I Can Make a Difference: A Treasury to Inspire our Children

Kate Reynolds

Reviewer: Kate Reynolds  
Reading Level: All  
Rating: Outstanding  
Genre: Folklore; Poetry;  
Subject: Conduct of Life--Quotations, Maxims, etc.--Juvenile; Inspiration--Juvenile Literature; Conduct of Life--Literary Collections--Juvenile Literature; Books--Reviews;

Edelman presents twelve principles, such as compassion, honesty, courage, and determination, to teach children how to make a difference in the world. Each principle is supported by quotations, stories, and poems from many peoples and cultures--from Aesop to Zoroastrianism--that exemplify the idea. The accompanying illustrations by Moser, from full page watercolor paintings to vibrant spot art, will enhance the reader's experience with their beauty and appropriateness.

Although reading this book all at once may seem didactic to adults, it is the perfect book to pick out one story or poem to read out loud to the family or to a child at bedtime. Some selections, especially some quotations, may not be within comprehension for young children, but will reach older audiences. This book teaches moral values without drawing from one particular creed or culture overly much, making it accessible to everyone. Edelman, a well-known, award winning children's activist, has brought together a useful collection of positive principles that promote not only discussion between children and adults but also constructive behavior in society.