

# DD Compass Monthly



April Edition  
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## Celebrate Earth Week April 18-22, 2022

### Book Review: Love the Earth

by Emma Ledesma

Filled with information about climate change, *Love the Earth* provides helpful information and many activities to help care for the earth. American Girl Publishing Inc. released the eighty-six page book in 2020, written by Mel Hammond and illustrated by Monique Dong. *Love the Earth* costs \$10.00 to buy on the American Girl website. This book is available at American Girl stores and the company website, as well as through other major booksellers.

American Girl, which sells dolls, apparel and other products for girls, also publishes informational books for girls about digital safety, manners, babysitting, and many more topics. *Love the Earth* is one of their newest books, and it talks about climate change and simple ways readers can help love the planet they live in. First, the book talks about what climate change is, and shares some crafts to help understand the effects of climate change. Second, the book contains quizzes, which cause readers to think more deeply about climate change. Finally, the book includes stories of girls who have spoken up about climate change in their communities.

Of all the quizzes, my favorite is the Earth Lover quiz. It teaches you different types of people who help the Earth through science, influencing others, special projects, and leading others to fight for this cause. Another highlight from *Love the Earth* is helpful and simple suggestions to support positive environmental change. The author's recommendations include writing a letter to a representative, making a video to spread the word, texting family and friends, holding a protest, and speaking at a local council meeting. The book even shares ideas to help readers create their own environmentally supportive projects, such as ways to reduce food waste. A short read that gives valuable information about our climate and ways to protect it, *Love the Earth* teaches us how to treat every day like Earth Day.



### Making an Earth Lover's Notebook

By Emma Ledesma

*Love the Earth*, written by American Girl, is all about what climate change is and how you can support the earth's environment. In this book, there are many different activities to help care for the earth. I will share my favorite project in the book, which is creating an Earth Lover's Notebook.

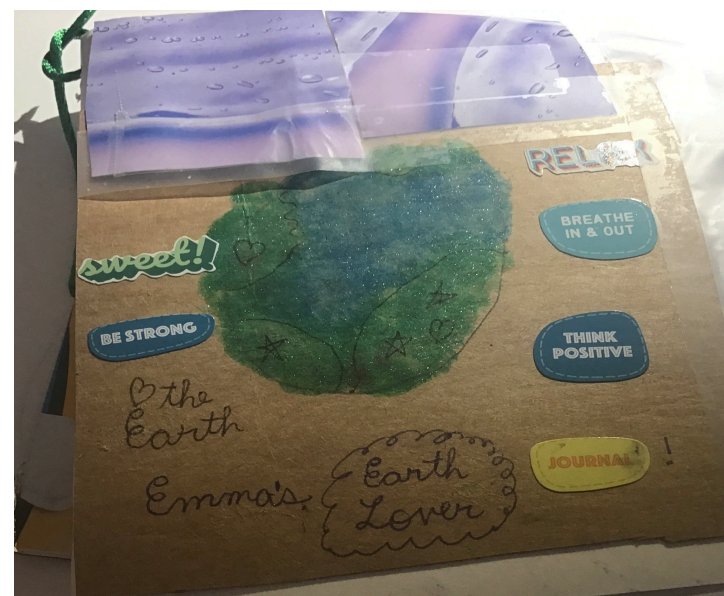
How to create an Earth Lover's Notebook: "As you learn more about climate change, you may find it helpful to keep all your notes, ideas, questions, inspiring quotes, research, and doodles in one place." (*Love the Earth* pages 10-11.)

According to the book, "You will need fifteen sheets of paper printed on one side, a 2-hole punch, cardboard from an old shipping box or shoe box, a pencil, scissors, string, yarn, or ribbon, decorations like stickers, bottle caps, magazine clippings, and colorful tape, and craft glue."

Next, *Love the Earth* provides these steps:

- \* Fold a piece of paper in half, with the blank side facing out, and use a hole punch to add two holes to the paper on the open (non-folded) side. Repeat for all fifteen sheets of paper.
- \* Cut two rectangles from the cardboard, six inches wide and nine inches tall. These are the front and back covers.
- \* Cut two pieces of string, yarn, or ribbon, each about a foot long. Brighten up the front cover with whatever decorations you like.
- \* Place one of the folded papers on top of the front cover. Use the pencil to mark where each hole is. Do the same for the back cover. Ask an adult to cut a small circle at each mark with the tip of the scissors.
- \* Stack the pages, front cover, and back cover together. Carefully push the string through each set of holes and tie a tight bow with a double knot." (Page 11 *Love the Earth*)

If you want to watch me create this notebook, go to my YouTube channel Emma's Exciting Life and subscribe. I hope you create this notebook and have a great Earth Day!

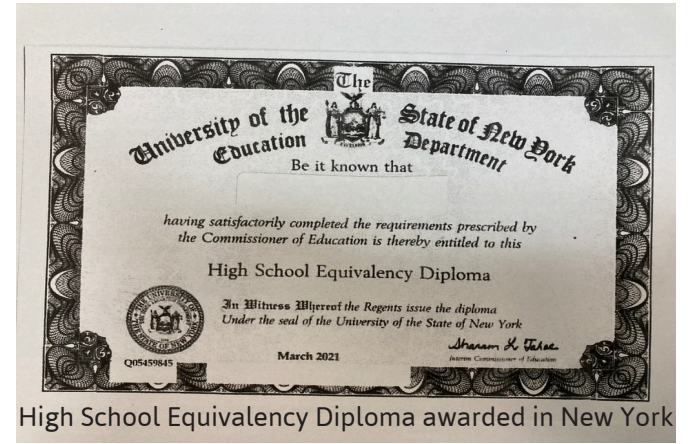




Joanna Lodin

## Homeschool Paths to Graduation: The General Education Development Test (GED)

*By DD Compass staff*



High School Equivalency Diploma awarded in New York

DD Compass Monthly journalists spoke this month with New York-based homeschooling expert and Fearless Homeschooling founder Joanna Lodin about the new General Education Development test. The GED replaced the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) in January 2022. Individuals who pass the GED earn a high school equivalency diploma that could be helpful in pursuing college, vocational training or other career opportunities following high school. The GED test consists of four separate tests which together take 7.5 hours to complete. You may take the four tests separately. In New York, it costs nothing to take the GED. In New Jersey, it costs \$120 at a test center, and \$144 to take online.

DD Compass: Welcome to the DD Compass Podcast. Today, we are interviewing Joanna about the GED exam. Tell us a bit about yourself!

Joanna Lodin: Well, I'm mom to three boys, all of whom were homeschooled from beginning to end. I started homeschooling in 1995, and they are now twenty-nine, twenty-six, and twenty-two years old. Two of them completed college, and one of them took the high school equivalency exam for his diploma.

DD Compass: What is the GED, and how intense is it?

Joanna Lodin: The GED is the General Education Development test, which is taken in lieu of a high school diploma, in order to get the high school equivalency diploma. I don't know how intense it is because I've never taken it, but if you're well prepared, you're going to have a better shot at passing the first time around.

DD Compass: How long do you get to take each section of the test?

Joanna Lodin: I don't know how long each section is, but the total is seven and a half hours of testing, over four tests: English, Math, Social Studies and Science, which I believe, is taken over two days.

DD Compass: Can you take the sections separately?

Joanna Lodin: They are taken separately, (but) I don't know how the scheduling goes.

DD Compass: Can you re-do the GED test if you fail?

Joanna Lodin: You can re-do individual sections if you don't do well. You don't have to re-do the whole test. You can take one section if you don't pass it the first time.

**\*Coming soon\***

Check out DD Compass Podcast videos on YouTube:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9McXwxXW\\_H4k\\_kE-soHnQw/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9McXwxXW_H4k_kE-soHnQw/videos)



# Side Hustle Review: Comedy, Friendship and Hard Work

by Emma Ledesma

Kicking off with a catchy theme song, “We Got This,” *Side Hustle* is a TV show on Nickelodeon that first aired November 7, 2020 and now has two seasons and over thirty-six episodes. The show features Lex, Pressley, and Munchy, high school students and best friends who make mistakes and try to remedy them as they enlist in comical “side hustles.” The teenagers’ antics are hilarious and their hard work, loyalty to each other and creative problem solving are inspiring - they always solve their problems in an interesting way.

When Lex, Pressley and Munchy accidentally burn their school principal’s boat, they need to find a way to pay him back. Kidding, an app created by Pressley’s scientist brother, Fisher, becomes a success and helps them find side hustles, or short term jobs, to make money to pay back Principal Tedward. In the episode “Make a Mutt,” Lex and Pressley create dogs at the Make-a-Mutt store where children can create their own plush dog. At first, assembling the dog parts was easy, but then the machine runs so quickly that Lex jumps on the conveyor belt and slides out the dog door. This scene reminds me of the iconic “Job Switching” episode of the show “I Love Lucy” from the 1950s where Lucy and Ethel frantically assemble chocolates on a conveyor belt. At Make-a-Mutt, the store owner and children are furious because the dogs were put together incorrectly. Some dogs had ears for hands and others were headless! After the girls explain what happened, they help the store owner create the dogs the right way.

Another funny episode is when Lex and Pressley are hired to be princesses at a little girl’s birthday party. The day before the party, they had gone to a lab and ate a pill that makes you love vegetables, but it didn’t take effect right away. Instead, the pill took effect the day of the birthday party, so Lex and Pressley ate all the vegetables in the birthday girl’s garden! They even ate the birthday carrot cake! The birthday girl’s parents were extremely upset when they found out, so Lex and Pressley ended up paying the parents back with the money they had just earned.

Lex is my favorite character because she works hard, is a good problem solver, and does well in school. Importantly, she cares a lot about her friends, as shown in the episode “Mouth Noise.” In this episode, Lex creates a band and helps her friends sell tickets, encouraging them to stay focused on the goal of paying off the debt for Principal Tedward’s boat.

It’s great to see a healthy, hilarious, and joyful show about high schoolers who love life and work hard to learn from their mistakes. The characters’ persistence in paying off their debt and their ability to work together is inspiring, and each episode ending is hilarious. If you enjoy comedy, hard-work, and friendship, then you should definitely see *Side Hustle*. New episodes air every Thursday night at 7pm. You can view the show on Nickelodeon.com or on the Nickelodeon mobile app.





# EARTH DAY WORD SEARCH



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compost

nature

pollution

deforestation

reduce

reuse

deplete

solar energy

sustainable

ecology

toxic

waste

ecosystem

fossil fuels

litter

biodegradable

green