

Literature of Social Justice
Book Reviews by Aimee Rogers
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The Great Paper Caper by Oliver Jeffers
Philomel Books, 2008, 40 pp., \$17.99
Picture book/Mystery/Forests/Environmental Impact
ISBN: 978-0-399-25097-2

This whimsically illustrated picture book tells the story of four inhabitants of the forest who notice that branches and trees are disappearing from their forest home. They immediately launch an investigation to discover who is destroying their home. The culprit is soon discovered but his reasons for taking the trees of the forest are not what one might have predicted. Jeffers' story can be read at many levels and at many ages. The very young will enjoy the illustrations and trying to solve the mystery. Older readers can begin to see the connections between our actions and their consequences. Teachers could very easily use this picture book to discuss social responsibility and how one person's actions can have a much greater impact on others and the environment than one can imagine.

Why War is Never a Good Idea by Alice Walker, illustrated by Stefano Vitale
HarperCollins Publishers, 2007, 32 pp.
Picture book/Poetry/War
ISBN-13: 978-0-06-075385-6

Alice Walker composed a haunting poem that personifies War and its horrifying traits. Walker's piercing words are accompanied by the illustrations of Stefano Vitale. The combination of the poetry and the illustrations provides a striking picture of War and its power over all. No innocent is saved from War and its nasty traits. This picture book could easily be incorporated into a variety of classroom situations; including, the study of poetry, the study of wars and the study of art. Teachers could use this book as an introduction to a study of war and its affects. With support, this book is accessible to all ages.