



Illustration: Rebecca Bender

# One Good Thing

A pandemic project by [TeachingKidsNews.com](https://TeachingKidsNews.com)

When the pandemic hit, the amount of news—much of it scary or confusing for young people—was overwhelming. The last thing we wanted to do was add to the amount of COVID-19 news. But due to home-schooling, continuing to offer parents and teachers a high-quality, free educational news resource was more important than ever.

**So, we published a limited series called One Good Thing.** Every post was about something happening in the world that was fun or delightful. Something good.

Additionally, posts were illustrated by Canadian children's illustrators, to help boost awareness of an industry that had been particularly hard-hit by the pandemic. This added to our task, but we felt it was necessary and important.

Name of Project	One Good Thing
Name of Organization	TeachingKidsNews.com
Address	
City	Hamilton
Country	Canada
Contact Details	
Name	Joyce Grant
Email	<a href="mailto:joycehgrant@gmail.com">joycehgrant@gmail.com</a>
Telephone	



# One Good Thing

For 11 years, TeachingKidsNews.com (TKN) has been providing free, kid-friendly news to kids, teachers and parents.

Every article is written by professional journalists. TKN gives kids access to news that is every bit as professionally produced as news written for adults. But TKN articles are more accessible for kids, with more context and background information as well as prompts to help kids think more critically about what they are reading.

Every article includes thinking and reading questions as well as related links for greater depth. TKN provides readable, teachable news.

**When the pandemic hit, it was important to us that the thousands of kids and adults who read TKN every day continue to have access to great content. So from March 22 to May 29, 2020, TKN published One Good Thing.**

“One,” thing at a time so it was never overwhelming and “Good” because young people needed something good.

**The project was inspired by a plasticine illustration by renowned Canadian illustrator Barbara Reid.**

Joyce Grant saw the piece, which is from Reid’s book, “Read Me A Book,” and it made her happy. She realized that, during the pandemic, kids needed access to more “good things” like that. She approached the artist, who embraced the project.

Publisher Scholastic, which owns the copyright to the artwork, quickly and enthusiastically agreed to let TKN use it and offered work from other illustrators. Other illustrators and publishers quickly joined in.

From Read Me a Book. Copyright by © 2003 by [Barbara Reid](#).

Photography by [Ian Cryslar](#). All rights reserved.

Published by [Scholastic Canada Ltd.](#)



# One Good Thing

What is a good thing? It's different for everyone. We tried to offer a wide range of things that kids would find **inspirational, funny, interesting** or **helpful**.

It's different from the news TKN reports. Depending on the post, One Good Thing is something kids can read about, look at, watch, click on or listen to. There is **no pressure** for them to actually "do" anything themselves, unless they feel inspired.

This is key.



#gettymuseumchallenge



Celebrating  
**10 YEARS**  
2010-2020

**Teaching Kids News .com**

Readable, teachable news.  
Monday, April 14, 2020

HOME NEWS ARTS SCIENCE SPORTS POLITICS "FAKE NEWS" RESOURCES

ONE GOOD THING

## One Good Thing: Sidewalk Games

March 22, 2020 6:02 pm by Joyce Grant · Edit this post



From *Read Me a Book*. Copyright by © 2003 by Barbara Reid. Photography by Ian Snyder.  
All rights reserved. Published by Scholastic Canada Ltd.

While we are all social distancing and isolating, Teaching Kids News will be posting "one good thing," three or five times a week.

Please Make a Donation to TKN (you must be 18+)

Donate

Talking to kids about difficult news

Sometimes the news is difficult. Take a look at these Tips for talking to kids about difficult news.

1,019+ free articles in our archives

Teaching Kids News posts weekly news articles, written by professional journalists. It's free to read and use in the classroom. Please also use TKN's Search feature to search the more than 1,000 articles in our archives.

MG novel by TKN's Joyce Grant



The idea is to uplift, without overwhelming. Calm, wonder and inspire. Bring art, ideas and light to our young readers and resources to the people who are looking after them.

We are kicking off the week with an awesome "good thing," that we're calling Social Distancing Sidewalk Games.



A social distancing sidewalk game in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

When art, exercise, creativity and social distancing are combined, the result is sidewalk fun. Use your imagination to get sidewalk walkers (jumping, singing, dancing, hopping ... and whatever else you can think of).

All it takes is some chalk, lots of room so you and the other sidewalkers can remain at least two metres (six feet) from each other, and some creativity!

Your hopscotch squares could say "sing a song" or "hop on one foot" or "make a funny face." They can be as short or as long as you'd like. It's up to you!

Share your sidewalk drawings and games on our Facebook page and remember to tag us on Twitter @TeachKidsNews.

#### LINKS AND MORE

Toronto Public Health COVID-19 fact sheet  
[https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/1612-Practicing-Social-Distancing\\_EN.pdf](https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/1612-Practicing-Social-Distancing_EN.pdf)

Tags: One good thing, scholastic canada, sidewalk games



#### Author: Joyce Grant

Joyce Grant is TKN's co-founder and News Director. She is a freelance journalist, editor and author of the "Gabby" series of picture books as well as middle-grade novels "Tagged Out" and "Sliding Home." She blogs about children's literacy at Getting Kids Reading ([www.getkidsreading.com](http://www.getkidsreading.com)). Follow her on social media @JGCanada.



There were 19 posts published over 10 weeks, twice as many as TKN (which is a weekly) normally publishes.

The posts are easily accessible from our Home Page or by using our Search engine.

We do not receive any revenue for TKN or One Good Thing. TKN is **volunteer-based** and **free** for readers to use.

#### ONE GOOD THING



##### One Good Thing: Squirrel-Bandits

May 29, 2020

Squirrels are One Good Thing. Especially when they're robbing teeny-tiny nut [...]



##### One Good Thing: One Day More!

May 25, 2020

The Marsh family singing a pandemic version of One Day More is One Good Thing! [...]



##### One Good Thing: Harry Potter, read by "Harry Potter"

May 19, 2020

You can hear Daniel Radcliffe read the first chapter of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, and other celebs reading each [...]



##### One Good Thing: Angela Lansbury as teapots

May 11, 2020

Angela Lansbury as teapots. If that isn't One Good Thing, we don't know what [...]



##### One Good Thing: Rainbow of Hope

May 6, 2020

A Rainbow of Hope in the window to cheer neighbours and thank frontliners. It's One Good [...]



##### One Good Thing: Barley and Ethel

May 4, 2020

We think that the way three-year-old sheep handler Barley works with her sheep, Ethel, is One (very) Good [...]

- One Good Thing: Touring an Egyptian Tomb
- One Good Thing: The Getty Museum Challenge
- One Good Thing: Banksy

## RESULTS

TKN's readership is excellent for a Canadian website and even moreso when you consider it is volunteer-run, receives no revenue and has been going for more than 11 years.

During the One Good Thing pandemic project, readership was higher than normal—in part because, as we surmised at the outset of our project, teachers and parents were searching for teachable online news content.

## Joe Frank, parent

“One Good Thing, created by Joyce Grant for the website Teaching Kids News, stands out as a particularly accessible collection of well-curated, family-friendly, feel-good stories and activities.

As the father of three energetic kids for whom the pandemic has been a confusing time, my family has benefited from the window into the lives of others doing creative things as well as the inspiration to get up and explore new activities.

From marathon sidewalk chalk hopscotch and online author readings to virtual tours of Egyptian tombs and rediscovering the everyday magic of letter-writing, One Good Thing has grounded us, reconnecting my partner and me with our kids amid a stressful time, and given my kids things to laugh with, feel inspired by, and new ideas to explore.

I've been grateful to use it and I've avidly recommended it to many families.” March 2021





Canadian Society of Children's Authors, Illustrators and Performers  
La société canadienne des auteurs, illustrateurs et artistes pour enfants

503-720 Bathurst St.  
Toronto, ON M5S 2R4  
T 416.515.1559  
office@canscaip.org  
www.canscaip.org

March 2021

TO: Global Youth & News Media Prize

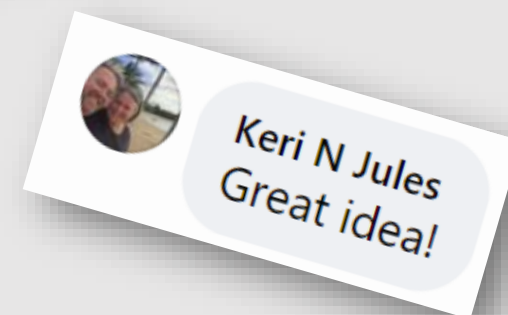
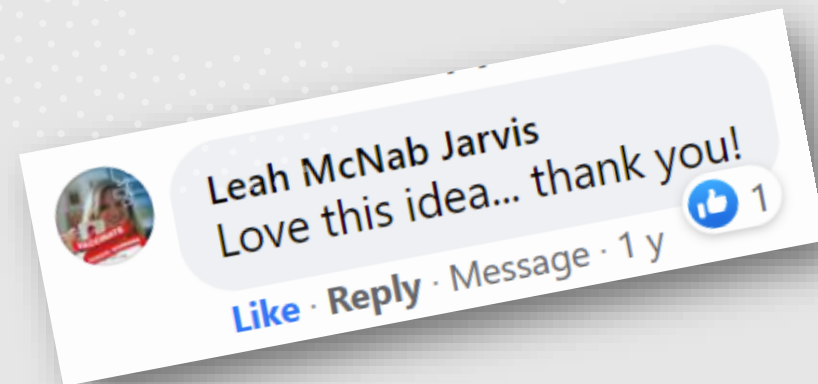
We're CANSCAIP (Canadian Society of Children's Authors, Illustrators and Performers), and Joyce Grant has been a supportive and productive Member and volunteer for more than 10 years.

During the pandemic, Joyce's "One Good Thing" project has been an unique and effective way to promote CANSCAIP's authors and illustrators. Over the 10 weeks of her program, many of our creators were featured on Joyce's website, reaching young readers, teachers and parents—with well over 300,000 views.

It is challenging for the books by Canada's wonderful kidlit creators to reach readers, given the high-profile and mega-bestselling kids books and series published in the US. Programs like "One Good Thing" connect Canada's young people and the adults in their lives with our Canadian books, authors and illustrators. Joyce's work makes a difference.

Sincerely,

One Good Thing was  
embraced by parents,  
educators, publishers  
and Canadian artists



Hi Joyce and Maral,

I've attached an image from Read Me a Book which Joyce would like to post on her wonderful TKN platform <https://teachingkidsnews.com/> as part of running "one good thing" to share positive stuff with kids. I'm delighted to give permission to use this image.

-Barbara Reid


# One Good Thing articles are briefer and lighter than TKN's regular content

ONE GOOD THING

## One Good Thing: Rainbow of Hope

May 6, 2020 7:01 am by Joyce Grant · Edit this post


[Print](#)



Artist Brittany Lane has captured the essence of the Rainbow of Hope movement in this charming illustration. Visit her website at [www.BrittanyLane.ca](http://www.BrittanyLane.ca) and follow her on Instagram @BrittanyLaneArt.

It is a way to connect with people when we have to keep our distance. And it has become a movement.

Across Canada and around the world, people are posting "Rainbows of Hope" in their windows for people walking by to see.



The rainbows offer encouragement, cheer neighbours, thank frontline workers and most of all, let everyone know that we are going to get through this pandemic.

In Quebec, many people add the phrase #CaVaBienAller. In Italy, the phrase is #AndraTuttoBene. "It's going to be okay."

In some neighbourhoods, like Vaudreuil, Quebec, families walk around and count how many rainbows they can spot.

Here's one Rainbow of Hope Facebook group, where you can find lots of other Rainbows of Hope.  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/353793902203992/>

The Rainbow of Hope. It's One Good Thing.

Thank you to Louanne Rioux, for this great photo of Rosalie and her Rainbow of Hope (and Barbara Reid, for bringing this to our attention).

Thank you also to artist Brittany Lane. Visit her website at [www.BrittanyLane.ca](http://www.BrittanyLane.ca) and follow her on Instagram @BrittanyLaneArt.







## Research, accuracy and good journalism

For this article about a three-year-old sheep handler, we chatted with a sheep expert and with Barley's mother. We asked Canadian artist Karen Patkau if we could feature her sheep illustration. And we added art from Philadelphia artist Jameela Wahlgren, who also agreed to let us feature her work.

<https://teachingkidsnews.com/2020/05/04/one-good-thing-barley-and-ethel/>

Normally at this time of year farmers in the UK "would be taking their livestock around the country to compete in agricultural shows," Barley's mother, Caitlin Jenkins, tells TKN. However, because of the pandemic, the 2020 show season had to be cancelled.

Technology to the rescue! An online agricultural show was created, and the funds raised from it are being given to farming charities.

In this clip, filmed by Jenkins, sheep handler Barley is showing Ethel in the under-8 category, for judge James Rebanks.

The video has had more than 1.8 million views. If you're wondering about the red paint on Ethel's side, it's to match her up to her lamb so that in the field, the owners can easily pair them up (according to a comment by Jenkins on Twitter).

"Barley has her own flock of Border Leicester sheep, gifted to her on her first birthday as a present from her grandfather," says Jenkins. "Ethel is the oldest sheep in the flock; she is very kind and has a good friendship with Barley. Barley loves to be out helping us on the farm, come rain or shine."

What a wonderful, uplifting clip. Feel free to watch it several times... or 20. So good.

In the comments on judge James Rebanks' tweet, artist Jameela Wahlgren posted her illustration of the two of them, which she said she drew to "capture the moment." How awesome is that? Check out more of Jameela's incredible art and design work on [her website](#) and follow her on Twitter [@whatagoodpup](#).



Renowned Canadian children's illustrators offered their work for the project, which also boosted lesser-known artists.

Barbara Reid

Jeremy Tankard

Rebecca Bender

Debbie Ohi

Kevin Sylvester

Jan Dolby, Patricia Storms & more

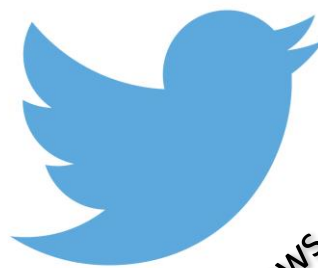
# The Philosophy of One Good Thing

- Lighter and shorter than TKN's regular news stories, but still in news style
- Published on the TKN website, to continue to give content to our regular readers and bring new readers to the site
- Big-name Canadian illustrators (well known by our audience of kids and teachers) lent credibility to TKN and our kid-friendly news. Lesser-known illustrators were promoted. Every illustrator received an image credit with a link to their website.
- One Good Thing articles eschewed any suggestion that readers needed to "do stuff." At the time, everyone was promoting the need to "get out and be creative." Remember how exhausting that was? We were an oasis of simply good things to read or watch. No pressure.
- While not adding to the pandemic news overload, One Good Thing was content that was kid-friendly and promoted news reading by young people
- Flexible: If important news broke, we would cover it (this happened with BLM)





[facebook.com/teachkidsnews](https://facebook.com/teachkidsnews)



[@TeachKidsNews](https://twitter.com/TeachKidsNews)

Follow us on  
social media!



[Pinterest.ca/JGCanada12/teaching-kids-news-media-literacy/](https://Pinterest.ca/JGCanada12/teaching-kids-news-media-literacy/)

# One Good Thing was suspended when George Floyd was murdered. We responded to readers' requests for a kid-friendly article on BLM



## Teaching Kids the News

Published by Joyce Grant · 31 May 2020 ·

We won't be publishing any "One Good Thing" posts this week. To do so would, we feel, be incongruous to the events that are taking place in the United States (and elsewhere) right now. Events that we need to follow, to watch, to understand and to learn from. This is not a time for distractions and for looking away or seeking "good things." This is a time to focus on the fact that Black lives matter, and everyone--no matter what colour their skin--must be a supportive ally of Black people.

At TKN, we haven't yet decided what else we will do--perhaps we will publish a kid-friendly news article to help kids access and understand these events. Perhaps that is not our place. In any case, we will keep you posted.

1,779

People reached

231

Engagements

Boost post



**Erin Zavitz Sageman**

I would really appreciate a kid friendly article! This is the kind of thing that is extra difficult to do justice to while online learning. Normally it also requires a discussion with kids which is so hard to do in current conditions.

Like · Reply · Message · 45 w



4



BREAKING NEWS NEWS

## Black lives matter.

June 9, 2020 / by Joyce Grant / Edit

Black Lives Matter and people around the world are protesting to find a solution to racism.

Continue Reading →

<https://teachingkidsnews.com/2020/06/09/black-lives-matter/>

We also publish news articles on the pandemic.

We find an angle that offers **hope** along with the more challenging news.

HEALTH, NEWS

## One Step Closer To A COVID-19 Vaccine

November 15, 2020 4:34 pm by Joyce Grant Edit this post



Image: Pfizer Facebook page.

Pfizer, a company that makes medicine, announced that, along with its partner BioNTech, a COVID-19 vaccine they are working on seems to be effective in about 90% of cases.

A vaccine is not a cure for COVID-19 once you have it. It is a type of medicine that prevents someone from getting a disease in the first place.

BREAKING NEWS, HEALTH

## Governments Taking Steps to Prevent Spread of Coronavirus

January 27, 2020 7:45 pm by Monique Carroll Edit this post



By Monique Carroll

Health officials in China and around the world are working hard to prevent a new virus from making more people sick.

LIGHTER, NEWS

## Hallowe'en Was a Little Different this Year

November 1, 2020 7:24 pm by Joyce Grant Edit this post



Zach, the Zombie Banana, helps load up his family's candy line for Hallowe'en.

Photo: Jacqueline Hockridge.

Hallowe'en was a bit different this year.

Depending on where you live, door-to-door trick-or-treating may have been strongly discouraged or banned because of the pandemic, or was allowed with restrictions such as wearing a mask and social distancing.



The same news adults get,  
but with more context, and  
difficult concepts broken  
down and fully explained.

---

As John Lorinc, a journalism prof  
at Ryerson University, told his  
class, “Writing news for kids is  
hard to do. You have to know  
exactly what you’re talking  
about and be very clear. It’s  
actually harder than writing for  
adults.”

We agree.

**BREAKING NEWS, HEALTH**

## Coronavirus Affecting the Way We Do Things

March 12, 2020 10:06 pm by Joyce Grant · Edit this post



Print

UPDATED March 17, 2020

People all over the world are changing the way they greet people, wash their hands, travel and seek entertainment, among other things.

That's because governments want to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. Most people, especially young people, will not be seriously affected by it and even if they get it will only feel like they have a cold or the flu.



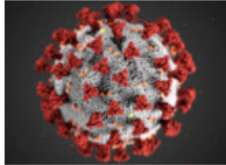
**NEWS SCIENCE**

## Wear a mask. Keep apart. Wash your hands.

September 14, 2020 / by Joyce Grant · Edit

There is no doubt, this school year is unlike any other in most people's memories.

Continue Reading →



**BREAKING NEWS NEWS POLITICS**

## President Donald Trump has COVID-19

October 4, 2020 / by Joyce Grant · Edit

US President Donald Trump has COVID-19.

Continue Reading →

**HEALTH, NEWS**

## World Leaders Mark Pandemic Anniversary

March 14, 2021 10:09 am by Joyce Grant · Edit this post



Image: Gerd Altmann, Pixabay

Just over a year ago, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic.

On March 11, 2020, the WHO's director-general noted "the alarming spread and severity" of COVID-19. "We have therefore made the assessment that COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic," said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, back in 2020.

Tristan, a nine-year-old TKN fan in the US was inspired to report on our coverage.

---

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ksvIZWygVPE>



<https://teachingkidsnews.com/2020/09/14/wear-a-mask-keep-apart-wash-your-hands-dont-touch-your-face/>

Canadian children's illustrator Michele Nidenoff created an illustration for our pandemic coverage, a nice tie-in to One Good Thing.

---

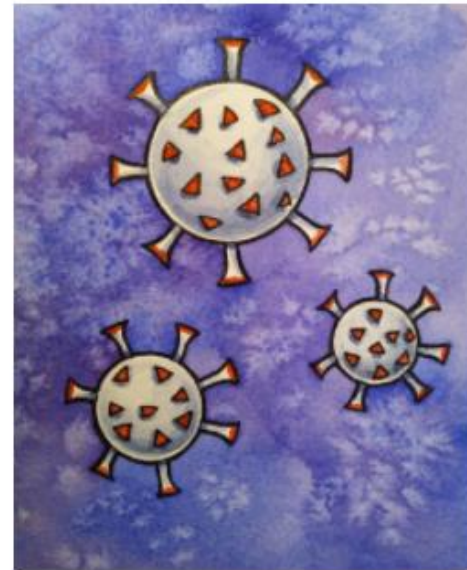
Each of our news articles features Think & Discuss questions that encourage critical thinking, as well as links to related information.

HEALTH, NEWS

## UK Woman First To Receive COVID-19 Vaccine

December 9, 2020 5:03 pm by Joyce Grant · Edit this post

Print



*Illustration of the novel coronavirus by Michele Nidenoff.*

On Tuesday, Margaret "Maggie" Keenan became the first person in the world to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Keenan will turn 91 next week. She is a retired jewellery store clerk living in Coventry in the United Kingdom (UK)

<https://teachingkidsnews.com/2020/12/09/uk-woman-first-to-receive-covid-19-vaccine/>




# And when some guy tried to imitate One Good Thing... we reported on that, too!

ONE GOOD THING

## One Good Thing: Some Good News

April 8, 2020 6:29 am by Joyce Grant · Edit this post

Popular actor John Krasinski (The Office, Jack Ryan) and husband of Emily Blunt, is now a newscaster and specifically, a *good-news* newscaster. 

He's doing daily from-home newscasts, called Some Good News (SGN). Pretty much like what we're doing here with One Good Thing—trying to offer up some good news in these trying times.

And this edition of his Some Good News may be one of the best things ever, because it involves the entire cast of Hamilton singing to a young girl who, because of the pandemic, isn't getting to see her favourite musical. Hey, I'm not crying—*you're* crying!



Click the image above to watch SGN on YouTube, or click here: <https://youtu.be/oilZ1hNZPRM>

Enjoy what happens when Krasinski surprises Aubrey at around the 9:25 mark—or start from the beginning and just enjoy the whole darned newscast. And definitely wait to the end, to see what Krasinski is wearing under his jacket, cause it's adorable.

TKN doesn't compete with anyone. We promote other kid-friendly news; whatever will help kids access the news.

# What's Next for One Good Thing?

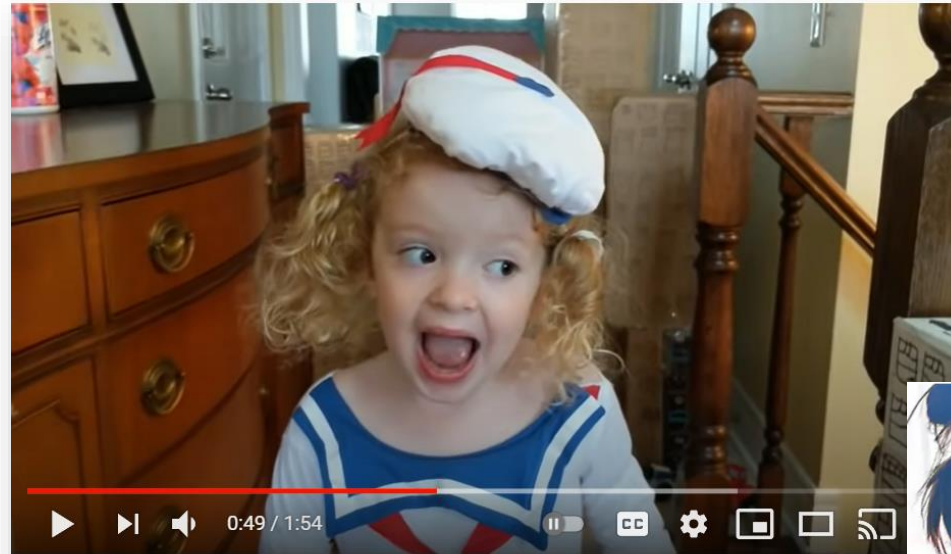
The pandemic is still here. Learning is still often remote. The need for **good things** has not abated.

Thanks in part to this application, which has helped us to realize how important this project is to so many people, we have decided to **extend our One Good Thing series**.

Go on a Virtual Museum or Aquarium Tour



There are lots of good things to tell kids about. Stay tuned!



The Stay Puft Marshmallow Man Attacks the Ghostbusters in Quarantine







Illustration: Rebecca Bender

# One Good Thing

You'll find all of the One Good Thing posts here:

<https://teachingkidsnews.com/category/one-good-thing/>

Thank you for allowing us to share our pandemic project with you.

Our goal is to inform young people, help them get into the habit of reading the news, and give them adult-quality reporting.

And like you, we support and applaud everyone who does those things as well — because that's a good thing.

Thank you.

*Thank you to artist Rebecca Bender, who created our One Good Thing logo.*