



A CURRICULUM OF HOPE  
FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD

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# A Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World

## Founder's Message

It's July and by now another successful academic year has ended for all of us who are educators. Some are already teaching summer sessions, some are involved in course work or other professional endeavors, others are spending cherished time with loved ones, focused on family projects and getaways. All of us are grateful for the time to reflect, regroup, refocus and move forward. Some are already deep into plans for the next academic year of adventures. Others may have retired and are looking ahead to a well-deserved change in lifestyle. To all of you I send blessings and thanks for the extraordinary effort you devote every day to our profession.

Reality shows us that there are also many educators, everywhere, who are hurting, disillusioned and even depressed by the constraints and budget cuts that will change their jobs or perhaps even end them. Programs that are vital to children, often to those students most in need, are being cut. Effective support staff, music, art, physical education, and after school athletic programs are disappearing. Class sizes are increasing. And the bar for student achievement continues to rise.

In spite of these changes, we must continue to focus on developing knowledgeable, competent, and confident world citizens. We still have the opportunity to model and have students practice respect for each other and for everyone; responsibility for themselves, their actions and their words; compassion for the less fortunate in our world and concern for our environment and finite resources. These are all focuses of peace education.


The development of social and emotional skills and concepts is as vital to world peace as academic learning. Use daily routines and interactions you have with your students as opportunities to infuse these peace education concepts. Select read-aloud books that describe and honor different cultures, books that teach a moral about compassion, caring, and sharing. Read books about the lives of courageous peace heroes. Keep a world map at eye level and use it. Be thinking of how, when, and where to insert information that will involve your students in simple actions that count. Make students aware of water conservation while washing hands and cleaning the room. Pay attention to recycling—use both sides of the paper, and use fewer paper towels and napkins. Have students use reuseable plastic cups instead of bringing bottled water. Continually and consciously seek the many ways to make a difference. This edition may just spark a new interest or new idea for you to pursue!

Now let's talk about you in these hard times. Whenever a financial crunch takes place, there are always the ill-advised who speak of the "overpaid teachers who only work half a year". Do not allow that type of rhetoric to demoralize you! Expect it and reject it for what it is. It is ignorance about the teaching profession. Do not ever place yourself in the position where public accolades or recognition of your dedicated work are essential to your self-esteem. Instead, develop your own inner strength. Do some "self-talking". Know that you are a special educator and believe it so steadfastly that you are unshakeable in your pursuit of excellence in yourself and your work!

Smile and keep focused on your goals. Do not allow yourself to be diminished by anything. Keep your eye on the prize—those promising children who will one day be world leaders, possibly, just possibly, leading the world closer to peace. Who could be more important than that? Be proud of the role you play every day in influencing students to reach for the possibilities that are theirs for the taking. Remember to reach for your own possibilities. You are deserving of all the world has to offer. Peace be with you as you move forward in your work developing peacemaking children.

Jeanne Morascini

Founder



*“You have  
powers  
you  
never  
dreamed of.  
You can do  
things  
you  
never  
thought  
you could do.  
There  
are no  
limitations  
in what you can  
do except the  
limitations of  
your own mind.”*

Darwin P. Kingsley

THANKS



## Opportuni-

### Northeast Organic Farming Association 34th Annual Summer Conference

The Northeast Organic Farming Association is a non-profit organization of nearly 4,000 farmers, gardeners and consumers working to promote healthy food, organic farming practices and a cleaner environment. Members and non-members are invited to attend the 34th Annual NOFA Summer Conference at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA **August 8 - 10, 2008**. The keynote speakers will be Dr. Arden Anderson, author of *Real Medicine, Real Health*, and Mark McAfee, founder of Organic Pastures Dairy. More information, including a full list of workshops can be found at <http://www.nofamass.org/conferences/s2008/index.php>.



### WWF Adventures!



The World Wildlife Fund offers more than 45 trips to spectacular wildlife destinations around the world. They are partnered with the tour operator Natural Habitat

Adventures which is committed to environmentally friendly travel. By participating in tours, you are contributing to WWF's conservation efforts worldwide. Learn more at [www.worldwildlife.org/travel](http://www.worldwildlife.org/travel).

### Agape Community Annual St. Francis Day Gathering and Celebration

**Saturday, October 4, 2008**

Promptly at 10 a.m. Rain or Shine! Bring lunch and something for the pot luck dinner  
Father Daniel J. Berrigan, S.J., has lived his life as a servant of gospel-based Christian nonviolence. He will read his poetry at the gathering this year. Michael True, professor emeritus of English at Assumption College, will introduce and provide a retrospective on the life and times of Father Berrigan. There will also be Japanese Flute by Robert Jonas, tributes to Dan Berrigan by long-time friends, a Youth Forum on Non-Violence, liturgy, song, camaraderie, celebration, and more... For information, contact event coordinator and Agape mission council member John Paul Marosy at (508) 852-6322 Agape Community, 2062 Greenwich Rd, Ware, MA [www.agapecommunity.org](http://www.agapecommunity.org)

### International Day of Peace September 21st

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by a United Nations resolution, and on 7 September 2001, UN General Assembly Resolution 55/282 fixed the date on 21 September each year. The observance is to be a day of strengthening the ideals of peace and alleviating tensions and causes of conflict. All Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, regional and non-governmental organizations and individuals are invited to commemorate the Day in an appropriate manner, including education and public awareness, and to cooperate with the United Nations in



establishing a global ceasefire. More than 1700 organizations in over 175 nations are planning Peace Day activities.

The International Day of Peace provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. Annual celebrations of Peace Day highlight the Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001 to 2010.

*"Individuals and nations, acting in concert, DO make a difference in the quality of our lives, our institutions, our environment and our planetary future. Through cooperation, we manifest the essential spirit that unites us amid our diverse ways."*

For ideas and links on how you can join in the Peace Day campaign go to:  
[www.InternationalDayOfPeace.org](http://www.InternationalDayOfPeace.org)  
[www.CultureOfPeace.org](http://www.CultureOfPeace.org)  
[www.un.org/events/peaceday](http://www.un.org/events/peaceday)



To find peace music to inspire you, your family and friends, check out [PeaceSongs.net](http://PeaceSongs.net) which lists & links more than 300 peace songs.

### 15th Annual National Public Lands Day September 27th

A program of the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF), NPLD is the largest, nation-wide volunteer day for public lands. This year's event will take place on Saturday, September 27th and over 120,000 volunteers are expected to participate in cleaning up their local public lands in all 50 states, and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam. Citizens, land managers, and local communities who participate build on the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps to improve publicly held lands for greater enjoyment and enrichment of all Americans. NPLD worksites can involve all sorts of activities such as picking up trash, planting trees and flowers, building or repairing trails and bridges, removing invasive plants, collecting native seeds, improving wildlife habitats, restoring shorelines, putting up bird boxes, stabilizing stream banks, painting picnic tables and more. Local conservation groups, public



land managers, service groups and "friends" organizations are encouraged to participate. Managers of public lands such as state parks, county parks, urban and neighborhood parks, forest preserves, beaches, community gardens, botanical gardens and local playgrounds are especially encourage to register. By registering your site you will receive free promotional materials, a *Manual for Site Managers* and Volunteer Checklist, a media kit, and a Volunteer Resource Guide.

For more information visit: [www.publiclandsday.org](http://www.publiclandsday.org) or contact

**Tracey Adams**  
National Public Lands Day  
Program Associate  
(202) 261-6479

Chartered by Congress in 1990, The National Environmental Education Foundation is a private, non-profit organization offering objective environmental information to help Americans live better every day.



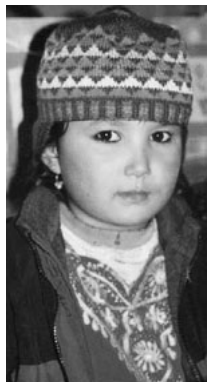
## Ideas



You can take a virtual tour of **The Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum**, created to honor victims, survivors and rescuers of the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal

Building. Educators can find curriculum and lesson plans to teach about the impact of violence and the importance of personal responsibility. [www.oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org](http://www.oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org)

**Afghans for Afghans** is a humanitarian and educational people-to-people project that sends hand-knit and crocheted wool blankets and sweaters, vests, hats, mittens, and socks to the beleaguered people of Afghanistan.



Afghan child wears hat knitted by Missy McIver of Columbia, SC

This grassroots effort is inspired by Red Cross volunteers who made afghans, socks, slippers, and other items for soldiers and refugees during World Wars I and II and other times of crisis and need.

More information, including projects, flyers for posting in yarn shops, information on Afghanistan and ideas for youth groups can be found at: [www.afghansforafghans.org](http://www.afghansforafghans.org).

December 10, 2008 marks the 60th anniversary of the signing of the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights which sets forth the interrelated, indivisible and inalienable civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights that are indispensable to freedom, justice and peace in the world. **The Connecticut Coalition for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights** is calling for organizations and individuals to join in celebrating the Anniversary through a yearlong educational campaign. They have set up a web site where information is available. Those interested are asked to save the date of December 6th for a conference to be held at Quinnipiac University. Visit the CT Coalition's Web site at [www.udhr.net](http://www.udhr.net)



In March 2008, explorer **Will Steger** led a team from four countries on a 1,400 mile dogsled expedition across Ellesmere Island to record **climate change**. You can see, hear, and learn about the expedition at [www.globalwarming101.com](http://www.globalwarming101.com). You can also download curriculum on Artic people, animals, explorers and scientists.



**Looking for new ideas to motivate students to think critically and improve their writing?** M.U.S.I.C. is a non-profit 501(c)

(3) publicly supported organization. They promote the educational use of songs by teachers in all subject areas. Songs are a timeless expression of the human experience. They capture the history of events, ideas, and people that have shaped our pluralistic society. Song lyrics are an excellent teaching tool that will engage, excite and motivate young people. The creative process of analyzing and interpreting song lyrics helps students to develop essential research, writing, critical thinking, and media literacy skills. Song-based lessons, projects, and activities are tools that will enable educators to create opportunities for all students to experience success in the classroom. Concurrently, student self-image and self-esteem will increase as they begin to view themselves as competent and capable learners. From Johnathan Chase, President of Musicians United For Songs In The Classroom, Inc., "All students can learn, but first you must get their attention." [www.learningfromlyrics.org](http://www.learningfromlyrics.org)

**Peaceful Touch** began in the early 1990's when Anne Eek, a Swedish kindergarten teacher and healthcare worker began to experiment with the use of massage in her classroom. As a result the students became calmer, more empathetic and more focused. Together with Hans Axelson, the director of Axelsons Institute, one of the world's foremost massage training facilities, they developed a curriculum for healthy touch that is being used by over 10,000 teachers in Scandinavia today. Peaceful Touch incorporates the kinds of touch that release serotonin and dopamine in the brain, engendering a sense of peace, and lowers aggression in children ages 3-8. You can visit [www.peacefultouch.net](http://www.peacefultouch.net) to find out more.

**"The HandBook of Time"** is a collaboration project from Hands-On Productions and Armistead Caregiver Services, in conjunction with Life Span Resources, Inc.. At risk high school-aged youth worked with elders in the early stages of Alzheimer's to create a unique kind of book: one made of plaster hand imprints that speak in personal symbols rather than words. The workshop has numerous benefits including introducing youth to job opportunities in the health care field. For the seniors, collage making is one of the activities that is thought to stimulate the growth of new brain cells in the cerebral cortex. If you are interested in finding out more about this intergenerational project you can visit YouTube and search for Hand Book Project or you can contact [maggie@handsonproduct.com](mailto:maggie@handsonproduct.com) for information about hosting a Hand-Book Project in your community.

*"All students can learn, but first you must get their attention."*

The **ABC's of Classroom Management** is a three-part series available on the Teaching Tolerance website. Part One focuses on helping teachers understand their current approach to classroom management, and looks at the concepts of democratic classroom management, positive behavioral interventions and supports, and building authentic relationships with students.

In part two, engaging curriculum is discussed as a means to keep students' attention and develop their intrinsic motivation to learn.

Part three explores differentiated instruction as a way to provide for the needs of diverse learners in the classroom. Ideas for differentiating the content, process, product and environment are included.

This series is a must read for all educators. It includes a multitude of resources and opportunities to further your learning through "go deeper" links. [www.teachingtolerance.org](http://www.teachingtolerance.org)

## Book Reviews

### **Creating the Peaceable Classroom Techniques to Calm, Uplift, and Focus Teachers and Students**

Sandy Bothmer  
Zephyr Press, Chicago 2003

Twenty-one year pre-K through fifth grade classroom teacher Sandy Bothmer provides a wealth of ideas to create a classroom environment in which the teacher and each student can “grow in every way”. Optimum teaching and learning will take place when the classroom is nurturing, supportive and stress-free. Sandy shares some excellent activities, supported by experts in each field, to reduce stress. These include breathing (releases tension), meditation (promotes deep relaxation), yoga (calms the nervous system), and Reiki (reduces stress and boosts energy level). In addition she suggests that you take a daily emotional temperature of the class. Greeting students at the door and using How Do You Feel Today charts can help teachers determine which techniques: Centering or Visualization; Spiral or Labyrinth; or Affirmations are appropriate. She includes fun movement activities to calm children during transitions. Sandy is available to present a Peaceable Classroom workshop and can serve as an Educator in Residence, modeling lessons with students and teachers. She can be reached at [sbothmer@aol.com](mailto:sbothmer@aol.com)

### **In Our School Building Community in Elementary Schools**

Karen L. Castro and Jennifer R. Audley  
Northeast Foundation for Children, Inc. 2008

Administrators and school improvement teams will rejoice at this practical resource for improving school community. Based on the Responsive Classroom Approach, this book gives specific ideas that can be implemented to build a common knowledge for students, staff and families. Ideas for the lunchroom, recess, and dismissal are included as well as suggestions for whole-school gatherings and classroom connections. If you have recently revisited or are creating your vision statement, this book offers ways to make that statement become a reality. [www.responsiveclassroom.org/bookstore](http://www.responsiveclassroom.org/bookstore).

### **Giving How Each of Us Can Change the World**

Bill Clinton  
Alfred A. Knopf, 2007

This book is not a how-to-manual for fixing the world, but it does give ideas, encouragement, and a good reason to step up and give something. Throughout the book Clinton points out groups and organizations whose models he deems worthy of support and replication. He believes that individuals can make a giant step toward ending suffering in the world by realizing the benefits of doing one small part.

### **Spectacular Things Happen Along the Way**

Lessons from an Urban Classroom  
Brian D. Schultz  
Teachers College Press 2008

An inspiring story of one teacher who resisted the pressures of “teaching to the test” and created a curriculum based on his students’ needs, wants, and desires. Through this narrative Brian Schultz shares how he challenged his fifth grade students from a Chicago public housing project and shows what he achieved, despite the difficulties he met along the way. [www.tcp.com](http://www.tcp.com)

### **Earth: The Sequel—the Race to Reinvent Energy and Stop Global Warming**

Fred Krupp and Miriam Horn  
WW Norton 2008

The book reveals a race that is just beginning—a race to develop low-carbon energy in time to turn our planet’s greatest environmental crisis into our greatest economic opportunity. Krupp states that he wrote this book in order to “change the conversation and to focus on innovation and solutions”. [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or [www.environmentaldefense.org](http://www.environmentaldefense.org)

### **Why We Teach**

Sonia Nieto, Editor  
Teachers College Press 2005

Sonia Nieto, a distinguished educator, has gathered the insights and inspirations of K-12 classroom teachers as they examine how and why they find purpose and value in the work they do. You can view stories and add your own at [www.whyweteach.com](http://www.whyweteach.com).



# Caring for Our Planet



## Ideas to help you reduce your carbon foot-

First, measure your carbon footprint—the amount of climate-changing emissions your daily activities produce. What’s important is how your footprint compares with your local and global neighbors’. Then work to reduce that number. Go to The Nature Conservancy or the EPA to crunch your numbers: [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org) or [www.epa.gov/chclimatechange](http://www.epa.gov/chclimatechange)

### Just the facts about water

- 1.1 billion people worldwide** lack access to safe drinking water
  - 6,000 people** die from inadequate water supply every 24 hours
  - 3.7 is the average** number of miles women in Africa and Asia travel daily to collect water
  - 5.3 billion people** will suffer water shortages by 2025
  - 100-176 gallons of water** are used every day by the average U.S. resident—versus 5 gallons a day for the average African family
- Delicious Living March 08

### SAVING WATER IN THE HOUSE

- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.
- Install low-flow shower heads and toilets.
- Take short showers instead of baths.
- Fix leaks. A leak at one drop per second wastes 5 gallons of water a day.
- Use the dishwasher. A fully loaded dishwasher uses less than a third of the water needed to wash dishes by hand.
- Consider eating less meat. Producing a quarter-pound beef patty requires as much as 2,900 gallons of water.

### SAVING WATER IN THE GARDEN

- Plant native and drought-tolerant plants.
- Collect rainwater.
- Use a soaker hose, water early in the morning and avoid misting sprinklers.
- Sweep rather than spray sidewalks and patios.

### BOTTLED OR TAP?

Skip the bottled water. Most of it is just processed tap water. The oil used to make plastic water bottles in this country is enough to fuel 10,000 cars for one year. According to Justice & Peace, 80% of the used bottles end up in landfills and are not recycled. Manufacturing water bottles uses as much as 45 to 50 million barrels of oil and produces up to 3 tons of CO2 a year. Americans buy upwards of 28 billion bottles of water each year even though we have the best and safest tap water in the world. Take the Think Outside the Bottle Pledge at [www.thinkoutsidethebottle.org](http://www.thinkoutsidethebottle.org)

*“Whenever you think about the fact that every plastic fork you’ve ever used is still out there somewhere, it makes you reconsider your choices.”*

Starre Varden, editor of [www.ecochick.com](http://www.ecochick.com)

### SAVE ENERGY

An estimated 25 percent of the United States’ energy bill is attributable to households. Small changes by a lot of people result in significant overall reductions and reduce energy costs.

- Set the temperature on your water heater to 120 degrees.
- Unplug electronics and chargers which use 40% of all electricity in the home. Or plug them into power strips which can be turned off easily.
- Microsoft estimates it costs \$55 to \$70 a year to let a computer sit idle.
- Laptops use half the energy of desktops.
- Replace burned out light bulbs with compact fluorescents.
- Buy Energy Star appliances. Get rid of or unplug that old, rarely used refrigerator in the basement or garage.
- Get a home energy audit.

### RECYCLE

Crocs has figured out a way to recycle their shoes. Donated shoes are sorted, cleaned, ground and manufactured into brand new lightweight shoes that are shipped to Africa and the Dominican Republic. Go to [www.solesunited.com](http://www.solesunited.com) to find out more.

Go to [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org) to meet others who believe that reuse is better than recycle (or a landfill). Freecycle is a nonprofit organization that provides an online meeting place for people to post their freebies and view others, at no cost.

If you’re searching for green, try [www.greenmap.org](http://www.greenmap.org) created by local mapmakers in over 50 countries.

*“Be a locavore—someone who tries to eat only foods raised within 100 miles or so of home.”*

2007 Word of the Year  
Ode Magazine

### CLEANING PRODUCTS

- Kill those weeds and moss between the cracks in your sidewalk or patio with a spray bottle filled with undiluted white vinegar.
- Combine 1/2 cup of white distilled vinegar with 1/4 cup of baking soda in 1/2 gallon of water to make a nontoxic all purpose cleaner that works on windows too.
- Clean and deodorize drains by putting a tablespoon of baking soda, a drizzle of water to wash it down, and then pour in a cup of white vinegar.

### PAPER OR PLASTIC?

- Plastic grocery bags actually consume 40 percent less energy to produce and generate 80 percent less solid waste than paper bags.
- Paper bags generate 70 percent more air and 50 times more water pollutants than plastic bags.
- Two thousand plastic bags weigh 30 pounds and the same amount of paper bags weighs 280 pounds, taking up more room in landfills.
- Reusing or recycling 1 ton of plastic bags saves the equivalent of 11 barrels of oil.
- Reusing or recycling 1 ton of paper bags saves 2 cubic meters of landfill space and 13 to 17 trees.
- While both kinds of bags can be recycled, only 20 percent of paper bags and 1 percent of plastic bags actually were in 2000.
- It takes 91 percent less energy to recycle a pound of plastic compared to a pound of paper.
- It takes between 20 and 1,000 years for a plastic bag to decompose in a landfill. But today’s landfills don’t allow for enough water, light or oxygen for the degradation process of paper to be completed.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Every year people of the world use 500 billion plastic bags. Four-fifths of them are not recycled. That is enough bags to go around the world 64 times.

Bottom line...invest in reusable bags and return them to your car after you unload your groceries!

## Be part of the solution!

## Resources

A new collection of **Responsive Classroom Newsletter Articles** are available from Northeast Foundation for Children. Request copies of *20 Articles in 20 Years* at [www.responsiveclassroom.org/bookstore](http://www.responsiveclassroom.org/bookstore). You can get your free subscription to the newsletter at [www.responsiveclassroom.org/](http://www.responsiveclassroom.org/)

**The Best Children's Books of the Year**  
2008 Edition

Bank Street College of Education  
The Children's Book Committee  
An annotated guide to over 600 books considered to be the best of 2008.



Elementary

### Linking Up!

Sarah Pirtle

[www.esrnational.org](http://www.esrnational.org) \$35  
CD and teaching guide for pre-school and early elementary students fostering positive social skills through music and movement. Of the 46 songs that promote caring, cooperation, and communication, twenty are in English and Spanish.

### Links to Literature: Teaching Tools to Enhance Literacy, Character and Social Skills

Rosemary Lonberger and Jane Harrison

[www.esrnational.org](http://www.esrnational.org) \$26  
A new resource for grades K-5 to introduce teachers to engaging and easy-to-use tools to address social and emotional learning skills in the classroom using recommended children's books. The appendix outlines reading strategies that provide additional ways for students to explore personal and engaging texts.

### Wicked Cool Sustainable Solutions for the Earth: An Activity and Coloring Book

Becky Johnson \$10.95

[www.syrcculturalworkers.com](http://www.syrcculturalworkers.com)  
An appealing way to teach K-6 students about worm composting, windmills, cob houses and community gardens.

### Akira to Zoltán: Twenty-six Men Who Changed the World

Cynthia ChinLee

\$15.96  
[www.charlesbridge.com](http://www.charlesbridge.com)  
An alphabet book for students in grades 3-6 that focuses on men who brought about change through peaceful methods.

## Websites

### Committee for Children

[www.cfchildren.org](http://www.cfchildren.org)

Fosters social and emotional development, safety, and well-being of children through education. Develops and publishes curricula including *Second Step*, a violence prevention curriculum about bullying, social skills and sexual abuse.

### Bread for the Journey

[www.breadforthejourney.org](http://www.breadforthejourney.org)

Teaches a simple practice of neighborhood philanthropy. There are eighteen chapters throughout the United States.

### The Peace Education Foundation

[www.Peace Education.org](http://www.PeaceEducation.org)

Offers a redesigned website. Check it out to find information on their Peace Works curricula and other materials, their research base, on-site training opportunities and links to peace resources.

### Teaching Tolerance

[www.teachingtolerance.org](http://www.teachingtolerance.org)



Middle

### Sue Bird: Be Yourself

Sue Bird

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)  
The 2004 Olympian gives an inside look at how she grew up to be one of the leaders of women's basketball in the U.S.. It's a book about having the integrity to define yourself. For students in grades 7-12.

### Students Resolving Conflicts: Peer Mediation in Schools

Richard Cohen

[www.esrnational.org](http://www.esrnational.org) \$19.95  
A guide to designing, implementing and operating a peer mediation program for students in grades 6-12.

### Get It Together

Tim Erikson

[www.esrnational.org](http://www.esrnational.org) \$19.95  
A collection of over 100 math problems for groups of 2 to 6, covering logic, function, algebra, geometry, measurement and number patterns at various levels of difficulty. Problems are in a consistent format: six clues provide data required to solve a problem and each group member has a different clue, allowing for collaboration in problem solving.

### Exploits of a Reluctant (But Extremely Good Looking) Hero

Maureen Fergus

[www.kidscanpress.com](http://www.kidscanpress.com)  
Fergus is a teenager who wants nothing more than to sit back, relax, and wait for his family fortune to come to him. When he gets in trouble and is forced to work at a local soup kitchen, he finds himself at the center of a struggle between rich and poor. Grades 7-9



High School and Up

The **Choices Program** from Brown University offers curriculum on **current issues**. Teacher sets (\$20) include a reproducible student text and a teacher's guide and are available on a wide-range of topics. In addition, see "Teaching with the News" on the Choices web site for additional resources that connect the content of the classroom to the headlines in the news.  
[www.choices.edu](http://www.choices.edu)

### Trash Conflicts: An Integrated Science and Social Studies Curriculum on the Ethics of Disposal

Amy Ballin with Jeffrey Benson and Lucille Burt

[www.esrnational.org](http://www.esrnational.org) \$30.00  
For grades 7-12, Trash Conflicts increases environmental awareness through critical thinking, responsibility and empowerment. Students analyze issues like technology, economics, race, and class, while learning about garbage, disposal, consumer behavior and toxic waste.

### Viktor Frankl: A Life Worth Living

Anna S. Redsand

Clarion Books \$19  
[www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com](http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com)  
The story of the Austrian psychoanalyst whose theories were put to the test when he found himself sent to a concentration camp. His writings are some of the most influential of our time and his story still inspires young people today.

### What Happened This Summer

Paul Yee

Tradewind Books  
[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) \$9.31  
A story of the turbulent lives of Chinese-Canadian teenagers who agonizingly try to balance tradition against the pull of urban culture.

## What Kids Are Saying

### No More FCAT!

In the year 2008, I believe and hope that there should not be any more standardized tests, such as the FCAT. If our teacher should one day tell us that there wouldn't be anymore standardized tests, I can imagine my classmates and I jumping for joy, dancing around the tables and I believe that kids all over the United States would probably back me up on this! I mean, if we got the chance to vote if we wanted to take the FCAT, I guarantee that 100 percent of the kids would vote NO!

Every year, I hear the most dreadful words known to students all over the state. That word is FCAT. The FCAT is the only word that makes kids, teachers and parents shiver with fright. When we hear that word, our heads just want to explode. We spend over four months practicing for FCAT; we spend so much time practicing for just one little test and we barely get to study the other subjects. It doesn't really help that we already have regular tests in our classes but to add more pressure by making us worry about the FCAT just doesn't seem right.

In conclusion, I hope and wish that there would not be any standardized tests in the year 2008 because it is a waste of time and I think that everyone can agree.

Everyone should express their voices, and don't let the man bring you down.

Chihao Tran  
Age 10  
Ojus Elementary School  
Miami Gardens

### Help

She weeps and seems to mourn,  
As she sees herself get sicker.  
She looks down on us with scorn,  
Because of the pain, we are putting her through.

But wait; there is still a bit of hope,  
A little light shining like a star.  
So please, do not mope.  
Help save Mother Earth.

Pick up water bottles on the street.  
Recycle cans and glasses, too.  
Even though it does not seem like a great feat,  
Everything counts on the road to help restore her.

The air is polluted with toxic waste.  
The sky is black with smog.  
Seas are covered with oil algae paste.  
However, we can change all that with a little effort.

You see rolling fields and hills.  
Green grass and exotic flowers flourish.  
You see no cars, harmful mills,  
And mountainous garbage piles.

That seemed before we messed up this place,  
But I can make a difference.  
Give this world a new face.  
You can help too with little things you do.

Now you see it is not all bad.  
Try to be helpful,  
Make recycling a growing fad.  
Help Earth, to help yourself.

Samantha Coulombe, Grade 6    Coventry, CT

WE WELCOME contributions to our features Resources, Ideas, Caring for Our Planet, Opportunities, Peacemakers at Work, and What Kids are Saying. We also welcome guest contributors to our Founder's Message. Please send your contributions, comments, and suggestions to one of the members below. Our intent is to promulgate resources and information, not to endorse products.

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