

Community Action

“The best effect of any book is that it excites the reader to self activity.”
~Thomas Carlyle

Have you ever read a truly fabulous book – very slowly – because you didn’t want it to end? And then when you *did* eventually finish it, you felt like you lost someone or something in your life? The story’s powerful words and character voices still echoed in your mind long after you closed the book cover that last time. Make no doubt about it; children also have similar feelings when they finish a good book.

Community action or outreach is a wonderful way to further augment the learning children glean from those outstanding stories that touch their hearts. Independent readers, especially, are ready for the additional challenge of taking their learning one step further. Reaching out to the community to make a difference gives children the power to see that their efforts can change things for the better. It will also fill them with a deep sense of satisfaction.

Favorite books might encourage your children to:

- Try a new hobby
- Volunteer at a hospital, animal shelter, etc.
- Make new friends
- Clean up the environment
- Protect natural resources
- Help someone in need
- Visit and learn about a new place
- Communicate with others in meaningful ways
- Share their newfound knowledge with family and friends
- Beautify a run-down area
- The possibilities are endless!