

MUNCHKIN FUN THANKSGIVING KINDNESS CHALLENGE



PART 2: EXPLORING HOMELESSNESS



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**"IT IS IN YOUR HANDS
TO CREATE A BETTER
WORLD FOR ALL WHO
LIVE IN IT"**

NELSON MANDELA

ISSUE OVERVIEW:

HOMELESSNESS IN AMERICA



FACTS

- Accurate statistics regarding the number of children without homes are difficult to obtain, as the homeless population is constantly in flux
- Children experiencing homelessness are 9 times more likely to repeat a grade
- Children experiencing homelessness are 3 times more likely to be placed in special education
- 1 in every 30 American children goes to sleep without a home each year
- Approximately 2.5 million children are homeless annually in the United States



TAKE ACTION:

ASSEMBLE CARE KITS

Work together to assemble these kits as a family, then deliver to a local homeless shelter or keep in your car if you'd like to personally give to someone who is homeless.

- **Go Shopping.** Think about what you might like in a care kit & stock up. Suggested items include toothbrushes, toothpaste, lip balm, tissues, hand sanitizer, snacks, socks & gloves.
- **Personalize.** Use paper and markers to create cards of encouragement & joy. Messages like "Have a great day," "Thinking about you" or "Rainbows ahead."
- **Deliver.** Find a local homeless shelter and drop off your care kits. Alternatively, keep some in your car & distribute as you come across recipients.

TAKE ACTION

LOCAL RESOURCES



LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS FIGHTING HOMELESSNESS

- Broward: Broward Partnership
- Central Florida: Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida
- Jacksonville: City Rescue Mission
- Miami: Miami Rescue Mission
- PBC: Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County
- Tampa Bay: Homeless Helping Homeless

ASK QUESTIONS

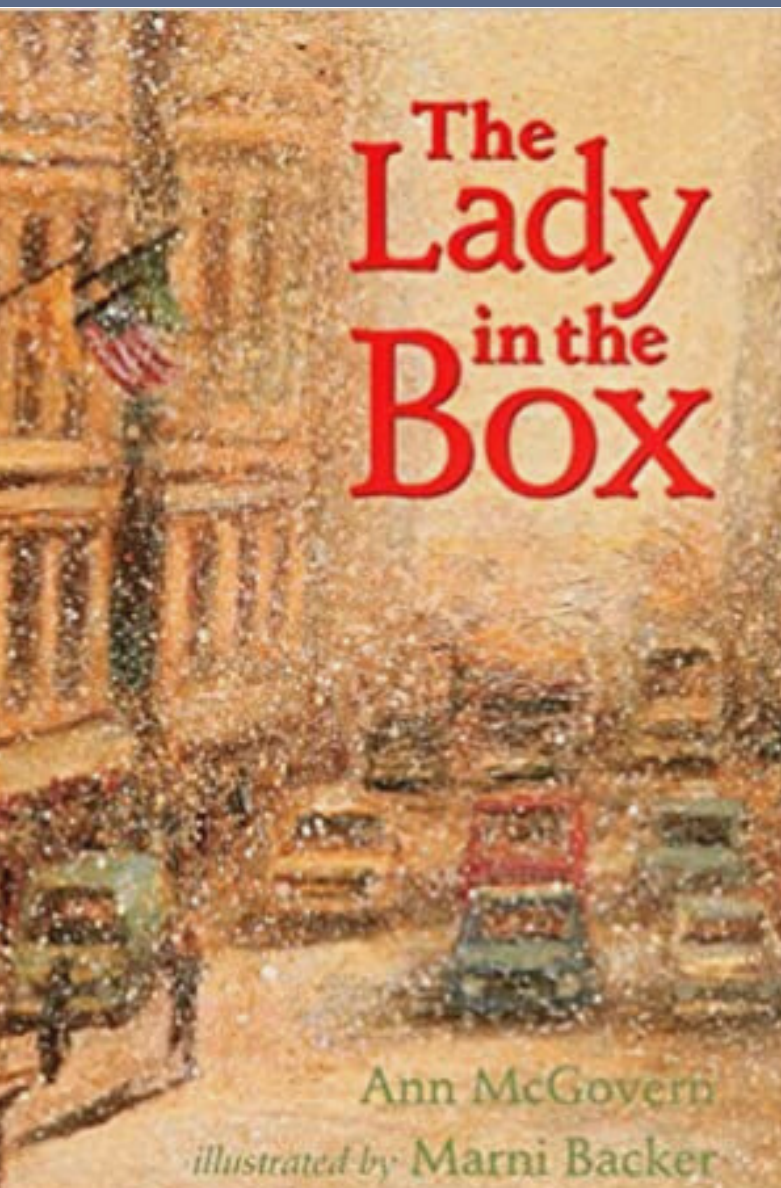
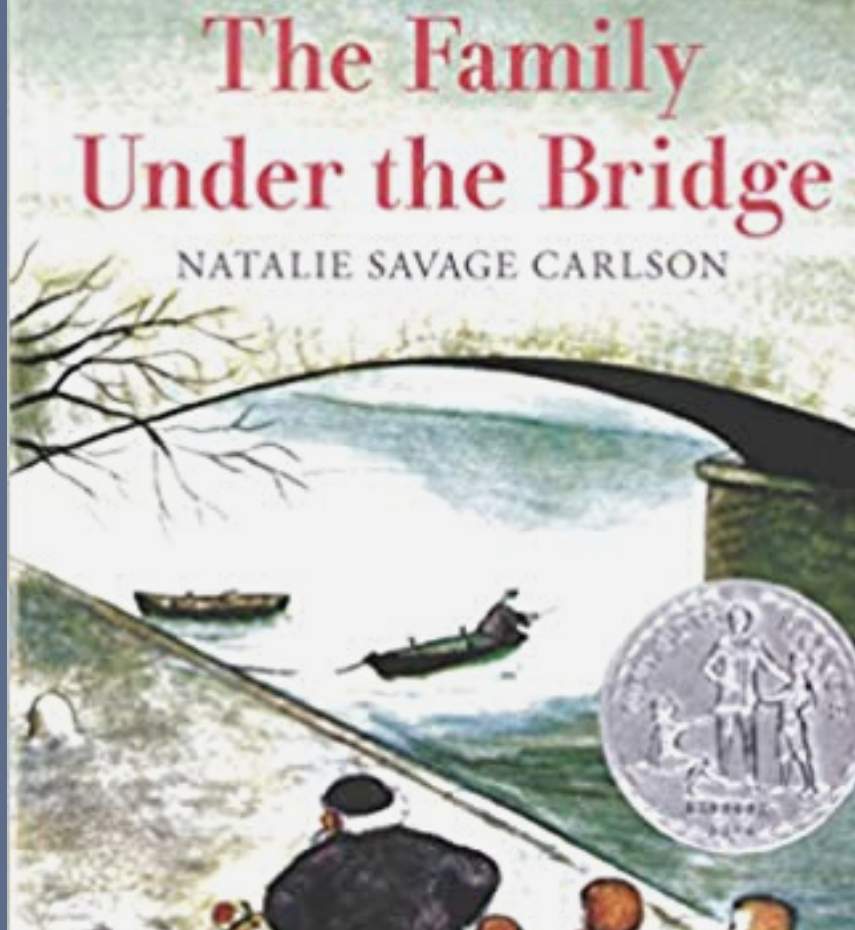
CONVERSATIONS MATTER



Help kids imagine what homelessness would feel like...

- What do you think would be the hardest part about not having a home?
- If you did not have a place to live, what things would be most important to you? Where would you sleep? How would you stay clean?
- How would you feel if you had to eat your meals at a shelter? What would you want to be served?
- If you had to move to a homeless shelter, and could only bring a few items with you, what would you bring?

READ A KIDS BOOK ABOUT HOMELESSNESS



The Lady in the Box by Ann McGovern. It is wintertime in the city and freezing cold, but not everyone is inside and warm. Ben and his sister Lizzie know that there is a lady who lives outside in a box over a warm air vent. The children worry about the kind-looking lady, and begin sneaking food and clothes out of their apartment for her.

The Family Under the Bridge by Natalie Savage Carlson. Armand, an old man living in Paris, relishes his solitary life in the beautiful city. Then, one day just before Christmas, Armand returns to his favorite spot beneath the bridge to find three cold and hungry children. He has no interest in children, but finds himself caring for the small family and realizing he must do whatever it takes to get them a real home.