

Hi Laura,

I would highly recommend Laura Schroff's inspiring true story, *An Invisible Thread*, as an important and relevant book for every school library collection. Speaking for my fellow educators, we present ourselves daily and consistently as role models and mentors to our students. In my particular school district, we have children who live in households with absentee parents, domestic abuse, and in the most heartbreaking of cases, have lost their homes and are living in shelters. For these children, their teachers are the only positive influence on their lives. And sometimes, a total stranger makes this connection, as well.

This happened to Maurice Mazyck, an eleven-year-old panhandler, living in horrific conditions, invisible to all who passed. Laura Schroff, however, took notice. Drawn by "an invisible thread" she offered Maurice a meal and subsequently her friendship. She saved him from a life of dead ends and the cycle of poverty and abuse. She changed his life.

This message of compassion and commitment certainly resonates – the positive connection between two people creates ripples that radiate outward and affect many. Children reading this book come out of the experience knowing that there is hope - that there are people who care; that they can become greater than their circumstances. And those children more fortunate than Maurice will be inspired to pay it forward. Compassion and empathy; commitment and purpose; friendship and mentorship – all of these qualities, so vividly written about in the story of Laura and Maurice, result in a beautiful, inspiring and heartfelt human story sure to touch its readers and create ripples of change. I wish every young person and adult had access to this important book.

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Beth Kattleman

Library Media Specialist

Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School