

FINDING HOPE AT A TIME OF CRISIS

(2012) argue that hope is an active process of bringing healing to the world.

The ills that the evil spirits that escaped from Pandora's Box have wrought on Earth have already done terrible damage. However, the spirit that stayed behind – the spirit of hope – can be harnessed in the service of creating a better future. It may not be powerful enough to bring about change on its own, but it is certainly an essential quality as we grapple with unprecedented challenges. Hopeful geography teachers will seize the opportunity.

References

Alexander, R. (2010) *Children, Their World, Their Education*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Charney Manor Geography Conference 2020 (2020) 'Views on the state of primary geography', *Primary Geography*, 103, p. 22.

Freire, P. (1993) *Pedagogy of Hope*. London: Continuum.

Hicks, D. (2014) *Educating for Hope in Troubled Times*. London: Institute of Education Press.

Kellert, S. (2012) *Birthingright: People and nature in the modern world*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Macy, J. and Johnstone, C. (2012) *Active Hope*. Novato, CA: New World Library.

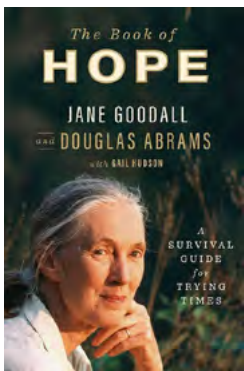
Piersol, L. (2014) 'Our hearts leap up, awakening wonder within the classroom' in Egan, K., Cant, A. and Judson, G. (eds) *Wonder-full Education*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Thompson, E. (2019) *Letters to the Earth*. London: Collins.

Willy, T. and Rawlinson, S. (2019) 'Introduction' in Willy, T. (ed) *Leading Primary Geography*. Sheffield: Geographical Association.

About the author

Dr Stephen Scoffham is a Visiting Reader in Sustainability and Education at Canterbury Christ Church University in Kent, a member of the GA's Early Years and Primary Phase Committee, and Past-President of the GA (2018–19)



BOOK REVIEW: THE BOOK OF HOPE

(NPR, Barbara J King)

Jane Goodall encourages all to act to save Earth in 'The Book of Hope'

In Mombasa on the coast of Kenya is a place called Haller Park. People flock there to see 180 indigenous species of plants and trees, and a variety of animals including hippos and giraffes.

In *The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times*, Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams discuss the park as an example of how our injured Earth can be restored and healed. At one point the park was "a monstrous five-hundred-acre scar where almost nothing grew" because a cement company created a quarry that ravaged the land. The company's CEO decided to repair the damage and slowly, year by year, with horticultural tending and introduction of wild animals, the area was transformed.

I start with this story in honour of Goodall's forceful argument that hope for our ailing planet is galvanised through storytelling: It's crucial, she says, that people — especially young people — know how positive action can still turn around the frightening trajectories of climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and the ongoing global pandemic. "It's mostly because people are so overwhelmed by the magnitude of our folly that they feel helpless," Goodall

states. They need to hear stories of "the people who succeed because they won't give up."

First of Goodall's four reasons to hope is the amazing human intellect. While an intelligent animal "would not destroy its only home" as our species is doing, we have the intellectual power to come up with new innovations all the time.

Next on the list is the resilience of nature, attested to by the example of Haller Park, Goodall tells stories of animals brought back from the very edge of extinction.

Reason for hope number three is the power of young people, from elementary school age right through to college. Back in 1991, a dozen Tanzanian students approached Goodall with their concerns ranging from live animal markets to poaching in national parks; this interaction led to the Jane Goodall Institute's founding of Roots and Shoots, a youth organisation now active in 68 countries.

Last of Goodall's reasons to hope is what she calls **the indomitable human spirit**, the ability we have individually and collectively to wrest a victory from what appears to be an inevitable defeat.

READ the full review [HERE](#)