***Recommendations by Dr. Rita***

* [***Children Just Like Me***](http://www.amazon.com/Children-Just-Like-Me-Celebration/dp/0789402017/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1341600561&sr=8-1&keywords=children+just+like+me) – by Barnabas and Anabel Kindersley; DK Publishing, Inc.; ISBN 0-7894-02017; Lesson using this book and comparing children’s lifestyles can be found at <http://bmcee.uark.edu/339.asp> - title *Children of the World*.

In this book, readers travel around the world learning about youngsters from 140 countries. The volume is divided by continent, which is introduced with photos of children, their names, and nationalities. Then a double-page spread features pictures of each child's food, eating utensils, housing, school, friends, and family. The text gives the young people a chance to comment on their favorite games, friends, and hopes for the future. Students learn about lifestyle similarities and differences.

Accompanying books include [***Children Just Like Me: Our Favorite Stories***](http://www.amazon.com/Children-Just-Like-Me-Favorite/dp/0789414864/ref=sr_1_6?ie=UTF8&qid=1341600561&sr=8-6&keywords=children+just+like+me) and [***A Life Like Mine: How Children Live Around the World***](http://www.amazon.com/Life-Like-Mine-Children-Around/dp/0756618037/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1341600561&sr=8-3&keywords=children+just+like+me) – all by DK Publishing.

* [***Beatrice’s Goat***](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_ss_i_2_8?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=beatrice%27s+goat&sprefix=Beatrice%2Cstripbooks%2C188) – by Page McBrier; Simon & Schuster; ISBN 978-0689824609. In this story, Beatrice’s family receives a goat provided by Heifer International. They are able to become healthier because of the protein provided by the milk. The family is also able to sell the extra milk which provides income. This income is spent to send Beatrice to school and to build a new house for the family. There are costs associated with the goat. The family had to build a fence and to grow food. But the benefits far outweighed the costs they incurred. This is based on a true story. Beatrice studied in Arkansas at the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service.
* [***One Hen – How One Small Oan Made a Big Difference***](http://www.amazon.com/One-Hen-Small-Difference-CitizenKid/dp/1554530288/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1341601123&sr=1-1&keywords=One+Henhttp://www.amazon.com/One-Hen-Small-Difference-CitizenKid/dp/1554530288/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1341601123&sr=1-1&keywords=One+Hen)–by Katie Smith Milway; Kids Can Press; ISBN 978-1-55453-028-1; for a debriefing guide - <http://bmcee.uark.edu/336.asp> .

In this story, Kojo, a young boy borrows money from his mother’s microloan to buy a hen. He eats eggs and sells them. He uses his earnings to better his life and to go to school. After studying at the university, he returns and opens a large poultry production facility in Ghana. He employs lots of people and pays taxes that help Ghana to build an infrastructure and provide more goods and services for their citizens. He later starts his own microlending company. This is based on a true story.

* [***Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai***](http://www.amazon.com/Planting-Trees-Kenya-Wangari-Maathai/dp/0374399182/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1341601367&sr=1-1&keywords=planting+the+trees+of+kenya+the+story+of+wangari+maathai+by+claire+a.+nivola)– by Claire A. Nivola; Frances Foster Books; ISBN 978-0-0374-39918-4

This is the story of Wangari Maathai who was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for her Greenbelt Movement in Kenya. When Wangari returned home from college in the United States she found the village gardens dry, the people malnourished, and the trees gone. She overcame many obstacles to get women, soldiers, and many others to plant trees to stop erosion, provide shade, clean the air, provide fire wood, and to deliver many things needed by the Kenyans. Great book to help children understand the economic value of a natural resource often taken for granted.

* [***The Good Garden – How One Family Went from Hunger to Having Enough***](http://www.amazon.com/Good-Garden-Family-Hunger-CitizenKid/dp/1554534887/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1341601610&sr=1-1&keywords=the+good+garden+how+one+family+went+from+hunger+to+having+enough)– by Katie Smith Milway; <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-good-garden-katie-smith-milway/1111425139?ean=9781554534883> .

From the best-selling author of One Hen comes the inspiring story of one struggling farming family in Honduras and their journey to growing enough food to meet their needs. Based on the real story of farm transformation underway in Honduras and many other countries, this book offers children ways they can be part of the movement to grow "good gardens" and foster food security. Eleven-year-old Maria Luz and her family live on a small farm. This year their crop is poor, and they may not have enough to eat or to sell for other essentials, such as health care, school uniforms and books. When Maria's father must leave home to find work, she is left in charge of their garden. Then a new teacher comes to Maria's school and introduces her to sustainable farming practices that yield good crops. As Maria begins to use the same methods at home, she too sees improvements, which allow her family to edge their way out of the grip of the greedy "coyotes" -- the middlemen who make profits on the backs of poor farmers. Little by little, the farms -- and the hopes -- of Maria and her neighbors are transformed as good gardens begin to grow.

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* [***The Pot That Juan Built***](http://www.amazon.com/that-Juan-built-Nancy-Andrews-Goebel/dp/1600608485/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1341601711&sr=1-1&keywords=the+pot+that+juan+built+by+nancy+andrews-goebel)  - by Nancy Andrews-Goebel; Lee & Low Books Inc.; ISBN 978-1-58430-038-0

Noted Mexican potter Juan Quezada is the subject of an inventive and engrossing biography from newcomer Andrews-Goebel (who coproduced a documentary on Quezada) and Caldecott winner Diaz. On the left side of each spread, a "House That Jack Built"-style rhyme accumulates the often humble factors that shaped an extraordinary artist. This lilting rhyme describes the rudiments of Quezada's process, but for more ambitious readers, the opposite page provides a straightforward elaboration which provides details of the natural resources and capital tools used to produce the pots. The end of the book includes more information about Juan and the other potters he trained in his village of Mata Ortiz. Because of Juan’s entrepreneurship, the people of the town have running and water and electricity. They can remain in the town and country they love without concerns of supporting their families which sometimes lead to emigration. Great resources for teaching many economic concepts.

* [***Listen to the Wind***](http://www.amazon.com/Listen-Wind-Greg-Mortenson/dp/0803730586/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1341796131&sr=1-1&keywords=listen+to+the+wind)– by Greg Mortenson and Susan Roth; Dial Books for Young Readers; ISBN 978-0-8037-3058-8  
    
  This children’s version of *Three Cups of Tea* telling the story of Greg Mortenson’s fateful climb of K2 in Pakistan, describes how he built a school to repay the villagers who saved his life. The book can be used by young readers to discuss the productive resources needed to build a school. The students will be amazed by the desire to learn and lack of availability of schools. Students learn the value of school as it improves human capital or makes the learners more productive workers.
* [***If America Were a Village***](http://www.amazon.com/If-America-Were-Village-CitizenKid/dp/1554533449/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1341796502&sr=1-1&keywords=if+america+were+a+village+a+book+about+the+people+of+the+united+states) – by David J. Smith; Kids Can Press; ISBN 978-1-55453-344-2

Another CitizenKid book. America, with all its diversity, is not easily defined. David J. Smith's *If America Were a Village* takes a snapshot - past, present and future - to help define America for children. Using the same successful metaphor of the international bestseller *If the World Were a Village*, the book shrinks down America to a village of 100. The metaphor helps children easily understand American ethnic origins, religions, family profiles, occupations, wealth, belongings and more. Who are the people living in this vast and varied nation? Where did they come from? What are they like today? How do they compare with people in other countries? The book's simple statistical analysis provides a new way of learning about where people live in America, the state of their health, the shapes and sizes of families, what they use and more - forming a concise picture of a country. *If America Were a Village* is part of CitizenKid: A collection of books that inform children about the world and inspire them to be better global citizens.

* [If the World Were a Village](http://www.amazon.com/World-Were-Village-World%252019s-CitizenKid/dp/1554535956/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1341796764&sr=1-1&keywords=if+the+world+were+a+village+by+david+j.+smithhttp://www.amazon.com/World-Were-Village-World%252019s-CitizenKid/dp/1554535956/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1341796764&sr=1-1&keywords=if+the+world+were+a+village+by+david+j.+smith) – by David J. Smith; Kids Can Press;

The 2nd Edition of the best-selling book which has sold over 400 000 copies in 17 languages updated with new content and insights about the world's people. This eye-opening book has become a classic, promoting "world-mindedness" by imagining the world's population all 6.8 billion of us as a village of just 100 people. Now, *If the World Were a Village* has been newly revised with updated statistics, several new activities and completely new material on food security, energy and health. By exploring the lives of the 100 villagers, children will discover that life in other nations is often very different from their own. Great resource to show the similarities and differences of people of the globe. Children learn that life for everyone is not just like theirs.

* [One Well: the Story of Water on Earth](http://www.amazon.com/One-Well-Story-Water-CitizenKid/dp/1553379543/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1341797894&sr=1-1&keywords=one+well+the+story+of+water+on+earth) by Rochelle Strauss;

Seen from space, our planet looks blue. This is because almost 70 percent of Earth's surface is covered with water. Earth is the only planet with liquid water -- and therefore the only planet that can support life. All water is connected. Every raindrop, lake, underground river and glacier is part of a single global well. Water has the power to change everything -- a single splash can sprout a seed, quench a thirst, provide a habitat, generate energy and sustain life. How we treat the water in the well will affect every species on the planet, now and for years to come. *One Well* shows how every one of us has the power to conserve and protect our global well. As students learn the value of water, they understand that our demand for water is increasing daily while our supply is dwindling. This valuable resources of often undervalued. Another CitizenKid book.

[Show More](http://www.amazon.com/One-Well-Story-Water-CitizenKid/dp/1553379543/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1341797894&sr=1-1&keywords=one+well+the+story+of+water+on+earth)

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* [Heroes of the Environment: True Stories of People Who Are Helping to Protect Our Planet](http://www.amazon.com/Heroes-Environment-Stories-Helping-Protect/dp/081186779X/ref=pd_sim_b_29) by Harriet Rohmer; Chronicle Books; ISBN 978-0-8118-6779-5.

This inspiring book presents the true stories of 12 people from across North America who have done great things for the environment. Heroes include a teenage girl who figured out how to remove an industrial pollutant from the Ohio River, a Mexican superstar wrestler who works to protect turtles and whales, and a teenage boy from Rhode Island who helped his community and his state develop effective e-waste recycling programs. Plenty of photographs and illustrations bring each compelling story vividly to life. Very empowering for young people to learn that they can truly make a difference.

[Show More](http://www.amazon.com/World-Were-Village-World%252019s-CitizenKid/dp/1554535956/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1341796764&sr=1-1&keywords=if+the+world+were+a+village+by+david+j.+smith)

[Show Less](http://www.amazon.com/World-Were-Village-World%252019s-CitizenKid/dp/1554535956/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1341796764&sr=1-1&keywords=if+the+world+were+a+village+by+david+j.+smith)