The selection of the titles shown does not constitute an official endorsement by the Peace Corps of these publications.

Recommended Reading

The Peace Corps marks its 46th anniversary in 2007. More than 187,000 Americans have answered the call to international service since the agency was established in 1961 to promote world peace and friendship. These offerings share the common thread of having been written by a former Peace Corps Volunteer. Enjoy!

NONFICTION

A Life Inspired: Tales of Peace Corps Service
Peace Corps
In 2006, the Peace Corps published *A Life Inspired*, a lively, eye-opening book recounting the encounters and experiences of 28 Volunteers as they pursued their Peace Corps service. Compelling, inspiring, sometimes funny, often poignant, these first-person stories represent the breadth of Peace Corps work, the countries it serves, and the diversity of its Volunteers. Together, the stories reflect the service, the adventure, the cross-cultural exchange, the personal growth, and the deep friendships forged as part of the Peace Corps Volunteer journey.

Nine Hills to Nambonkaha: Two Years in the Heart of an African Village
Sarah Erdman *(Côte d'Ivoire)*
In a village in Côte d'Ivoire, modern day issues begin to take their toll on the community. We witness village life, death, celebration, and survival. In beautifully crafted prose, the author convincingly draws us into the lives of this colorful and haunting place, a little world on the cusp of enormous change.

River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze
Peter Hessler *(China)*
The author labored to learn Chinese and become assimilated into a town and culture that had shunned foreigners for decades before his arrival. This is a tale of two-way cultural discovery full of humanity, humor, and turmoil, by a Peace Corps teacher whose writing talents will hold you mesmerized.

The Ponds of Kalambayi
Mike Tidwell *(Zaire)*
As a Volunteer in central Zaire, Tidwell learned many lessons about survival and generosity of spirit from the villagers. They show that in this culture full of tragedy, humor, and fascinating individuals, sharing is the key. The author captures the culture in colorful, masterful storytelling.

FOR CHILDREN

Nine Animals and the Well
James Rumford *(Afghanistan)*
This formally structured tale's apparent simplicity disguises the richness of the message. An ever-growing (and wonderfully illustrated) group of animals sets out to visit the raja king. Along the way, suspense builds up, an amusing set of circumstances ensues, young children will learn to count—and we all learn a deep lesson: that presence counts more than presents. An appealing story for all ages, nursery to adult.

Mama Elizabeti
Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen *(Tanzania)*
Illustrated by Christy Hale
The everyday activities of a young girl in Africa seem fairly mundane until she undertakes the care of her baby brother. Not as easy as it looks, her role as caretaker takes an unexpected turn when she temporarily loses her sibling. This leads to a greater appreciation for her brother, warts and all. Elementary school readers, especially girls, will identify with young Elizabeti.

Jubela
Cristina Kessler *(Honduras, Kenya, Seychelles)*
Illustrated by JoEllen McAllister Stammen
This poignant story of a baby rhino facing an uncertain future after losing its mother to poachers will captivate readers. Sensitively written, biologically accurate, and beautifully illustrated, the tale is based on the true story of an orphaned rhinoceros in Swaziland. This compelling story is certain to alert young readers to the issue of wildlife conservation.

Painted Dreams
Karen Lynn Williams *(Malawi)*
Illustrated by Catherine Stock
Extreme poverty and even the discouragement of her mother cannot thwart the passions of little Marie to paint her colorful images on walls with materials scrounged from trash. Maintaining what the author's helpful endnotes describe as a Haitian tradition of folk art turns petite Marie into somewhat of a family heroine.

Peace Corps Week 2007

February 26 through March 4

Learn more about the Peace Corps at www.peacecorps.gov