

January | 2020

# Jane Addams Peace Association



## *Environmental Justice*

The theme for this month's newsletter is environmental justice. We selected two Jane Addams Children's Book Award winners that feature characters who responded to environmental and public health challenges that posed barriers for under-resourced and marginalized communities.

It is with great sadness that we recognize at the time of this newsletter's publication, the world is witnessing a devastating climate disaster in Australia. The deadly bush-fires have burned over 14.5 million acres of land decimating communities, destroying wildlife, and taking human life. This tragedy underscores a fierce urgency for protecting our planet that climate activists across the globe are working on everyday. The books we selected this month inspire us to consider what role we can have in protecting our planet as part of our commitment to future generations.

**"What after all, has maintained the human race on this old globe despite all the calamities of nature and all the tragic failings of mankind, if not faith in new possibilities, and courage to advocate them." - Jane Addams**

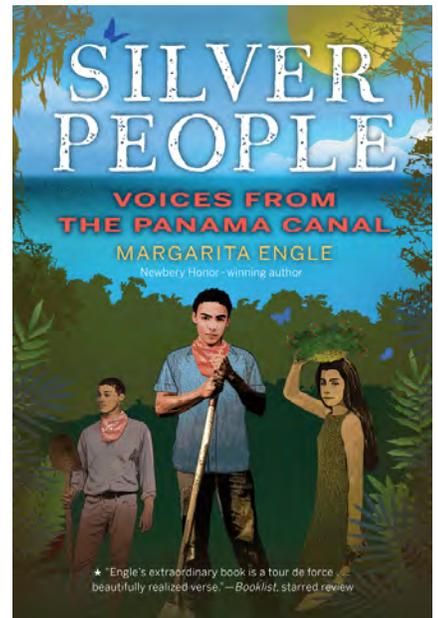


# Older Reader

***Older: Silver People: Voices from the Panama Canal* written by Margarita Engle (2016). Houghton Mifflin Harcourt**

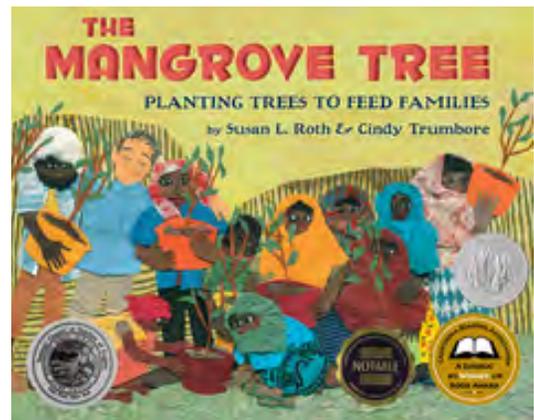
The building of the Panama Canal was undoubtedly one of the great engineering feats of the 20th Century. But the human and environmental costs of this effort are rarely discussed. This powerful novel, written in prose poems, illuminates the prices paid in the voices of the "gold people" (English speaking U.S. citizens), the "silver people" (lured to Panama from the Caribbean with deceitful promises of work, good pay, decent living situations) and in the voice of the Indigenous people of Panama. The Panamanian jungle is also given voice as the canal building destroys its environment along with taking the lives of so many of the workers. Still, despite the misery and horror of the experience, the three young people who tell the story, find ways to see and cherish beauty and to build a life for themselves.

\*Adapted from Jane Addams Peace Association



# Younger Reader Book Review

***The Mangrove Tree: Planting Trees to Feed Families* written by Susan L. Roth, Cindy Trumbore and Illustrated by Susan L. Roth (2011) . Lee and Low Books.**



Planting Trees to Feed Families is ecological innovation at its best, all spearheaded by Dr. Gordon Sato, a survivor of the Japanese internment camp Manzanar and now a biologist committed to ending hunger throughout the world. In the village of Hargigo in Eritria, local women provide the labor to plant mangrove trees which supplies them with much needed income. The trees turn carbon dioxide to oxygen, attract fish, feed goats and sheep, and therefore children, all made visible in Roth's brilliant multimedia collage renderings.

\*Adapted from Jane Addams Peace Association

# Classroom Connection

The classroom connection for this month features infographics. Infographics are visual representations of information shared in texts that draw on elements of design to represent salient and complex material to readers in an unencumbered fashion. These graphic representations are meant to assist readers' comprehension by dissecting large amounts of data into visual images that enhance important ideas about the content.

Take a look at the examples below that students could use as mentor texts to explore the following ideas about environmental justice:

1. How are the concerns raised by residents in marginalized communities being addressed?
2. How does this project impact under-resourced communities, specifically Indigenous populations?
3. How have similar projects impacted the environment and public health of people who reside in the community where the project is located?
4. How does this project benefit the community and the environment?

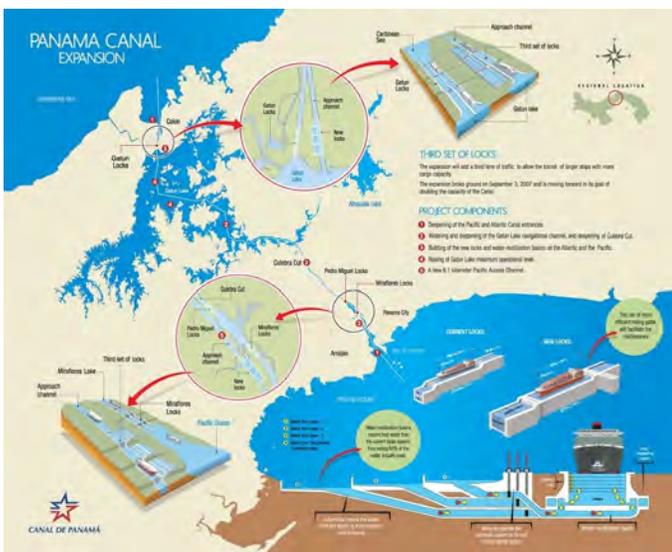


Image Credits: micanaldepanama.com

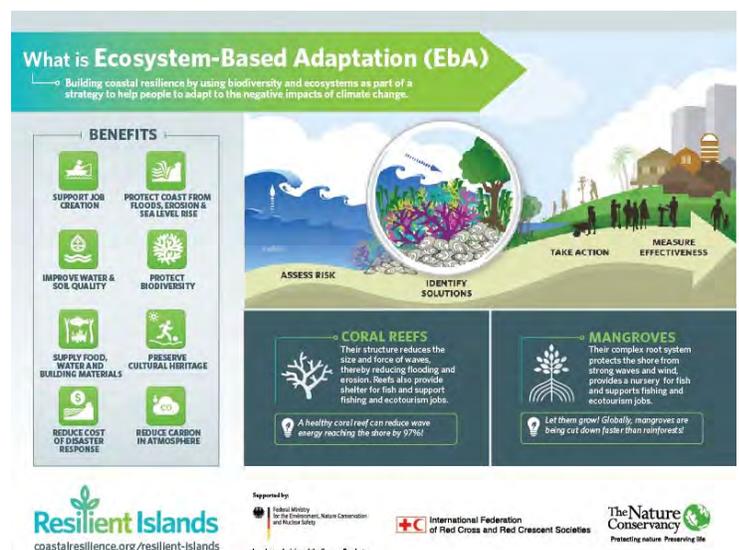


Image credits: <https://coastalresilience.org/project/resilient-islands/>

## Theme Resources & Connections

### Resources to use with Children:

[NASA](#): Global Climate

[National Geographic](#): Climate Change

[Youth Climate Activists](#)

### Resources for Educators:

[Interview](#) with the authors of *The Mangrove Tree: Planting Trees to Feed Families*

Twitter hashtags

#ClimateChange

#AustraliaOnFire

#AmazonRainforest

[United Nations](#): Climate Change

NPR [Climate Cast](#) - Podcast

[On the Frontline of Climate Change and Displacement](#)  
-Photo Essay

## In the News

American Library Association [Midwinter Meeting](#), Philadelphia, PA: January 24-28, 2020

American Booksellers Association [Winter Institute](#), Albuquerque, N.Mex., Jan. 22-25, 2020

The Color of Children's Literature [Conference](#), Barnard College, NYC, NY: April 3-4, 2020



**We would love to know how you are engaging students with these titles in your classrooms and schools. Please share artifacts using the hashtag #JACBA**



## February 2020: Movements for Social Change

Younger: Dolores Huerta: A Hero to Migrant Workers, written by Sarah Warren and illustrated by Robert Casilla

Older: Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March by Lynda Blackmon Lowery as told to Elspeth Leacock and Susan Buckley and illustrated by PJ Loughran,

**Submit your curriculum connections for one of the books in the upcoming themed issues. Send materials with brief 1 paragraph explanation to [price-dennis@tc.edu](mailto:price-dennis@tc.edu)**

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## Contributing Editors

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