

Toward a Better World

Young children make daily progress through the developmental stages. We can watch them learn to sit, to walk, to speak, to add, to read, and to ride a bicycle. But what else is happening as these young minds and bodies are developing? When does a child learn to appreciate differences among friends, to feel compassion for those less fortunate, to conserve the earth's resources? These are big lessons even for adults, but the education of a caring human being begins in the very early years. And a body of wonderful children's literature supports and motivates this learning.

Greg Mortenson set out to climb one of the world's tallest mountains. He didn't reach that goal, but instead changed the lives of young students in the remote mountains of Pakistan. His book *Three Cups of Tea* tells his amazing story, but this is not a tale just for adults. There is a young readers' adaptation and even a preschool version, *Listen to the Wind*, that shows young children that one very ordinary man can make an extraordinary difference in the world.

On yet another continent, Wangari Maathai saw a problem that could have seemed too staggering for a nation, much less for any one person, to solve. But with unflinching vision, this inspired woman started a movement to save the economy of her country and the health of its citizens, repairing the world one tree at a time. Claire Nivola tells her story in *Planting the Trees of Kenya*.

To Be a Kid explores the commonalities of childhood around the world in a format accessible to infants and toddlers alike. The words and photographs of children's everyday lives show the similarities of kids everywhere while celebrating the differences.

Who will make the world a better place? Perhaps it will be the young reader in your lap.

By Susan C. Brenner, EdD


Bright Horizons
 FAMILY SOLUTIONS®
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Growing Readers Review

SUMMER 2010

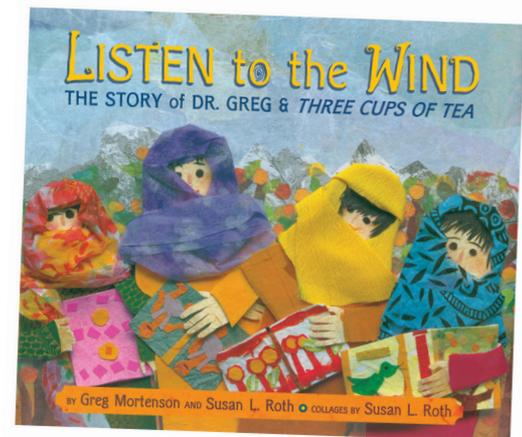
BOOKS OF EXCELLENCE

PRESCHOOL

Listen to the Wind

Written by Greg Mortenson and Susan Roth; illustrated by Susan Roth

Greg Mortenson and Susan Roth have adapted the adult book *Three Cups of Tea* for children in *Listen to the Wind*. The children's book, beautifully illustrated in collages by Susan Roth, will take readers on a wonderful journey as they "listen to the wind" and hear a remarkable story of how a very special school was built.



The children of Korphe, Pakistan didn't have a school building. In fact, they used sticks on the ground to write. Greg Mortenson, a nurse from the United States, became lost while hiking in the mountains and stumbled into their village weak, sick and hungry. The village responded by giving him food and a warm place to sleep. As he healed, he in turn began to care for the sick in the village. He became known as "Dr. Greg." When Dr. Greg became well enough to return home, he asked what he might do for the people of the village in return for their kindness. A wise man told him to "listen to the wind." Dr. Greg listened and promised to come back and build a school for the children.

The special ending includes photographs of Dr. Greg and the people of the village of Korphe. Themes of reciprocal helping, learning about other cultures, teamwork and keeping promises, are woven throughout and will resonate with both children and adults.

The **Bright Horizons Foundation for Children** brightens the lives of children, youth, and families in crisis, especially those who are experiencing homelessness. We strive to make the world a better place by engaging Bright Horizons' employees, clients, families, friends, and community partners, and their passion for meeting the needs of all children. We do this by creating Bright Spaces—comforting places for children in crisis to grow and play, strengthening their families, supporting our communities, sharing our knowledge, and encouraging others to join us in making a difference.



Visit *Growing at Bright Horizons* to explore valuable resources for your family. Review or purchase more great books at Growing Readers Online. Proceeds of book sales support the **Bright Horizons Foundation for Children's** efforts on behalf of homeless children and families.

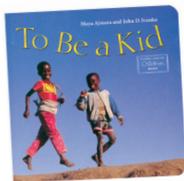
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INFANT / TODDLER

To Be a Kid

Developed by the Global Fund for Children (www.globalfundforchildren.org).

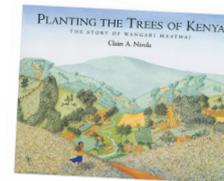
To Be a Kid features dynamic action photos of children from all over the world. Whether in Senegal, the Marshall Islands, Australia, Guatemala, the United States or Denmark, children around the planet are more alike than different. The photos showcase children having fun with each other doing what they do best: eating, going to school, being carried, playing with friends, running, painting, dancing, and being with family. The Global Fund for Children's mission is advancing the dignity of children and youth worldwide, in large part through books, films and photography. This board book is a respectful and joyous way to introduce infants and toddlers to the children of the world.



SCHOOL AGE

Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai

Written and illustrated by Claire Nivola



Wangari Maathai, winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize said, "When we see that we are part of the problem, we can become part of the solution." And within the pages of this inspiring picture book, we understand exactly what she meant. Compelling yet simple, this book shows us how Maathai helped her country turn eroded countryside back to its lush beginnings by planting one tree at a time. The bright and detailed watercolor illustrations will certainly captivate any audience in the classroom or at home, and Maathai's message of loving nature will grow like a seed in the hearts and minds of young and old.

NOTABLES

Global Babies

Developed by the Global Fund for Children (www.globalfundforchildren.org). • Ages 0–3

This book features beautiful photos of babies in native dress from all over the world with the added benefit of being in both English and Spanish.

Rosa

Written by Nikki Giovanni; illustrated by Bryan Collier • Ages 4–8

Giovanni tells the story of Rosa Parks' historic bus ride where she courageously refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white person.

Miss Rumphius

Written and illustrated by Barbara Cooney • Ages 4–8

Miss Rumphius follows the life of young Alice as she grows up, travels, and in old age finds passion in making the world more beautiful by sowing lovely lupine seeds across the land.

A Cool Drink of Water

Written by Barbara Kerly • Ages 4–8

A Cool Drink of Water includes stunning multicultural photos of how water is held, drunk and cherished around the world.

The Giving Book: Open the Door to a Lifetime of Giving

Written by Ellen Sabin • Ages 6–12

The Giving Book is a unique activity book and journal that encourages children to plan, dream, write about, and celebrate their charitable activities.



When the Circus Comes to Town

Written by Polly Horvath • Ages 9–12

A small town is divided when the eccentric circus people move in, and fifth-grader Ivy is determined to set things straight and convince her community to welcome the new neighbors. With her new friend Alfred, Ivy helps convert discrimination into acceptance.

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

Written and illustrated by Jeanette Winter • Ages 3–6

Wangari Maathai is an environmentalist and Nobel Peace Prize winner who helped sustain Kenya and empower women by starting a tree planting movement. This is the preschool version of *Planting the Trees of Kenya*.



Bright Horizons Family Solutions® programs empower children from infancy on to become confident, successful learners and secure, caring people. We grow young readers, scientists, artists, and explorers who are encouraged to reach their full potential. We are privileged to accompany children and families on their journey of lifelong learning. Learn more about Bright Horizons and Growing Readers at www.brighthorizons.com.

