English 1B Fall 2011 Extra Credit Assignment **Kids Save the World**

**Overview**: As you are educating yourself about contemporary issues and analyzing the rhetoric with which the issues are framed, you might want to think about how these issues are being presented to the next generation. You could also reflect on how they were presented to you when you were a child (pre-school through middle school, say).

**Procedure**:

1). Find a book or movie with a message (something involving words) that was designed to get kids interested in contemporary issues: saving endangered animals, planting trees or gardens, helping the poor, understanding global warming, standing up to injustice, whatever. The books you look at don’t have to be about food, they just have to be making some kind of argument—even if it’s just something like, “You, too, can make a difference!” Books that are just meant to be entertaining won’t work for this. Hero/heroine books are good places to look, especially when a figure from history is profiled in a way that makes them appeal to kids, such as Wangari Maathai or Cesar Chavez.

2) Analyze the book or movie to determine what combination of informing and persuading is going on.

* Analyze the persuasive strategies, especially pathos appeals.
* There are likely to be logos appeals, as well, especially if the kid’s book is based on a true story.
* Consider the illustrations, as well, and music, if this is a movie. Informative/explanatory illustrations are logos appeals. If the illustrations are likely to evoke particular emotions, they count as pathos appeals.
* Also consider any material attached to the book that is addressed to parents or teachers. Compare the strategies used there to the strategies used for the kids.
* If possible, get a kid’s opinion of the book/game/movie. This could be from kids you know, or there might be reviews posted, say, on Amazon. You might also ask teachers, if you know any.

3) Write a page or so (double spaced, typed) describing and analyzing the book. A good one is worth 10 points.

**Suggested Book List**: Some of these I have and can lend. Others you will find in libraries. The slashes are just so I could pack more titles into one page.

Beatrice’s Goat / The Goat Lady

Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai

The People Who Hugged the Trees

The Great Kapok Tree/ The Lorax/ The Tin Forest

The Carpet Boy’s Gift (there is online material about how to teach this book to kids)

Strega Nona’s Harvest/ Stone Soup

Bagels From Benny

The Ugly Vegetables / The Tortilla Factory

Seedfolks