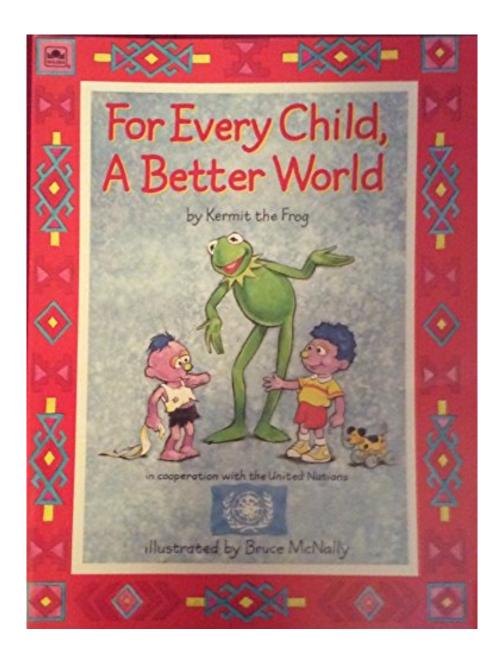


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From Publishers Weekly

This eager-to-please picture book wins plaudits for good intentions, though unfortunately for little else. Executed in a style that could well be called "Muppet multicultural" (the critters appear in just about every skin color imaginable, including purple, green and blue), the work is dedicated to the memory of Audrey Hepburn and published "in cooperation with the United Nations" (a portion of the proceeds will help support various U.N. projects). The double-spread pages present a series of happy/sad contrasts that employ minimal text ("Every child needs food to eat") and cartoon-like illustrations to depict the world's haves and have-nots. Kermit the Frog narrates and appears on the "happy" pages, declaring what every child has a right to--food, clean water, clean air to breathe, a home, education. The bright borders of these scenes evoke various settings--Africa, the Australian Outback, India, Greece, the Tyrol--and contrast sharply with the drab, mudcolored "sad" pages ("But sometimes there isn't enough"). The book's motive--to open children's minds and hearts to the world's problems--is admirable; however, the commercial tone and simplistic format lack subtlety and depth. Ages 5-9.

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From Kirkus Reviews

Nine statements outlining children's basic needs and how they often go unmet--e.g., "Every child needs food to eat. But sometimes there isn't enough to go around." The accompanying art depicts Kermit the Frog as narrator and features Sesame Street- style characters in many colors (blue, purple, pink, green). But while the characters are in a cartoon style, they express real emotions, and their settings are composed of realistic elements: a smoke-spewing city where the air is too dirty to breathe, an orderly classroom, an ineffective shelter in a rainstorm, a battlefield with shattered household goods (including a toy bear and the wounded in the background silhouetted against yellow flames). The result is that the concepts are made immediately accessible but not trivialized. Images and motifs from many cultures appear in the illustrations and borders (a painting of Mount Fuji in a well-equipped hospital), implying that plenty and deprivation occur all over the world. A serious book, with appeal for a wide audience, that can do only good. (Picture book. 4-9) --Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

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The familiar character of Kermit the Frog teaches young readers about the plight of young children who lack the basic human necessities and the efforts of the United Nations to provide such essentials as housing, water, food, and medical aid.

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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Beautiful

By A Customer

This book was recommended in Harvey and Goudvis's book "Strategies That Work". What a beautiful book! It is so powerful in presenting these statements, yet the use of Muppet characters does not present a grotesque picture for young children. I've never seen a book impact students' thinking of the world in the way that this book does. Could great reviews like the ones published on your site possibly encourage the initial publisher to re-print this book once again? I believe every classroom teacher and parent should have a copy of this book as we continue to become a more global society.

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

An excellent introduction to complex humanitarian issues

By A Customer

I found this book to be a very effective intoroduction to complex humanitarian issues for use with young children. Concepts such as hunger, poverty, and religious persecution are presented in an honest but non-threatening manner. The illustrations, which rely upon Muppet characters familiar to most children from shows such as Sesame Street, ably and accurately depict the full implications of the straightforward, uncomplicated text without ever becoming too emotionally difficult or overwhelming for preschoolers. This book is a valuable aid for any parent who is looking for help in introducing social issues to their children, whether they are presechool or school- age.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

A Treasure

By A Customer

Here is a book written for any age - from preschool through adult. As a parent and a teacher, I can't recommend it enough to others. Thankfully, our local library has this book in circulation and my son chose it. Otherwise, I may have never known it existed. I just can't understand how this book escaped all the literary awards and media attention that other books have earned. Even worse, I find it hard to believe that it is out of print!!! My undergraduate degree was International Studies, and I know of no other children's book that teaches relevant concepts with such simplicity and sensitivity - in a way that any age can begin to appreciate.

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