

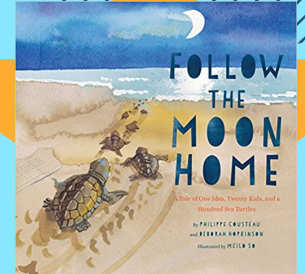


# 13 BOOKS TO NURTURE KIDS' PHILANTHROPIC CITIZENSHIP

## Follow the Moon Home: A Tale of One Idea, Twenty Kids, and a Hundred Sea Turtles

By Philippe Cousteau and Deborah Hopkinson

The main character is encouraged to participate in a school community action project. They identify the problem, plan an action, ask others for help, reflect, and tell the story of what they did. They pulled the community together through critical thinking skills to save the sea turtles.



## Greta and The Giants

By Zoë Tucker and Zoe Persico

Through Greta's conversation with the three giants to save the forest, children are encouraged to think critically about climate change, including participating in protests, environmentally-friendly daily habits, and advocating for their community and society.



## Kind

By Axel Scheffler

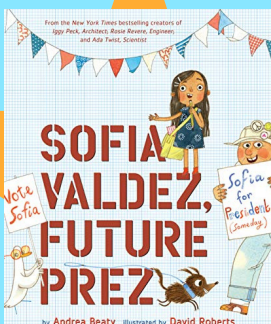
Kind offers children ideas to help others and their community in their daily lives. The book promotes critical thinking about actual world actions. It also links the ideas presented within the text to broader social and political activities.



## Sofia Valdez, Future Prez

By Andrea Beaty

In this female-led book, the main character (a child) campaigns to her local city hall to help clean up their local park. The book links individual action to wider group and community efforts.

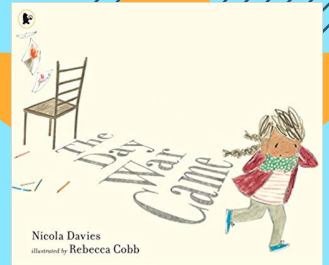




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## **The Day War Came** By Nicola Davies and Rebecca Cobb

The author's inspiration was the 2016 refugee crisis. With this context in mind, the story engages children in critically thinking about how individual actions impact others and how possible solutions fit within larger societal events.

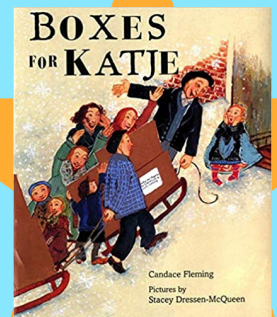


## **Kamala and Maya's Big Idea** By Meena Harris

The story reflects the childhood of sisters Kamala and Maya Harris. Meena Harris is Maya's daughter and Kamala's niece and describes how each girl was inspired by their civil rights activist mother. The story shows how positive mentorship can enable children to reach their dreams.

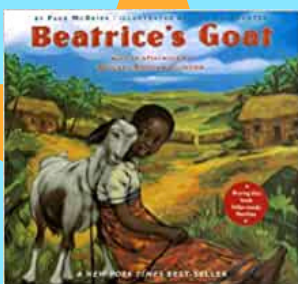
## **Boxes for Katje** By Candace Fleming

The book demonstrates the experience of a beneficiary. The main character Katje receives gifts from Rosie. In this book, the dialogue between Katje and Rosie allows the gifts to respond to Katje's needs instead of perceiving her needs. This relationship creates shared solidarity rather than traditional one-way giving.



## **Beatrice's Goat** By Page McBrier

The author draws inspiration from the charity Heifer International, which invests in individuals and communities to create lasting change. In the story, income from selling the goat's milk provides enough money for Beatrice to go to school and obtain an education. The story demonstrates the charity's aims and creates linkages between donations and action.

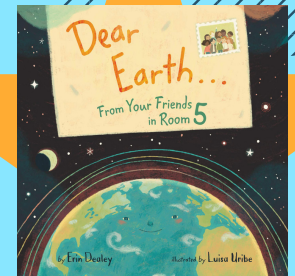




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## Dear Earth... From Your Friends in Room 5 By Erin Dealey

In this story, the children have a conversation with the earth to find out how they can help. The book provides the opportunity to discuss different types of giving and actions. There are multiple examples of what children can do. In each instance, the earth's perspective is heard, and children are allowed to take action.

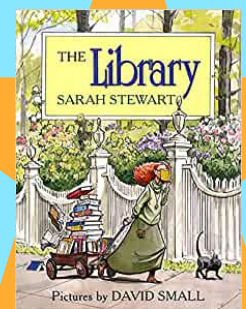


## Clean Up By Nathan Bryon

The main character actively advocates for cleaner beaches by sharing information and raising awareness with those using the beach. Being a child, the character demonstrates how children can be changemakers and espouse leadership in taking action.

## The Library By Sarah Stewart

This story demonstrates the actions of women who resisted stereotypes and took steps to benefit their community. In *The Library*, the main character donates her possessions to help the wider community.



## Saving the Countryside By Linda Marshall

This story features the life of Beatrix Potter, who grew up in a time when girls weren't allowed to go to school or work. Through time spent in nature, she nurtured her creativity. This story talks about how she protected acres of the countryside from development by selling her *Peter Rabbit* books.



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## The Tree Lady By H Joseph Hopkins

Similar to *The Library* and *Saving the Countryside*, this book tells the story of a young scientist, the first woman to receive a science degree from the University of California, who uses her knowledge to plant trees in San Diego, turning the city from a desert into a city filled with gardens and parks.



## About the Research:

Research shows children most often learn about giving through concepts of volunteering, giving of things/money, and pro-social behaviours (being kind). However, these approaches do not usually link to broader social, economic, and political issues. They do not always feature diversity. This gap leaves children unable to critically assess why giving is necessary for society. The 13 books in this list are stand-out examples of where this link is made, providing a full reflection opportunity for primary-aged children.

### This book listing is based on the article:

Body, A., & Lacny, J. (2022). Philanthropic tales: A critical analysis of how philanthropic citizenship is represented in children's picture books – problems and possibilities. *Education, Citizenship and Social Justice*, 0(0).  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/17461979211061798>

### To read the article, scan the QR code:

For more information on inspiring or involving your children in philanthropic citizenship and giving, please contact Michele Fugiel Gartner, PhD  
<https://mfgchange.com>  
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