediately transformed from the scruffiest giant in town to the spiffiest giant in town. But on his way home, George runs into various animals who need his help. And little by little, George finds himself giving away all his new purchases.

[Boxes for Katie](#) (international giving project) by Candace Fleming. This inspiring story, with strikingly original art, is based on the author's mother's childhood and will show young readers that they, too, can make a difference.

[A Chair for My Mother](#) (generosity in families) by Vera Williams. After their home is destroyed by a fire, Rosa, her mother, and grandmother save their coins to buy a really comfortable chair for all to enjoy. An ideal choice for reading and sharing at home and in the classroom. "A superbly conceived picture book expressing the joyful spirit of a loving family."

[The Mine-o-Saur](#) (sharing with friends) by Sudipta Quallen. A subtle lesson of sharing through the Mine-O-Saur's adventures.



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[Beatrice's Goat](#) (international giving) by Page McBrier. This illustrated book offers the true story of how a poor African girl was able to attend school after receiving a goat as a gift through a special international project and then sell its milk to get the money needed to buy her books.

### LATE ELEMENTARY

[Real Kids, Real Stories, Real Change: Courageous Actions Around the World](#) by Garth Sundem (generosity). Ages 9–13. Children from around the world, motivated by their own beliefs and ingenuity, found creative ways to raise money for causes that they believed in.

[The Cats in Krasinski Square](#) by Karen Hesse (survival and resourcefulness). When Karen Hesse came upon a short article about cats out-foxing the Gestapo at the train station in Warsaw during WWII, she couldn't get the story out of her mind. The result is this stirring account of a Jewish girl's involvement in the Resistance. At once terrifying and soulful, this fictional account, borne of meticulous research, is a testament to history and to our passionate will to survive, as only Newbery Medalist Karen Hesse can write it.

[Angelo](#) by David Macaulay (kindness). High above the rooftops of Rome, Angelo begins his work restoring the façade of a once glorious church. Among the sticks and feathers, he discovers a wounded bird. Finding no safe place to leave her, Angelo becomes the bird's reluctant savior.

[14 Cows for America](#) by Carmen Agra Deedy (international giving). In June of 2002, a very unusual ceremony begins in a far-flung village in western Kenya. An American diplomat is surrounded by hundreds of Maasai people. A gift is about to be bestowed upon the American men, women, and children, and he is there to accept it. The gift is as unexpected as it is extraordinary.

[When Stories Fell Like Shooting Stars](#) by Valiska Gregory (greed vs generosity). A creatively designed picture book written in lyrical prose offers two animal fables, one told by the Fox and the other by the Bear, that challenge young readers to determine which of the stories is indeed true.

[An Orange for Frankie](#) (the holiday spirit of giving during the Great Depression) by Patricia Polacco. This is a holiday story close to Patricia Polacco's heart. Frankie was her grandmother's youngest brother, and every year she and her family remember this tale of a little boy who learned--and taught--an important lesson about giving, one Christmas long ago.



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### YOUNG ADULT

[A Kid's Guide to Giving](#) by Freddi Zeiler (innovation, charity.) Ages 12 and up. A Kid's Guide to Giving challenges young people to give to charitable causes, whether through monetary donations, donations of items, or volunteering.

[Money Making Ideas for Kids and Teens: Starting Your Own Business-A Guide for Teen Entrepreneurs \(Kids and Money\) \(Volume 2\)](#) by Debbie Madson (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2014). Find ways to make—or raise—money by drawing on personal interests and talents and creating a job that is a perfect fit.

[The Promise of a Pencil: How an Ordinary Person Can Create Extraordinary Change](#) by Adam Braun (social enterprise). Take inspiration from the story of Adam Braun, who went from working for a hedge fund company to starting a charity after a chance encounter with a young boy.

[A Single Shard](#) by Linda Sue Park (Newbery Winner, responsibility). Excellent story that teaches there are consequences to each and every act (each shard) of people.

[A Picture of Freedom - The Diary of a Slave Girl](#) by Patricia McKissack (equality). "Freedom is one of the first words I taught myself to write. Down in the Quarters people pray for freedom - they sing 'bout freedom, but to keep Mas' Henley from knowin' their true feelings, they call freedom "heaven." Everybody's mind is on freedom."

[One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference](#) by Katie Smith Milway (international giving). Inspired by true events, One Hen tells the story of Kojo, a boy from Ghana who turns a small loan into a thriving farm and a livelihood for many.

[I will always write back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives](#) by Martin Ganda (international giving). The New York Times bestselling true story of an all-American girl and a boy from Zimbabwe and the letter that changed both of their lives forever.

### ADULTS

[Robin Hood Was Right: A Guide to Giving Your Money for Social Change](#) by Chuck Collins, Pam Rogers and Joan P. Garner (charity). Supports the dictum "Change, not charity!" Explains how to give your money to get at the roots of social problems, rather than supporting short-term "band-aid" solutions. Provides guidance for choosing worthwhile causes and strategies for social change.

[Fundraising for Dummies](#) by John Mutz. An introduction and step-by-step guide to fundraising.



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[How To Make Fast Cash: Fun and Legal Ways To Earn More Money In A Weekend \(Welcome Abundance\)](#) (Volume 1) by Judy Helm Wright (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2013). Filled with ingenious ways to make “easy” money, this book contains suggestions that could be utilized for fundraising purposes.

[The Power of Half](#) by Hannah Salwen and Kevin Salwen (charity and generosity); Story of one family’s journey of donating half of everything.

[The Opposite of Spoiled: Raising Kids who are Grounded, Generous, and Smart About Money](#) by Ron Leiber

### GREAT FOR ALL AGES

[The Giving Tree](#) by Shel Silverstein. Since it was first published fifty years ago, Shel Silverstein’s poignant picture book for readers of all ages has offered a touching interpretation of the gift of giving and a serene acceptance of another’s capacity to love in return.

[The Giving Book](#) (ideas for giving; great for teaching generosity) by Ellen Sabin  
good ideas for all ages