

BOOK REVIEW

The World Needs Your Kid: How to Raise Children Who Care and Contribute

By Craig Kielburger, Marc Kielburger, and Shelly Page
Toronto, Me to We Books; Vancouver, Greystone Books (2009)

Reviewed by Tianna Jonasson

The title of this book, really speaks to its content and purpose. The authors Craig Kielburger, Marc Kielburger, and Shelly Page write from experience and an interesting philosophical perspective on the small things we can do to create a better world.

On page one, the Dalai Lama is pictured with author Craig Kielburger; Craig invites him to share in answering the question, “What is the greatest challenge facing our time?” Craig expects the answer to be, “The education of children.” After much thought, the Dalai Lama says,

It is not weapons of mass destruction or terrorism or ethnic cleansing; it is that we are raising a generation of passive bystanders.

This really sets the goal for Craig in writing this book. **Parents are the key!** So what can parents do to ensure that they are raising kids who care and contribute? The authors answer this question and give practical examples of what parents can do with their kids, of any age, to make a difference in the world and to foster learning in both participant and recipient.

Craig and Marc draw from their childhood experiences and from the development of their organization, Free the Children, which currently involves over one million youth each year and is still growing. There are pictures in the book from all over the world which really makes it an easy and interesting read. Shelley Page, co-author, speaks from the experience of parenting her two adopted children and the challenges she has faced.

If you enjoy this book, there is an opportunity to continue educating yourself on the topic; Craig and Marc also have a book titled *Me to We*, which addresses how to be more globally minded as an individual.

The book is divided into the following three categories: **Compassion, Courage, and Community**. All of these are key concepts that we teach in Adlerian parenting programs. The book is very encouraging for parents to take on the role of leading their children to care about the world and to find small things to do that can really make a difference.

With the many devastating events that occur in our current world, it can be hard to explain to children what is going on and what they can do about it. This book gives parents tools to pass on to their children, and it offers them ways to help in their own community. The tasks will nurture empathy, challenge materialism, and provide modeling behavior that is sure to improve your child’s view on world issues.

I will leave you with the following quote from Ann Landers, which really encompasses the message for parents that education is the key to empowerment:

In the final analysis it is not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings.

The World Needs Your Kid is widely available in bookstores and on line for under \$20.

Tianna Jonasson has been a member of the Adlerian Society in Saskatoon for four years. She enjoys volunteering on the board of directors, where she currently serves as Chair. Having a degree from the University of Saskatchewan in Applied Social Psychology it has been a great fit.