

JOHN F. KENNEDY
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

From Head and Heart:
Caring for the Environment
Through Science, Stories, and Action:

An Annotated Bibliography of
New and Noteworthy Books for Young Readers

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Prepared for

From Head and Heart: Caring for the Environment
Through Science, Stories, and Action

A Conference for Teachers of Grades 3-8 and School Librarians
November 8, 2023

Presented by the Department of Education and Public Programs at the John F. Kennedy
Presidential Library and Museum

From Head and Heart: Caring for the Environment Through Science, Stories, and Action:

Exploring how literature can help students to understand the interconnectedness of the natural world, and how educators can prepare young people to face the urgent challenges of a changing climate.

Contents

Introduction to the bibliography	2
Bibliographies	3
The Interconnected Natural World: Understanding habitats, ecosystems, biomes, and their species	3
Protecting Nature: Confronting climate change, ecosystem degradation, and the endangerment of species	15
In Poetry Form: Nonfiction about the Natural World	28
Biographies and Profiles of Activists and Scientists: Exploring, preserving, and restoring the natural world and addressing the challenges of climate change and environmental injustice.	30
Fiction: Appreciating and Protecting the Natural World	37
Resources	42
Professional Journals	
Online Resources	
Children’s Book Awards	

Please note:

The categories in this bibliography are fluid. For example, there are books that cover both learning about the interconnectedness of the natural world *and* the actions needed to protect the natural world. These books are placed in the category that best represents the major theme of the book; all the books address the theme of the conference.

Introduction to the Bibliography

This bibliography was prepared as a resource for the conference:

From Head to Heart: Caring for the Environment Through Science, Stories, and Action: Exploring how literature can help students to understand the interconnectedness of the natural world, and how educators can prepare young people to face the urgent challenges of a changing climate.

Included in the bibliography are

- annotated lists of new and noteworthy books (2020 – 2023) that represent the excellence and breadth of nonfiction, fiction, biography, and poetry books for children that are relevant to the theme of the conference.
- recommended resources for finding books and other materials that relate to the theme of the conference.

The criteria for selecting books for the bibliography include:

- books that address the theme of the conference;
- books published from 2020 – 2023 (with a few exceptions);
- books that present diversity in populations of people, in geographic regions and habitats, in wildlife, and in environmental challenges and activism.
- books with appeal to children or young adults through the originality and excellence of the content, writing style, illustrations, format, and design;
- books that are useful and valuable for classroom learning and teaching, as well as for students' independent reading and research.

A note about picture books and suggested grade levels:

There are many excellent nonfiction books and biographies now being published in picture book format – and they are wonderful for introducing topics and/or reading aloud to students of all ages. These books are often quite sophisticated and are valuable in using with older students because:

- reading books aloud to a group creates shared background knowledge and a common reference point for class discussions, and the illustrations convey important historical and scientific context and emotional truth;
- students can read more than one picture book on a topic and compare different approaches in presenting information about the natural world, environmental challenges, and/or a person's life and achievements;
- students are drawn to illustrations and images, and picture books offer examples of excellent artwork, design, and historical and scientific representation;
- when creating their own work, students can learn from picture books different techniques for selecting ideas and facts from a wealth of information; how to create a specific focus; how to engage readers, and how to use images.

Valuable supplements to this bibliography are the bibliographies prepared for previous conferences. These bibliographies can be found on the [JFK Library website](#), along with many valuable educational resources.

The Interconnected Natural World: Understanding habitats, ecosystems, biomes, and their species

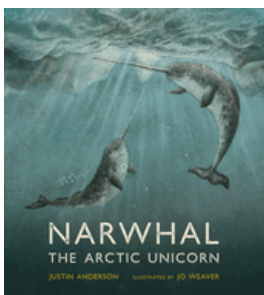
Note: see the section “In Poetry Form: Nonfiction about the Natural World” for more excellent books.



Alexander, Elaine M. Anglerfish: The Seadevil of the Deep. Illustrated by Fiona Fogg.

Candlewick Press, 2022. 32 pages.

Grades 1 – 3. Deep in the darkest and harshest part of the ocean where no ray of sunlight can penetrate, the primordial, fierce-toothed anglerfish finds prey with its own bioluminescent lure. This portrait of one of the most bizarre creatures in the ocean is told with exciting text, stunning artwork, and helpful back matter that includes the way females mate with the far tinier males. In picture book format.

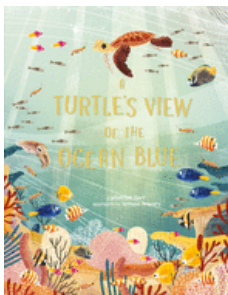


Anderson, Justin. Narwhal: The Arctic Unicorn. Illustrated by Jo Weaver.

Candlewick Press, 2022. 32 pages.

Grades 3 – 5. Narwhals are unique members of the whale family; males (and a few females) have a single tooth, a tusk that grows out like a 6-foot spear – the reason for the nickname “the Arctic unicorn”. As winter comes to an end, a pod of narwhals begins its annual migration north. Along the way, they must find fish to eat, avoid a hungry polar bear, and navigate the maze of sea ice. Suspense builds: will their sensitive long spiral tusks and clicking calls be enough to keep them safe and help them find their way to their summer resting grounds? Additional facts

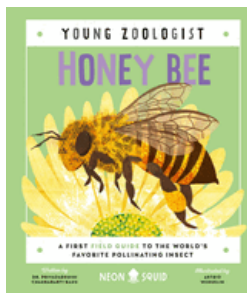
about the species appear in a smaller font on each spread. The illustrations show the dark depths with contrasting colors in the sky and the summer light. An afterword addresses threats to the species from climate change. In picture book format.



Barr, Catherine. A Turtle's View of the Ocean Blue. Illustrated by Brendan Kearney.

Laurence King Publishing, 2021. 64 pages.

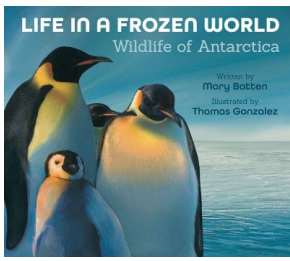
Grades 2 – 4. A sea turtle is our guide in exploring the five oceans on the planet. This book examines the underwater world from the sunlit surface to the deepest depths, including the oceans’ wildlife, tides and currents, and the migrations of sea life. Concluding with a discussion of the current and future condition of our oceans, the author provides recommendations for action to clean, recover, and preserve. In picture book format with vibrant full-color and full-page illustrations.



Basu, Priyadarshini Chakrabarti. Honey Bee: A First Field Guide to the World's Favorite Pollinating Insect. Illustrated by Astrid Weguelin.

Neon Squid, 2023. 32 pages. Series: *Young Zoologist*.

Grades 2 –4. Beginning with “Fact File” pages that introduce honeybees with scientific details, such as habitat, diet, and life span, this book then prepares the young zoologist (aka the reader) for their upcoming adventure in the field by explaining the tools necessary for investigating bees. Also discussed are different honeybee species, beekeeping tools, honeybee anatomy, nests (both wild-built and human-made), the different members of a honeybee colony and the challenges this important pollinator faces. In a smaller format with detailed, colorful illustrations.

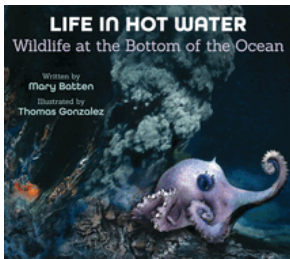


Batten, Mary. Life in a Frozen World: Wildlife of Antarctica. Illustrated by Thomas Gonzales.

Peachtree, 2020. 38 pages.

Grades 3 – 6. This book begins with a question about how living things, from microscopic bacteria to the blue whale, can survive and even thrive in the coldest, windiest, driest biome on Earth. With double spread paintings in saturated colors, the author and illustrator immerse the reader in this world of seaweed, krill, icefish, whales, penguins, seals, ocean invertebrates, and giant sea

spiders. The second half of the book takes the reader to the international research stations where scientists work to understand the continent and what is happening due to global warming, including melting ice shelves. The author’s note addresses the need for action, challenges climate change deniers, and calls for cooperation, quoting marine science professor Gary Wilson: “No one is going to solve it on its own. It’s going to take each and every one of us to make a difference.” In picture book format.

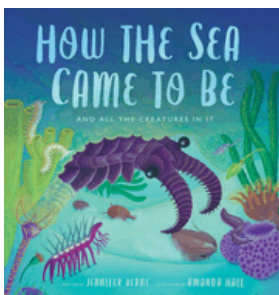


Batten, Mary. Life in Hot Water: Wildlife at the Bottom of the Ocean. Illustrated by Thomas Gonzalez.

Peachtree Publishers, 2022. 40 pages.

Grades 3 – 5. This book focuses on the ocean's hydrothermal vents, "where volcanoes erupt daily, gushing superhot fluids above the seafloor" and where nothing should be able to live. The scalding-hot water gushing from these vents at the bottom of the ocean creates one of the most extreme environments on Earth. Yet over millions of years, many organisms – from chemical-eating

bacteria to eyeless crabs and iron-shelled snails – have evolved in amazing ways that allow them to thrive in this unlikely habitat. Scientists are working to learn more about the complex ecosystems of the ocean depths. The dramatic illustrations show luminous creatures and terrain along the dark ocean floor. In picture book format.

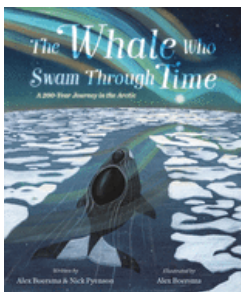


Berne, Jennifer. How the Sea Came to Be (And All the Creatures in It). Illustrated by Amanda Hall.

Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2023. 56 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. Engaging, rhyming text and superb illustrations follow the evolution of the ocean, from the fiery time of its birth to the present day. Using information from geology, oceanography, biology, and 4.5 billion years of evolution, this book examines the shaping of Earth's surface, the formation of the seas, and the emergence of life and complex biodiversity, with spotlights on past and present marine life forms. Extensive back matter includes notes from the

author and illustrator on their research, detailed profiles of some of the species featured in the illustrations, additional resources and terminology, and a foldout timeline of Earth’s history that is linked thematically to the concepts and illustrations in the book. In picture book format.

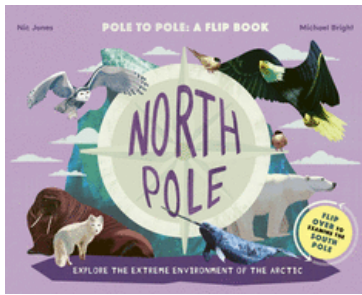


Boersma, Alex and Nick Pyenson. The Whale Who Swam Through Time: A Two-Hundred-Year Journey in the Arctic. Illustrated by Alex Boersma.

Roaring Brook Press, 2022. 48 pages.

Grades 1 – 4. This is a fascinating, fictionalized view of what a female bowhead whale (the world's longest-living mammal) might have seen over her lifetime in the last 200 years in the Arctic. She experiences both physical growth and environmental change: the calf begins life in the peaceful ocean, surrounded by snow and ice and abundant wildlife. Then, several navigation ships appear along with nineteenth-century whalers and, later, oil rigs and submarines. In the scenes of the present,

global warming and industrialization appear, and the once-quiet Arctic is not only noisy, which makes whale song communication difficult, but also an area that now includes cruise and cargo ships, oil spills, and many forms of human-made waste. Dramatic illustrations depict changes on land and sea. Extensive authors' notes provide scientific information on bowheads; brief descriptions of other Arctic animals depicted in the illustrations; and historical overviews of whaling and the Indigenous people of the region. With dramatic illustrations and in picture book format.

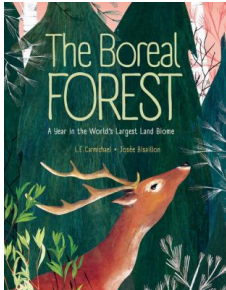


Bright, Michael. North Pole / South Pole: Pole to Pole: A Flip Book to Explore the Extreme Environment of the Arctic/Antarctic. Illustrated by Nic Jones.

Words & Pictures, 2020. 64 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. This guide to the North Pole and South Pole has a flip book format that allows the reader to explore and compare the two Poles: readers turn the book one way to learn about one pole and flip it over to learn about the other. The text describes the weather and landscape, but the primary focus is on the animals that reside on or around each pole,

including fish, mammals, and birds, with explanations of the adaptations that enable them to withstand extreme cold. The text also explains how and why humans interact with each landmass and includes the history of exploration and current research efforts. With detailed illustrations in picture book format.



Carmichael, L. E. The Boreal Forest: A Year in the World's Largest Land Biome. Illustrated by Josée Bisailon.

Kids Can Press, 2020. 48 pages.

Grades 3 – 6. Boreal forests, relative newcomers that developed after the last ice age, stretch across the northern zones of North America, Scandinavia, Russia and East Asia. Because their trees clean the air and their wetlands clean the water, they are important to the health of the planet. The main text, in two or three short paragraphs on a page, captures the essence of these forests, while the engagingly titled sidebars on each spread provide a great deal of additional information about such topics as the interdependence of life forms, forest creatures who live

there, weather patterns, threats to the health of the forests, and how the forests benefit humankind. For example, one spread shows, then describes a red fox that sneezes from inhaling puffball mushroom spores. The sidebars are titled: Nature's Medicine Chest; Small Worms, Big Trouble; and Nature's Recyclers. The first is about how the Gwich'in First Nation used spruce sap for medicines. The second is about how the invasive worms used by fishermen rapidly eat leaf litter, releasing the soil's carbon dioxide, which would normally have stayed trapped by the layer of litter in the soil. The third shows how mushrooms, insects, worms and microbes break down dead plants and animals. The large trim size of this book allows for expansive watercolor illustrations, which stretch across the double spreads, appropriate for the topic of expansive boreal forest biomes. The back matter includes extensive references, websites, an author's note, and a glossary.

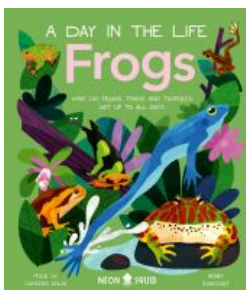


Cassany, Mia. Wilderness: Earth's Amazing Habitats. Illustrated by Marcos Navarro.

Prestel Junior, 2019. 48 pages.

Grades 1 - 3. This richly illustrated book focuses on the planet's wild regions, including forests, jungles, tundras, and deserts to discover the animals that call these places home. Intricately detailed illustrations depict places as wide-ranging as Senegal's Niokolo-Koba National Park, Russia's Sikhote-Alin mountain range, the Sinharaja Forest Reserve in Sri Lanka, Daintree National Park in Australia, the Mexican desert, and China's bamboo forests. The animals that live in these remote

places are hidden in the trees, plants, and flowers, creating a challenge for readers to find and identify them. Each spread contains more than twenty different species including birds, snakes, frogs, iguanas, leopards, tigers, gorillas, pandas, and wolves. The back of the book is filled with additional information about the animals and their habitats. In picture book format.



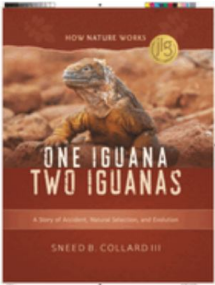
Caviedes-Solis, Itzue. Frogs: What Do Frogs, Toads, and Tadpoles Get Up to All Day. Illustrated by Henry Rancourt.

Neon Squid, 2023. 48 pages. Series: *A Day in the Life*.

Grades 2 – 4. In this book, herpetologist Caviedes-Solis encourages the reader to look at frogs with wonder. Set over the course of one day, we get an hour-by-hour look at what various species get up to all around the world: at 1 p.m., in Eastern Austria, a male moor frog seeking a partner turns bright blue (a signal to other males); at 5 p.m. in Australia, cane toads are taking a break from their long migration. But first, the book opens by differentiating between commonly mistaken

animals: toads and frogs. In picture book format with clear, colorful, explanatory illustrations. See also in

this series: *Bugs: What Do Bees, Ants, and Dragonflies Get Up to All Day?*; *Big Cats: What Do Lions, Tigers, and Panthers Get Up to All Day?* and more.



Collard, Sneed. One Iguana, Two Iguanas: A Story of Accident, Natural Selection, and Evolution.

Tilbury House, 2018. 40 pages. Series: *How Nature Works*.

Grades 3 – 5. This book focuses on how two species of lizards, sharing a common ancestor, evolved as the marine iguana and the land iguana on the Galapagos Islands. The narrative begins by describing a gray iguana soaking up the tropical sun, then it does something no other lizard on Earth does: it dives into the water to feed on ocean plants. Its cousin, a yellow land iguana, feeds on prickly pear cactus. How these two species became so different provides a great example of how evolution works.

Stunning photographs of the iguanas in their habitats and sidebars extend this accessible explanation of natural selection. The back matter includes the author/marine biologist's note, a short profile of Darwin's expedition to the Galapagos, a glossary of words and phrases, and further resources.

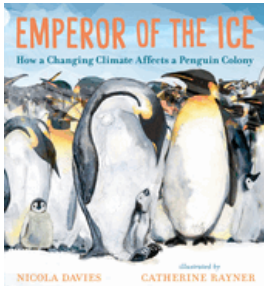


Cox, Lynne. Yoshi, Sea Turtle Genius: A True Story about an Amazing Swimmer. Illustrated by Richard Jones.

Anne Schwartz Books, 2022. 40 pages.

Grades 2 - 4. This is the true story of a loggerhead turtle that has swum farther than any animal known to scientists. (The author herself has shattered many records for long-distance swimming.) The book follows the turtle from her birth on an Australian beach to the moment she was caught in a net and then rescued by a Japanese fisherman (who named her Yoshi, meaning "good luck").

The fisherman took her to the Two Oceans Aquarium in South Africa, where she stayed for 20 years. The experts there decided to return her to the ocean, training her for endurance, and then releasing her with a tracking device. That's how it is known that Yoshi traveled 22,998 miles to lay eggs on the Australian shore where her life began. Illustrated with luminous double-page spreads and horizontal panels that emphasize the passage of time. The author's note explains that, though she speculated about some of Yoshi's life, everything after her rescue is documented. A fascinating glimpse at a miracle of the natural world; in picture book format.



Davies, Nicola. Emperor of the Ice: How a Changing Climate Affects a Penguin Colony. Illustrated by Catherine Rayner.

Candlewick Press, 2023. 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. Scientists observing emperor penguins from satellites in space (an effective way to monitor their inaccessible nesting grounds) have determined that climate change has made the Halley Bay winter sea ice in Antarctica unreliable: the many thousands of emperors that once nested there have moved elsewhere. This disturbing consequence of climate change has been woven into a gentle, positive account of a pair of emperor penguins raising a chick in a hostile environment. The

last illustrations in the book show many penguin colonies, and the text reassures the reader that, at least for now, the penguins from Halley Bay have found new homes. Beautifully illustrated in picture book format.



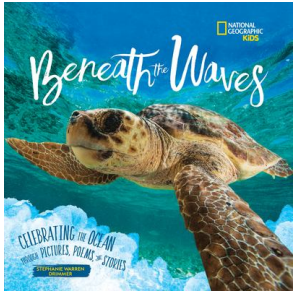
Davies, Nicola. One World: 24 Hours on Planet Earth. Illustrated by Jenni Desmond.

Candlewick Press, 2023. 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. Beginning at one minute before midnight and traveling across the globe hour by hour, this book follows two sisters who go on a magical journey to glimpse, in the span of a moment, extraordinary biodiversity: a mother polar bear and her cubs hunting seals in Svalbard, tiny turtles in India following the moon toward the sea, and enormous whale sharks gulping plankton in the Philippines.

This is a glowing tribute to the natural world and a reminder of its fragility – at each stop on this fantastical journey, the children learn about animal species imperiled by habitat degradation, a warming climate, human predation, and the like. Yet, this is not a sad book – the

illustrations are cheerful and bright, and the author takes care to explain how all is not yet lost for these creatures – we can still save them. In picture book format.



Drimmer, Stephanie Warren. Beneath the Waves: Celebrating the Ocean Through Pictures, Poems, and Stories.

National Geographic Kids, 2021. 192 pages.

Grades 3 – 8. The topics in this appreciation of the world’s oceans start at the beach, then move through various zones and ecosystems, and on to the darkest depths of the ocean: “On the Beach,” “Between Two Worlds,” “Wading In,” “Reef Life,” “Ocean Forests,” “The Open Ocean,” “On the Move,” “Life on the Icy Edge,” “Deep Down,” “Extreme Ocean,” and “People and Oceans.” The author’s lively writing style and the excellent book design make this endlessly fascinating exploration of the ocean accessible to a range of readers. Each double spread features blocks of text containing intriguing information about the ocean’s inhabitants on a background of full-color photographs. Sidebars feature commonly known creatures and introduce less well-known species. Text bubbles offer relevant facts, while poems and stories offer inspiration. Throughout, the information reveals the interdependence of the creatures and plants of the seas. The last section addresses the human impact on oceans, introduces scientists who are engaged in research that reveals the importance of oceans for humanity and all life, and puts out a call to action.



Fleming, Candace. Polar Bear. Illustrated by Eric Rohmann.

Neal Porter Books, 2022. 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. This is the story of a polar bear in the wild, shepherding her two cubs through their first year of life. Though they face several dangers, it is clear that the main danger is that the sea ice will not remain frozen long enough for the mother bear to hunt the seals she needs to survive both the long months in the den with newborn cubs and the summer when the main sources of food – ringed seals – become too difficult to catch. Climate change has made the life of a polar bear ever more challenging, and the author and illustrator have done a masterful job of connecting readers to the plight of this one polar bear family. In picture book format with vibrant illustrations. See also *Honeybee* (2020) by the same creative team.



Forster, Miriam. Sharks: A Mighty Bite-Y History. Illustrated by Gordy Wright.

Harry N. Abrams, 2022. 80 pages.

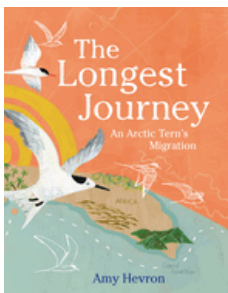
Grades 3 – 6. Sharks are some of the oldest creatures on the Earth (or, rather, in its waters.) This book follows sharks from their earliest appearance almost 400 million years ago up through the challenges they face today. Readers get an evolutionary look at what makes a shark a shark – their skin, their teeth, their fins, and more. The profiles of various sharks through history are accompanied by information about environmental conditions on land and water, contemporaneous marine species, fossil remains, and explanations of the mass extinctions and extremes in climate that marked the end of each geologic period. A lot of information is provided by the detailed illustrations of sharks swimming through their particular habitats. In picture book format.



Gaya, Ester, et.al. Fungarium. Illustrated by Katie Scott.

Candlewick, 2021. 64 pages. Series: *Welcome to the Museum*.

Grades 5 and up. This addition to the series is a thorough, fascinating appreciation of the natural world: in this case, the many fungi species so central to the world’s ecosystems. Each beautifully designed double spread features drawings of fungi and a half page of clearly written and organized text. A key to the color plates describes each drawing with just the right amount of biological information. The sections are titled “Entrance,” “Fungal Biology,” “Fungal Diversity,” “Fungal Interactions,” and “Fungi and Humans.” In oversize format.

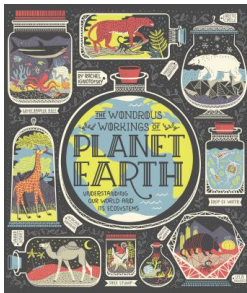


Hevron, Amy. *The Longest Journey: An Arctic Tern's Migration*. Illustrated by the author.

Neal Porter Books, 2022. 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. Each year, the Arctic tern goes on a sixty-thousand-mile journey from Greenland to the South Pole and back again, the longest such migration in the animal kingdom. They brave blistering winds, storms, rough seas, and predators as they travel between the Earth's poles, chasing the summer. In their thirty-year lifetimes, Arctic terns travel nearly 1.5 million miles – enough to fly to the Moon and back three times. In this book, we follow one tern as it sets out to make its first trip with its flock.

The author writes that the ocean waters from which the tern snatches krill and other food are "ever-warming," and she notes in the back matter how rising temperatures drive sources of nourishment to less accessible depths and also lead to seasonal storms severe enough to endanger nesting grounds. The vivid illustrations portray the locations and wildlife that these birds encounter throughout their journey and convey the vast distances that the terns travel. In picture book format.



Ignotosky, Rachel. *The Wondrous Workings of Planet Earth: Understanding Our World and Its Ecosystems*. Illustrated by the author.

Ten Speed Press, 2018. 128 pages.

Grades 5 – 9. The focus of this book is on specific ecosystems, both on land and in water on all continents, and the interconnected nature of the Earth and everything on it. Discussions about human activity, both helpful and destructive, are interwoven throughout. The first section of this book introduces readers to the basic understanding of how life on Earth is organized, from the biosphere to biomes, ecosystems, communities, populations, and finally individual species. In turn, half-

page sections define ecosystems, the flow of energy, classification of living things, how living things interact, and what makes a healthy ecosystem, microecosystems, and microscopic ecosystems. Once these basic ideas have been established, the sections describe each continent's biomes and ecosystems in detail. For example, a sidebar item on the double spread about the northern Great Plains notes that before the westward movement, 60 million bison lived on these plains, carefully stewarded by Native American nations. Many were slaughtered, driving them nearly to extinction. Conservation efforts have since brought the bison back. Each double spread is composed of labeled drawings on the left and blocks of text on the right. A very small font allows for a great deal of information on each double spread. The book concludes with sections on cycles of nature, the impact of human activity on climate change and the need to protect the planet. Illustrated with drawings, maps and infographics.

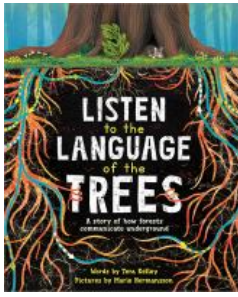


Jenkins, Martin. *A Walk Through the Rain Forest*. Illustrated by Vicky White.

Candlewick Press, 2022. 48 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. Conservation biologist Martin Jenkins and fine artist Vicky White guide readers into the complex ecosystem of Malaysia's Taman Negara. Conversational text and photo realistic black-and-white artwork, along with four glorious full-color spreads, evoke the sights and sounds of the rain forest. Pages are filled with ants and elephants, leopards and hornbills, gibbons and bats, as animals spread and fertilize seeds to help maintain a magnificent old-growth forest. Every living thing in the rain

forest is interconnected, and a full-color guide at the end of the book encourages readers to read the book again to look for animals they may have missed in the dense foliage. The back matter provides information about other rain forests around the world. Carefully researched and with extraordinary illustrations, this book encourages young people to become conservationists. The author closes with a note stating that this particular forest is protected, but similar habitats elsewhere are in danger. In picture book format. See also by this creative team: *Can We Save the Tiger?* (2011)



Kelley, Tera. Listen to the Language of the Trees: A Story of How Forests Communicate Underground. Illustrated by Marie Hermansson.

Dawn Publications, 2022. 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. This book explores the connection and communication among trees through the mycorrhizal fungi network that runs underground through the forest via the roots of trees. The focus here is on a seedling, newly sprouted at the base of a giant Douglas fir. As it stretches its roots into an underground web of fungi, it learns that its fellow trees use the fungi to pass messages and share resources. Other trees send nutrients to help the sapling thrive; when the big tree sends out a warning and distress signal, the other trees respond by sending back healing nutrients. The

detailed illustrations include both above- and below-ground views and show how the trees support the entire forest ecosystem. The back matter includes accessible explanations of the science, a list of what scientists know about tree communication, and what still remains to be discovered. In picture book format.

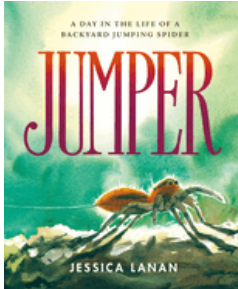


Kuo, Julia. Luminous: Living Things That Light Up the Night. Illustrated by the author.

Greystone Kids, 2022. 44 pages.

Grades 1 – 3. "When it's dark out, we need light to see. But what if your body could make its own light?" And so begins this remarkable book about bioluminescence – the light made from living things in many forms: fireflies and foxfire, fungi and glow-worms, deep-sea fish and vampire squids. The book portrays a young child and adult discovering different bioluminescent creatures. The illustrations have dark blue and black backgrounds with glowing figures that capture the magic of this natural

phenomenon. There are two levels of text on every page: the simple, lyrical main text and the informative sidebars that provide fascinating scientific facts about all these creatures. In picture book format.

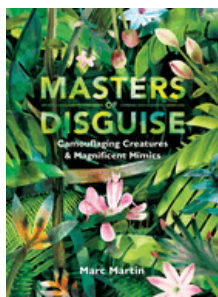


Lanan, Jessica. Jumper: A Day in the Life of a Backyard Jumping Spider. Illustrated by the author.

Roaring Brook Press, 2023. 48 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. Framed as a child's effort to understand what it might be like to be a jumping spider, the text and illustrations explore the movements of the creature (who is referred to as Jumper): how she senses vibrations through her knees and elbows; hears and sees; and her actions as she avoids predators and captures prey.

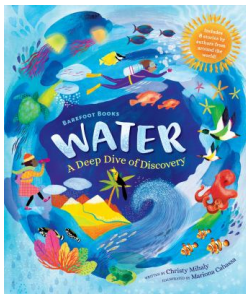
The framing story is about a visit to a community garden by a child, who is pictured going through the same physical movements as Jumper. The back matter provides details about the anatomy and life cycle of this spider family, a glossary, helpful hints for finding and identifying spiders, and an important plea not to kill these valuable creatures. With fully detailed illustrations and in picture book format.



Martin, Marc. Masters of Disguise: Camouflaging Creatures & Magnificent Mimics. Illustrated by the author.

Candlewick Studio, 2021. 56 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. What do panther chameleons, polar bears, and Gaboon vipers all have in common? They are masters at disguising themselves in their different environments. Highlighting the lives and disguises of a dozen animals living in habitats from every continent but Antarctica, the pages of this book reveal how each creature manages to blend into its habitat and the advantages that its camouflaging abilities provide. A small amount of text lets readers know how many of the featured animals are hiding in each painted environment, as well as the names of other animals hidden there. The art and text combine scientific accuracy with beauty and playfulness, and there are seek-and-find activities throughout. In picture book format.

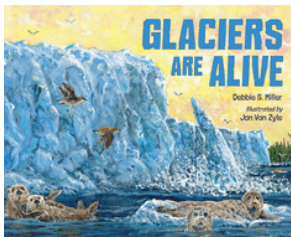


Mihaly, Christy. *Water: A Deep Dive of Discovery*. Illustrations by Mariona Carbossa.

Barefoot Books, 2021. 63 pages.

Grades 3 - 6. The importance of water to life on Earth is the topic of this colorfully illustrated book, beginning with the fact that water, fresh or salty, liquid or gas or frozen as ice, covers 71% of the world. Double spreads, with small chunks of information about water and water use, alternate with stories from many worldwide cultures. Sidebars add scientific information – for example, the chemical composition of water from hydrogen and oxygen atoms – as do frequent “Dive

Deeper” lift-the-flap-to-find-out opportunities such as “What dissolves in water?” and “Where did the water go?” and “How can you help keep Earth’s water clean?” A final question asks what the future of Earth’s water might be. The back matter includes a glossary of terms and profiles of the international authors who wrote the water stories from their own cultures.



Miller, Debbie S. *Glaciers Are Alive*. Illustrated by Jon Van Zyle.

Charlesbridge Publishing, 2023. 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. A glacier may look forbidding and empty, but it provides a rich habitat for animals from the mountains to the sea. This survey of wildlife in and around tidewater glaciers includes glacial flora and fauna ranging from pink algae and ice worms to brown bears and humpback whales. As the world’s glaciers melt, their disappearance has a huge impact not only on the wildlife that calls them home, but also on all life on Earth. The illustrations are highly detailed, and

the back matter includes a glossary and an author’s note about climate change. In picture book format.

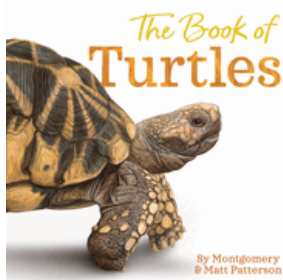


Montgomery, Sy. *Becoming a Good Creature*. Illustrated by Rebecca Green.

Clarion Books, 2020. 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. Adapted for young readers from the author’s memoir for adults, *How to Be a Good Creature*, this book provides life lessons for children. The message is clear: humans are only one of many creatures to inhabit the Earth, and knowing, respecting, and learning from other creatures will help humans become better creatures themselves. Each short piece of advice is accompanied by a brief story from the author’s personal experiences in a lifetime of observing

and being around other creatures. The warm and tender illustrations on every page support the story’s narrative, which is full of conviction, wisdom, and essential truths. In smaller book format.

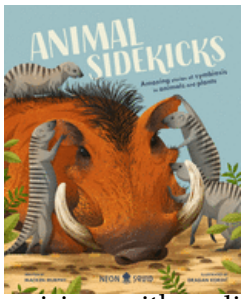


Montgomery, Sy. *The Book of Turtles*. Illustrated by Matt Patterson.

Clarion Books, 2023. 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. This is a tribute to one of the most diverse, fascinating, and beloved species on the planet, written by a longtime ambassador and activist for the animal kingdom. An intriguing opening remark – “The shell invented the turtle” – leads into a discussion of the creatures’ most defining feature. The book invites appreciation for the reptiles’ longevity and special abilities while emphasizing their individuality. Readers may well be inspired to become involved with their protection at a time when turtles, who evolved at the same time as the dinosaurs,

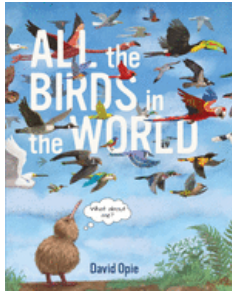
face the deadliest dangers of their more than 380-million-year history. Realistic, almost photographic, paintings capture diverse turtle species in all their detail. In picture book format.



Murphy, Macken. *Animal Sidekicks: Amazing Stories of Symbiosis in Animals and Plants*. Illustrated by Dragan Kordic.

Neon Squid, 2022. 126 pages.

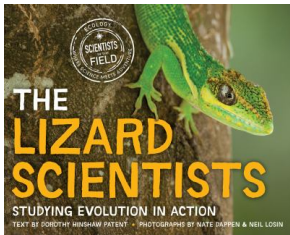
Grades 3 – 6. Fascinating animal relationships and their benefits are explored in this book about the wonders of symbiosis. A coyote and a badger working in tandem to find a meal; a tarantula and frog that live together, even though the tarantula might be forgetful and attempt to eat the frog; a hummingbird pollinating a flower; the crab that wears a sea urchin as a hat; the warthog that likes a mongoose massage, and many more relationships are featured. Each double-page spread is dedicated to a pairing, with realistic artwork depicting aspects of the relationship and providing brilliant close-ups of animals, habitats, and more. In large format with a glossary and index.



Opie, David. *All the Birds in the World*. Illustrated by the author.

Peter Pauper Press, 2020. 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. What makes a bird a bird? All birds have feathers, wings, and beaks, but birds come in many varieties with different habits and homes. This book takes us on a beautifully illustrated journey – with an adorable kiwi bird as the guide – through the vast and colorful world of birds. Page after page shows how birds vary in coloration, shape and size, nests, eggs, feet, beaks, whether they fly or swim, and sounds and songs. On many spreads, a stumpy little brown bird plaintively asks "What about me?" A final spread describes the kiwi in detail, including its eggs, burrows, hidden wings, and fur-like feathers. Though flightless, it's still part of the wide-ranging bird family. See also: *All the Fish in the World* (2021) by the same author.



Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw. *The Lizard Scientists: Studying Evolution in Action*. Photography by Nate Dappen and Neil Losin.

Clarion, 2022. 77 pages. Series: *Scientists in the Field*.

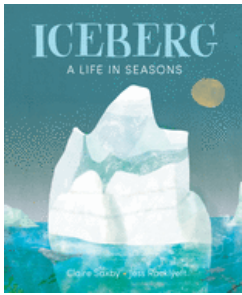
Grades 5 – 8. This book focuses on the basic principles of evolution and ecology, shown through how anoles evolved in ecosystems known as Neotropics, found in the southern United States, the Caribbean Islands, and in Central and South America. The diverse scientists and young students doing the research at the Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden in Florida welcomed author and zoologist Dorothy Patent to join them in their research efforts. Sidebars throughout provide such information as sites researching lizards, the history of changing beliefs about how species developed, how lizards' toe pads work, the difference between lizards and salamanders, a profile of Darwin, and the scientists studying lizards, collecting specimens, and charting their experimental results. This book's emphasis on conservation of species and habitats concludes with how to address climate change. The picture book format features stunning photography and excellent book design.



Roy, Katherine. *Making More: How Life Begins*. Illustrated by the author.

Norton Young Readers, 2023. 72 pages.

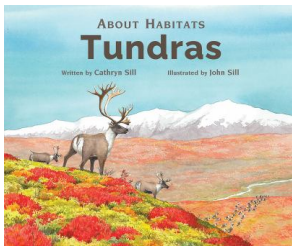
Grades 3 – 6. From fish to mammals and plants to insects, every organism on Earth must reproduce: the survival of each species – and of life itself – depends on this and on the diversity it creates. This book distills the science of reproduction into its simplest components: organisms must meet, merge their DNA, and grow new individuals. The author highlights the astonishing variety of this process with examples from across the natural world, from ferns and butterflies to trout, hawks, rabbits, and more. (Human reproduction is not addressed.) Illustrated with detailed diagrams and lively paintings; in picture book format.



Saxby, Claire. *Iceberg: A Life in Seasons*. Illustrated by Jess Racklyeft.

Groundwood Books, 2022. 30 pages.

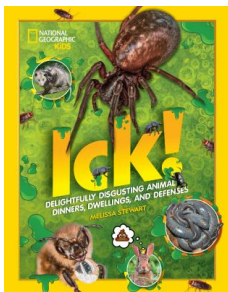
Grades 2 – 4. This is the life story of an iceberg, from when it first shears off from a glacier towards the end of the Antarctic winter, through the seasons to the following spring. The lyrical text describes how climate, currents, and sunlight affect the iceberg; information about the animals, birds, and fish that live in the Antarctic habitat is also included. As the seasons change, we see chicks hatch, penguins begin their treks to the interior, and leopard seals and humpback whales dive down to the depths. Later, the animals depart to warmer climes. After another long, cold, dark winter, spring returns, and our iceberg, now completely worn down by the elements, slowly tips and falls into a sheltered bay – just as a new iceberg shears off in the distance. The watercolor illustrations capture both sunny days and the dark mysteries of the ocean depths. The back matter includes a map, glossary, and author's note explaining the effects of climate change on the Arctic and Antarctic regions. In picture book format.



Sill, Catherine. *About Habitats: Tundras*. Illustrated by John Sill.

Peachtree, 2021. 48 pages. Series: *About Habitats*.

Grades 1 – 3. The introduction states: “Tundras are cold, dry areas with no trees.” On the facing page, the realistic watercolor illustration shows a white Arctic Fox standing on a snow-covered expanse. After identifying the locations and features of the tundra, in each case featuring a particular animal (for example, the Siberian ibex, gentoo penguin, the arctic bumblebee, and more) and plant (for example, the fuzzy Arctic willow and colorful purple saxifrage), the text states: “Plants and animals that live in tundras have different ways of surviving cold, windy weather.” The featured animal is shown as having its own way of adapting to conditions. The back matter explains each illustration in more detail for proficient readers. The last two double spreads address the matter of pollution, mining, rising temperatures and development.



Stewart, Melissa. *Ick!: Delightfully Disgusting Animal Dinners, Dwellings, and Defenses*.

National Geographic Kids, 2020. 112 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. A playful tone sets the mood in this book about animals’ use of poop, urine, saliva, and even rotting corpses as food, for constructing their homes, and to defend themselves against predators. This tone, in the introduction and in the headings for the text and sidebars, is invariably followed by a clear explanation of the reasons for these behaviors, complete with their scientific names. For example, rabbits expel small pellets of partially digested food – called cecotropes - which they then proceed to eat, thus getting as much nutrition as possible from the grasses in their diet. An impressive variety of animals use their own or other animals’ bodily products in ways that humans consider disgusting. Animals in the book include pandas, deer, snakes, vultures, spiders, and fish, to name a few. Each profiled animal is an intrinsic member of its habitat-based food chain. Each double spread featuring a particular animal has sidebars giving basic physiological information as well as other relevant information. In the case of rabbits, their front teeth, used for snipping food, never stop growing. Their back teeth are molars that grind the food thus providing maximum nutrition from the food source. Illustrated with photographs.

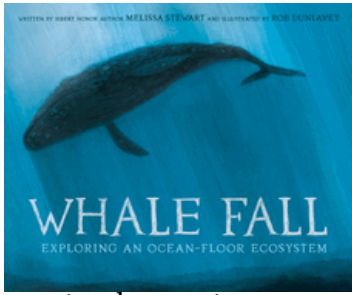


Stewart, Melissa. *Tree Hole Homes: Daytime Dens and Nighttime Nooks*. Illustrated by Amy Hevron.

Random House Studio, 2022. 40 pages

Grades 1 – 3. This book provides a look at different tree holes and the animals that inhabit them, from tree frogs to birds to bobcats. Readers are encouraged to imagine what a home in hollowed-out spaces in tree trunks would be like and what kind of animal would choose to live there. The author adds notes about each animal's preferred habitat, diet, and other details both in the narrative and in the back matter.

The playful illustrations show intimate close-ups of recognizable creatures peering out or in cross-sectional views nestling down. In picture book format.

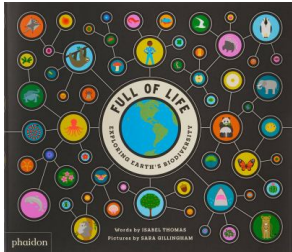


Stewart, Melissa. Whale Fall: Exploring an Ocean-Floor Ecosystem. Illustrated by Rob Dunlavy.

Random House Studio, 2023. 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. This book details a whale’s end of life, known as a whale fall, when its body sinks to the ocean floor and becomes an energy-rich food source for organisms living in the sea. The author takes us 5,000 feet down into the East Pacific Ocean to observe a sea floor ecosystem with scavengers who will feast on the remains of a 70,000-pound gray whale for the next 50 years. From the back matter, we learn that scientists have identified over 500

species that are in some way connected to a whale fall. In picture book format and illustrated with evocative, blue-toned, underwater scenes.

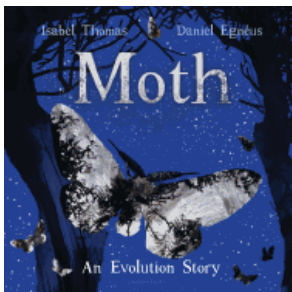


Thomas, Isabel. Full of Life: Exploring Earth’s Biodiversity. Illustrated by Sara Gillingham.

Phaidon, 2022. 224 pages.

Grades 5 – 8. This book describes the remarkable and sometimes astonishing biodiversity of living things, from microscopic bacteria to the visible flora and fauna distributed across the planet. The discussion is organized by clades, which are groups of living things with common ancestors, sometimes represented on the tree of life. Each double spread features a species or kingdom with sections:

key facts, all about, shared features, and whether they are good neighbors. There are several particularly interesting examples: in the double spread for marsupials, the reader learns that wallabies, squirrel gliders, numbats, quolls, and kangaroos are in this clade, featuring thick fur, mammary glands, relatively lower body temperatures, and early development in a pouch. The latter pages of the book offer further information about the biology of living things, the biomes, genetics, and the need to protect all living things. Graphic illustrations appear on each page.

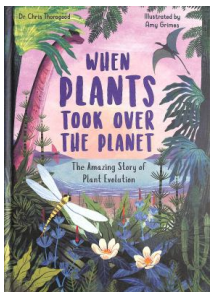


Thomas, Isabel. Moth: An Evolution Story. Illustrated by Daniel Egnéus.

Bloomsbury Publishing, 2019. 48 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. This book tells a remarkable evolution story and serves as an introduction to Darwin's theory. We see the peppered moth as an example of natural selection, as the author tracks its adaptations during the Industrial Revolution and beyond. There are two variations of this moth – one charcoal dark, the other paler and lightly speckled. Once, the speckled moths were more common; it was more difficult for the charcoal moths to camouflage themselves

against the light-colored trees. They were eaten by birds more frequently and did not survive to pass along their genes. But as the world became more industrial, pollution began to darken trees; now the charcoal moths blended in, and the speckled moths stood out. Charcoal moths grew in number, and the speckled moths almost disappeared. But the story continues, ending on a hopeful note: slowly, cities began to burn less coal, and the air grew cleaner. Trees grew less sooty, and the speckled moth population rebounded. Today, both kinds of moth can be found, and their species continues to adapt. In picture book format with striking illustrations.

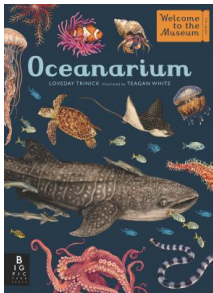


Thorogood, Chris. When Plants Took Over the Planet: The Amazing Story of Plant Evolution. Illustrated by Amy Grimes.

Quarto Publishing, 2021. 64 pages.

Grades 6 and up. This book is a prehistoric plant safari formatted in DK-like style with short paragraphs on each double spread and with a general theme and subtitles for each relevant topic. The story of plants on Earth begins with the question, “Where do plants come from?” and proceeds through nearly 500 million years of the evolution of plant life from algae and early forms of seaweed, through the sequential appearance of ferns, grasses, seed plants, palms, conifers, and flowering plants. The featured plants

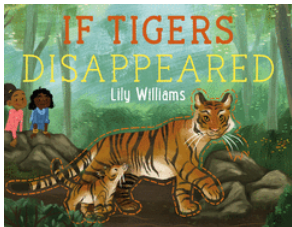
are described briefly, including their botanical names and whether they are still alive today. Sidebars feature additional information, often in the context of the ecosystems the plants occupy. Each topic is accompanied by richly colored illustrations of the species being described. The last two double spreads feature the impact of human activity on plant life, extinction of species, and possible ways to preserve other species for the future. Very informative for the interested reader and a good reference book.



Trinick, Loveday. *Oceanarium*. Illustrated by Teagan White.

Candlewick/Big Picture Press, 2022. 96 pages. Series: *Welcome to the Museum*.

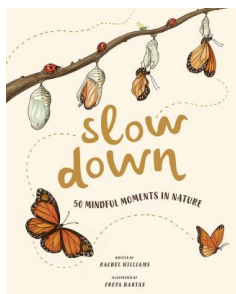
Grades 5 - 8. This book about the ocean and ocean life begins, “The ocean is the largest habitat on Earth and the scale is difficult to imagine. . .” It proceeds with a discussion of the enormous importance of the ocean to life on Earth. The sections include habitats, ocean zones, and animal and plant species. Each double spread consists of three to four paragraphs of fascinating text on the left with full-color illustrations on the right, and with a key to the plates, which provides additional information. The text assumes some amount of prior knowledge on the reader’s part, while being clear, immensely informative, and interesting, as it tells the story of the interconnected oceans of the Earth. The author, a marine biologist and teacher, raises an alarm about the impact of human activity on the ocean by noting in the concluding section on humans and the ocean: “The ocean is one of humanity’s greatest resources... due to its immense size, it was once thought that the ocean was inexhaustible, but we now know this is not the case.”



Williams, Lily. *If Tigers Disappeared*. Illustrated by the author.

Roaring Brook Press, 2022. 40 pages. Series: *If Animals Disappeared*.

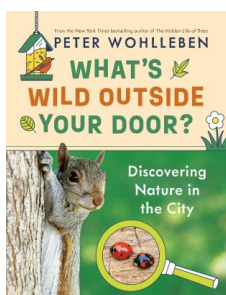
Grades 2 – 4. There once were nine subspecies of tigers, but three are now extinct. In this book, we see a range map that locates their various habitats, and then we zoom in on Karnataka, India where the numbers of Bengal tigers declined by 96 percent between 1900 and 2000. Tigers play a very important role in keeping nature in balance, but, due to expanding human populations, poaching, and more, they’re in danger. What would happen if tigers disappeared completely? The author tracks the devastating reality of what our world might look like without tigers – the numbers of animals that are now the tigers’ prey would grow out of control, and the world as we know it would be fundamentally changed. Lush illustrations show the animals and the environment that so needs saving. In picture book format. See also the author’s similar books on sharks, polar bears, elephants, and bees.



Williams, Rachel. *Slow Down: 50 Mindful Moments in Nature*. Illustrated by Freya Hartas.

Magic Cat Publishing, 2020. 111 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. This gentle book contains fifty ideas about how to pause and take a closer look at the natural wonders right outside our back doors, from watching bees pollinate-flowers, to listening to bird calls at dawn, to watching ocean waves roll and break, to listening to a woodpecker drilling for a meal. Each suggestion is illustrated with watercolors and a short text, with scientific information about the species being observed.



Wohlleben, Peter. *What’s Outside Your Door?: Discovering Nature in the City*. Translated by Jane Billinghamurst. Illustrated by Belle Wuthrich.

Greystone Kids, 2023. 80 pages.

Grades 3– 8. German author, naturalist, and teacher Peter Wohlleben invites his readers on expeditions to explore the natural life in their neighborhoods. He begins the book with recommendations on how to equip oneself for the outdoor classroom, how to stay safe, and how to care for what you find and collect. Let the adventures begin. In chapter by chapter, each two pages in length, suggestions for what to look for are explained in detail and illustrated with drawings, photographs, and sidebars titled “Insider Info” and “Dive Deeper.” A sampling of what to look for: peregrine falcons who make their homes on roofs and on the window sills of tall buildings; plants that live in sidewalk cracks; stinky

smells given off by animals and plants; listening for the sounds of small animals; and considering whether weeds are a nuisance or deserve a second look.

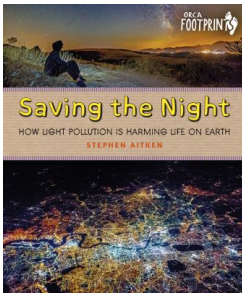


Zimmerman, Laura. Mushroom Rain. Illustrated by Jamie Green.

Sleeping Bear Press, 2022. 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. What can smell like bubble gum, glow neon green at night, be poisonous and yet still eaten by humans, and even help create rain? The answer is mushrooms. This book introduces foragers, both animal and human, and then turns to mushroom reproduction and the secret underground lives of these fungal blooms. Through lyrical text and colorful, detailed artwork, the wonderful, mysterious, and sometimes bizarre world of mushrooms is explored. The back matter goes into greater detail and includes a diagram of mushroom parts and an activity for making spore prints. In picture book format.

**Protecting Nature:
Confronting climate change, ecosystem degradation,
and the endangerment of species**



Aitken, Stephen. Saving the Night: How Light Pollution is Harming Life on Earth.

Orca Book Publishers, 2023. 48 pages.

Grades 5 – 8. This comprehensive and accessible overview of human-caused light pollution shows how artificial light upsets the balance of ecosystems and the subsequent impact - often detrimental - on living things. The picture book format features short blocks of text headed by subtitles signaling the topic under discussion. The illustrations include photographs, charts, sidebars, and a series of star-shaped facts titled “dark matter.” A final double spread describes how individuals can

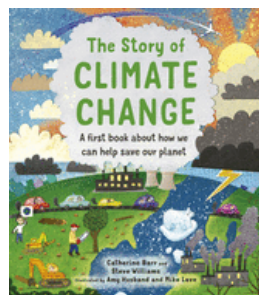
reduce their use of artificial light.



Baliga, Vikram. Plants to the Rescue! The Plants, Trees, and Fungi That Are Solving Some of the World's Biggest Problems. Illustrated by Brian Lambert.

Neon Squid, 2023. 80 pages.

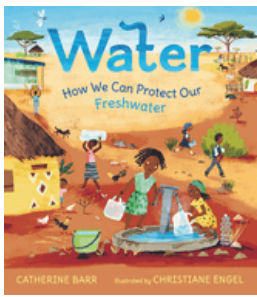
Grades 3 – 6. marveling at how amazing and complex plants are, the author, a plant scientist, explains the ways plants, trees, and fungi are helping to solve some of the world's environmental problems – from how to produce enough food to dealing with climate change. The book also provides a look into the work that plant scientists are doing around the world and suggests that all of us take charge of how we interact with the environment and find ways to be more aware of the wildlife around us. In large format, with colorful illustrations across every page.



Barr, Catherine and Steve Williams. The Story of Climate Change: A First Book about How We Can Help Save Our Planet. Illustrated by Amy Husband and Mike Love.

Frances Lincoln Ltd, 2021. 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. Combining history with science, this book presents a timeline of important climatic events – from the formation of the Earth's atmosphere to the catastrophic possibilities in the future. The text shows how evolution and an asteroid brought change to the planet and how human beings have caused climate catastrophes, which have affected weather, vegetation, and habitats. Solutions are suggested – readers are encouraged to use fewer resources and to take positive action. With an appealing design and illustrations. In picture book format.



Barr, Catherine. Water: How We Can Protect Our Freshwater. Illustrated by Christiane Engel.

Candlewick Press, 2023. 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. Water fuels all life on earth, but worldwide pollution and climate change make it increasingly difficult for people and animals to find the clean water they need to survive. This book includes the history of water on earth, explains the water cycle, and discusses the impact of water shortages on the lives of children around the world. With many facts and specific tips, this title provides a hopeful challenge to inspire readers to take action, use water wisely, and work together to defend a precious shared resource. The illustrations are bright and

expressive. In picture book format.



Barr, Catherine. The Wolves of Yellowstone: A Rewilding Story. Illustrated by Jenni Desmond.

Bloomsbury Publishing, 2022. 48 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. Engaging, informative, and hopeful, this book examines the way that every creature plays a role in sustaining a thriving ecosystem through the story of the impact wolves had on Yellowstone National Park. In the 1930s, because of the actions of people, the last wolves disappeared from the park. Without them, elk herds overran the plains, bears starved, rabbit families shrank, and birds flew away to new homes. Then plants and trees started to die off, too – even the flow of rivers was affected. After years of planning, in 1995 a team of experts carefully relocated

fourteen wolves from the Canadian Rockies to Yellowstone. This exploration of rewilding and the interconnectedness of the natural world provides a lot of scientific information and is reassuring in its message that unbalanced ecosystems can be repaired with thoughtful, sustained policy changes. Illustrated with dynamic, mixed-media images. In picture book format.

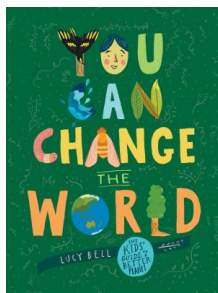


Beer, Julie. Kids vs. Plastic: Ditch the Straw and Find the Pollution Solution to Bottles, Bags, and Other Single Use Plastics: How You Can Be a Waste Warrior.

National Geographic for Kids, 2020. 128 pages. Series: *National Geographic Kids*.

Grades 5 – 8. The ubiquity of plastic in modern lives is the focus of this often surprising and revealing exploration of its harmful impact on the natural environment. The narrative shows how a great deal of slow-to-biodegrade plastic ends up thrown away and includes interviews with scientists who are working on this issue. There are many suggestions about reducing the use of plastic that people of all

ages might employ.

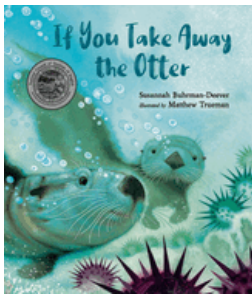


Bell, Lucy. You Can Change the World: The Kids' Guide to a Better Planet.

Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2020. 124 pages.

Grades 4 – 7. This book is chock full of ideas about what individuals and communities can do to live more sustainable lives and reduce humanity's impact on the planet. Short profiles of a range of individuals and international conservation groups engaged in sustainable practices and lifestyles provide inspiration for doing so. These suggestions are arranged in chapters about plastic, ethical and environmentally friendly clothing, the food industry, waste, gardening, and electricity use. An added bonus: ways that small acts of kindness can change the world are distributed

throughout the discussion.



Buhrman-Deever, Susannah. If You Take Away the Otter. Illustrated by Matthew Trueman.

Candlewick Press, 2020. 32 pages.

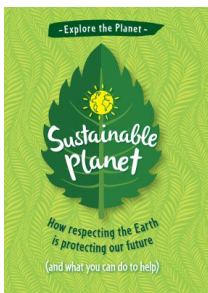
Grades 2 – 4. This book is an exploration of the interconnectedness of the natural world and why we need to protect it. On the Pacific Coast of North America, sea otters play, dive, and hunt for sea urchins, crabs, abalone, and fish in the rich kelp forests beneath the waves. But there was a time when people hunted the otters almost to extinction. Without sea otters to eat them, an army of hungry sea urchins grew and destroyed entire kelp forests. Fish and other animals that depended on the kelp were lost, too. Vivid descriptions show the devastating consequences to the ocean forest until a 1911 treaty protected the remaining otters. Their numbers began to recover and so did the kelp forests. A concluding note addresses the fur trade's negative impact on the area's indigenous people. The blue- and green-hued illustrations highlight the habitat's richness. In picture book format.



Bunting, Philip. Your Planet Needs You: A Kids' Guide to Reducing Waste and Recycling. Illustrated by the author.

Bloomsbury Publishing, 2022. 40 pages.

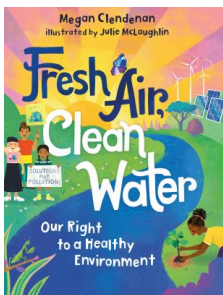
Grades 1 – 4. "In the natural world, there is no waste. Zero. Zip. Zilch." That's the beginning of this inspiring guide with its message of our interconnectedness with one another and the Earth. Beginning with commentary on humankind's growing waste disposal crisis as a by-product of rapid industrialization and the environmental consequences of excess garbage, this book offers simple explanations of how kids and their families can reduce, re-use, and recycle to help clean up our planet. Timelines, flow charts, and maps, which present (among other things) the amount of time it takes the Earth to decompose commonly used items, help convey a sense of urgency that may motivate readers to do their part to protect the planet. The book's tone is optimistic and highly engaging as are the illustrations. In picture book format.



Claybourne, Anna. Sustainable planet: How respecting the Earth is protecting our future (and what you can do to help).

Enslow Publishing, 2023. 48 pages. Series: *Explore the Planet*.

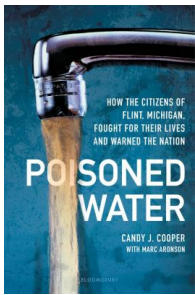
Grades 4 – 8. This series provides an accessible introduction to the problems of climate change and the ways to mitigate its impact on the natural world. In this title, text boxes, sidebars, graphs, timelines, graphics, and short case studies introduce the complex topic of avoiding the overuse of the natural resources that keep Earth's ecosystems balanced. Interesting examples, both short term and going forward into the future, of how people can reduce the human impact on the natural world appear on each double spread and in the back matter. See other titles in this series by the same author: *Extinction planet: Why protecting wildlife will help save the world*; *Hot planet: How climate change is harming our world*; and *Recycled planet: How recycling is saving Earth's resources*; and by Georgia Amson-Bradshaw, *Plastic planet: How plastic came to rule the world*.



Clendenan, Megan. Fresh Air, Clean Water: Our Right to a Healthy Environment. Illustrated by Julie McLaughlin.

Orca Book Publishers, 2022. 102 pages.

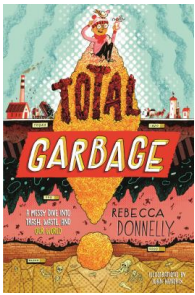
Grades 5 – 8. This book presents a strong argument for and suggestions about how to defend the right of everyone to have clean water and live in healthy environments. Human rights and climate justice are central to this thesis. The text contrasts science facts with fiction and myths, challenges climate-change deniers, and addresses the politics of climate change and sustainability. A particularly revealing example is that of the food industry and how the judicial system and constitutional law have been used to change practices that threaten the health of the environment. Sidebars throughout contain profiles of kids taking action as well as relevant and fascinating information. Notably, the sidebar titled "You Be the Judge" presents the complexity of fighting for environmental rights, implying the difficult decisions individuals, communities and governments must make.



Cooper, Candy J. with Marc Aronson. Poisoned Water: How the Citizens of Flint, Michigan, Fought for Their Lives and Warned the Nation.

Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2020. 243 pages.

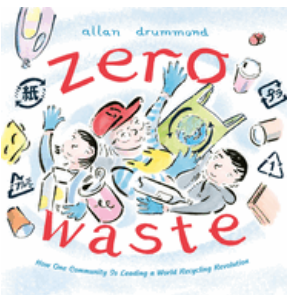
Grades 8 and up. In 2014, government officials decided that in order to save money Flint would switch its water supply from Lake Huron to the Flint River. Despite the murky, foul-smelling liquid coming from city faucets and the many residents who became ill, officials refused to respond. Through interviews with residents, research into legal records, and news accounts, the authors show how the crisis unfolded, the history of racism and segregation that led up to it, and how the people of Flint fought – and are continuing to fight – for clean water and healthy lives. Illustrated with black-and-white photos.



Donnelly, Rebecca. Total Garbage: A Messy Dive into Trash, Waste, and Our World. Illustrated by John Hendrix.

Henry Holt & Co., 2023. 138 pages.

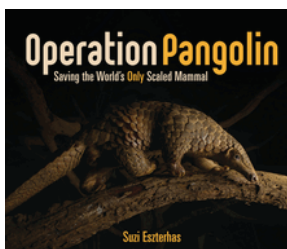
Grades 5 – 8. The introduction states that “We’re going to learn about trash by asking a few simple questions: what is garbage, where does it come from, where does it go, why do we make so much of it, and how can we do better? We’re also going to ask just how bad the trash problem is for ourselves and our planet, and if our garbage has anything to teach us.” The first chapter delves into how the nature and materials of human trash have changed over thousands of years and the fact that today’s garbage is never really gone. Two themes inform the narrative: essentially, there are few easy answers, and that “dark money is at the root of most of our waste problems.” The last chapter asks how we can do better, followed by suggestions often described by the refrain: reduce, reuse, recycle. The well-written text, interspersed with occasional drawings, is organized in short chapters divided into sections with subtitles.



Drummond, Allan. Zero Waste: How One Community Is Leading a World Recycling Revolution. Illustrated by the author.

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2023. 40 pages. Series: *Green Power*.

Grades 2 – 4. The small community of Kamikatsu, Japan is leading the way in recycling and up-cycling, and, as of 2022, had nearly achieved its goal of zero waste. This is the story of a group of citizens who dared to break out of their comfort zone and make radical change for the good of their town and the planet. Told through the eyes of two children visiting their grandmother, this is the fifth addition to the Green Power series about everyday communities inventing new approaches to green living, and it shows that working together for a common cause has an impact that is lasting, meaningful, and fun. With cheerful, animated color drawings in picture book format.



Eszterhas, Suzi. Operation Pangolin: Saving the World's Only Scaled Mammal. Illustrated with photographs taken by the author.

Millbrook Press, 2022. 40 pages.

Grades 3 – 8. Prized for their hard scales, pangolins are one of the most poached animals on the planet. They are also highly endangered - yet scientists know very little about them. This book is a glimpse into the exciting work of animal rescuers as they work to save this mysterious species. Researchers such as Thai Nguyen have the difficult task of saving pangolins, changing local laws to prevent poaching, educating local communities, and learning more about these mysterious creatures. Author and photographer Suzi Eszterhas documents the exploration of the jungles of Vietnam where Thai works with the Save Vietnam's Wildlife organization to save endangered pangolins. With many maps and large color photographs on every page. In picture book format.

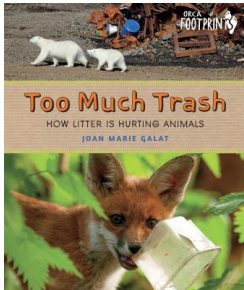


French, Jess. *Forests: Discover the Facts. Be Inspired. Make a Difference.* Illustrated by Alexander Mostov.

Ivy Kids, imprint of The Quarto Group, 2020. 64 pages.

Grades 3 – 6. The opening question – Why *do* forests matter? – sets the stage for this thorough exploration of the world’s forests and the threat uncontrolled deforestation poses to sustaining life on earth. The chapters titled “Earth’s Forests,” “The Causes of Deforestation,” “The Effects of Deforestation,” “The Solutions to Deforestation,” and “What You Can Do” examine the importance of addressing the continued health and restoration of these major worldwide biomes. Fair-minded and fascinating

information about forest habitats and the reason for and impact of deforestation is presented in short paragraphs arranged on double spreads with illustrations that supplement the text. Particularly notable are the many suggestions for making a difference.

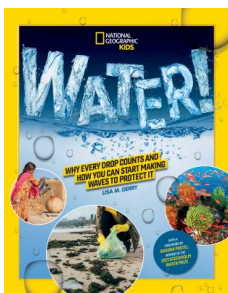


Galat, Joan Marie. *Too Much Trash: How Litter Is Hurting Animals.*

Orca Book Publishers, 2023. 48 pages.

Grades 3 – 6. This book is about the immense amount of litter that is carelessly tossed out onto streets and parks, next to rivers and natural areas, and into oceans and lakes. In short, trash is unsightly and seriously injures or kills animals in their urban and rural habitats. The choice not to be a litterbug and ideas about how to support efforts to prevent and clean up trash are examined throughout this book.

For example, one chart asks the question, “Is this littering?” followed by a list that includes such items as releasing a balloon into the air, tossing a soda can into a ditch, dumping fish guts on the riverbank, and leaving shotgun shells on the ground. The chapters are titled “The Trouble with Litter,” “Where Litter is Born,” “Waste in the Wild,” and “Let’s Fix This Problem.” Photographs, charts, and sidebars extend the topic with interesting examples and offer many ways to help.

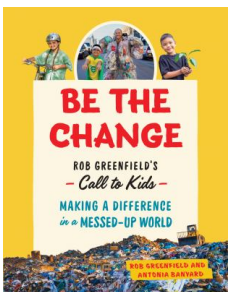


Gerry, Lisa M. *Water: Why Every Drop Counts and How You Can Start Making Waves to Protect It.*

National Geographic Kids, 2023. 128 pages. Series: *National Geographic Kids*.

Grades 5 – 8. This title is part of the National Geographic series on conservation, climate change, and the role of humans. The comprehensive discussion, filled with interesting facts, of water’s vital role for life on earth is made accessible by attractive book design, formatting, and the illustrations. Topics include: facts about earth’s water, the vulnerability of people around the world due to inaccessibility of potable water, how humanity’s use of water impacts living things downstream, and how to

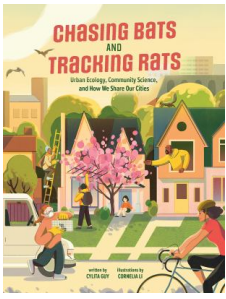
save water from overuse and pollution. The text strongly emphasizes the importance of addressing policy makers and highlights “water warriors” who are working to make a difference. Other titles in this series: *This Book Stinks* and *Kids vs. Plastic*.



Greenfield, Rob. *Be the Change: Rob Greenfield’s Call to Kids: Making a Difference in a Messed-up World.* Illustrated by Antonia Banyard.

Greystone Books., 2022. 87 pages.

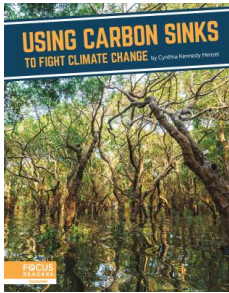
Grades 4 – 8. The theme of environmentalist Rob Greenfield’s call-to-action is “less is more” in order to reduce the sheer amount of stuff humans use and throw away. The accessible book design and text include many suggestions for how individuals and families can change their habits to mitigate climate change and reduce our dependency on fossil fuels. A wide and diverse range of people are shown doing just that.



Guy, Cylita. Chasing Bats and Tracking Rats: Urban Ecology, Community Science, and How We Share Our Cities. Illustrated by Cornelia Li.

Annick Press, 2021. 100 pages.

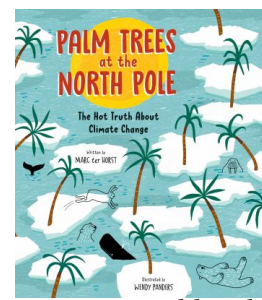
Grades 5 – 8. This book highlights how a diverse group of scientists study the abundant wildlife in urban environments and why preserving and restoring city habitats contributes to these species thriving. The author’s lively writing style and eye for interesting details make her compelling discussion accessible and may inspire kids to keep an eye out for these animals in their own neighborhoods. The theme of social justice infuses her narrative.



Henzel, Cynthia Kennedy. Using Carbon Sinks to Fight Climate Change.

Focus Readers, 2023. 32 pages. Series: *Fighting Climate Change with Science*.

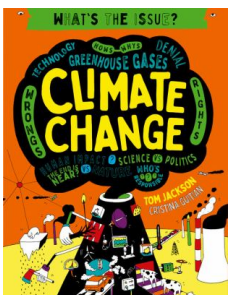
Grades 3 - 6. The carbon cycle in relation to life on earth and the essential storing of carbon in natural carbon sinks is the subject of this introductory book on one approach scientists are developing to slow climate change caused by the burning of fossil fuels and the destruction of natural carbon sinks such as forests, grasslands, mangroves and ocean seagrass. The large font, well-placed photographs, charts, and sidebars make this complicated topic accessible at a beginning level.



Horst, Marc ter. Palm Trees at the North Pole: The Hot Truth About Climate Change. Illustrated by Wendy Panders. Translated by Laura Watkinson.

Greystone Books, 2021. 185 pages.

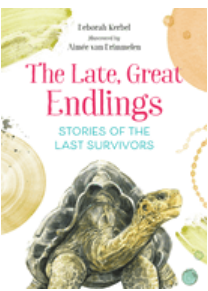
Grades 6 and up. This book, originally published in the Netherlands, traces the history of Earth’s climate and ecosystems, the human activity that has caused the degradation of the environment, and the serious consequences that have arisen as a result. There is a great deal of scientific information, as well as suggestions for change. The book challenges some of the myths that have impeded action on the governmental level. The friendly, sometimes humorous, and irreverent writing style will appeal to some middle school readers. Illustrated with drawings.



Jackson, Tom and Cristina Guitian. Climate Change: What’s the Issue?

Quarto/QEB Publishing, 2020. 96 pages. Series: *What’s the Issue?*

Grades 5 – 8. The titles in this series pose the questions of what the fuss is all about and what difference it makes. In this case, the complex and interconnected problems that climate change causes are examined – weaving moral dilemmas and thought-provoking questions into the information. The last twenty pages offer a range of possible solutions and actions to mitigate climate change and its consequences. On the last page, “Final Questions” addresses who should be responsible for tackling solutions: governments or individual lifestyle changes; whether young people should have more say in climate action decisions than older generations; and how the information in the book might convince people to change their lifestyles. The formatting and book design make this comprehensive overview accessible, as do the illustrations that personify the animals, planets, and non-living objects, perhaps unnecessarily.

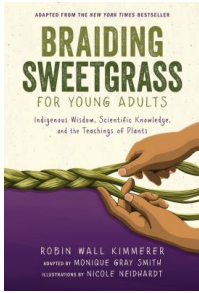


Kerbel, Deborah. The Late, Great Endlings: Stories of the Last Survivors. Illustrated by Aimée Van Drimmelen.

Orca Book Publishers, 2022. 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 6. “Endlings” is the term for the last known survivors of a species. The stories of eight endlings are each featured in a two-page spread that includes a striking illustration accompanied by the animal’s date of death, species name, a short poem, and information about the extinction of their species. Each portrait conveys the sadness of knowing that we will never see these animals again and brings the irreversible finality

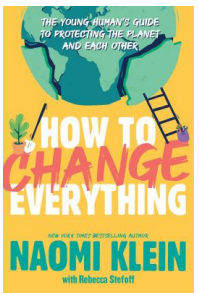
of extinction to the forefront. The author wonders which familiar species will be the next ending and provides a list of animals readers may know all too well. She calls on readers to act now: seven suggestions for "How Kids Can Make a Change" follow the main text. In picture book format.



Kimmerer, Robin Wall and Monique Gray. Braiding Sweet Grass for Young Adults: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants. Illustrated by Nicole Neidhardt.

Zest Books, 2022. 304 pages.

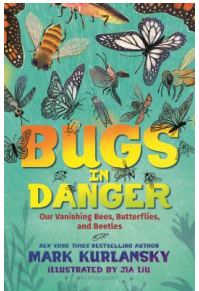
Grades 6 and up. This book is an adaptation of the original text written for an older audience. Botanist Kimmerer, a member of the Potawatomi Nation, urges her readers to listen to the lessons that plants, as living things, have to offer about the interdependence of life on earth. The narrative combines traditional Indigenous wisdom with current Indigenous and non-Indigenous botanical knowledge. Blocks of solid text are interspersed with drawings.



Klein, Naomi and Rebecca Steff. How to Change Everything: The Young Human's Guide to Protecting the Planet and Each Other.

Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2021. 320 pages.

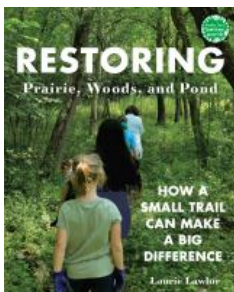
Grades 6 – 8. In the introduction, the journalist author states, "This book is about change. It is about why temperatures are rising, how their rise is altering the climate and harming the planet we all share, and – most important – what we can do about it." Excellent examples illustrate this call-to-action to solve a potentially calamitous problem. Stories about young activists from all over the world provide examples of taking action. Many passages emphasize the need for environmental justice. The author calls out climate science deniers, some of whom act out of their own financial self-interest. The modest book design with continuous narrative, occasionally broken up with black and white photos, will discourage some readers. The lively narrative offsets this issue for readers who persist.



Kurlansky, Mark. Bugs in Danger: Our Vanishing Bees, Butterflies, and Beetles. Illustrated by Jia Liu.

Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2019. 164 pages.

Grades 5 – 8. Fascinating information about bees, butterflies, and beetles provides the context for the author's passionate appeal for change and straight talk about how human activity is causing the decline of pollinating insects, thus putting the health of the planet in peril. In the concluding section, the focus is on the vital role these pollinators play for flowering plants and, thus, for the food crops humans depend on, and on their alarming population decline. The author places blame on one particular species, as forewarned by Darwin: humans are destroyers of nature's ecosystems for many reasons, including the use of pesticides to control insects. A brief chapter lists what we can do to reverse this situation. See also *Buzzkill: A Wild Wander Through the Weird and Threatened World of Bugs* by Brenna Maloney, Holt & Co., 2022.



Lawlor, Laurie. Restoring Prairie, Woods, and Pond: How a Small Trail Can Make a Big Difference.

Holiday House, 2023. 90 pages.

Grades 4 – 6. Essentially, this is an inspiring story about restoring a natural habitat, creating the Eagle Nature Trail, and returning to responsible stewardship of the land. Tracing the history of Section 23 in Eagle Township, Wisconsin, the author takes the reader back to the time when Indigenous people lived on the land. Then Euro-American settlers arrived in the 19th century and gradually acquired, often by duplicitous means, the Potawatomi's land. The use of the land by these settlers and their progeny, as well as unfavorable weather, altered the health of the land. An eight-acre plot in Section 23 of one-time farmland had become overgrown, trash-strewn, and an unfriendly habitat for wildlife and for people. This story highlights how individuals, young and old, and the businesses in the small community of Eagle came together to solve this environmental problem. The trash was cleaned up and a trail established between the library and an elementary school, transforming the area into a

healthy ecosystem and outdoor classroom. The photographs that accompany the text show the dramatic changes taking place in this four-season outdoor classroom.



Lemniscates, Carme. Listen to the Earth: Caring for Our Planet. Illustrated by the author.

Tilbury House Publishers, 2023. 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. In this book, the author aims to raise awareness about conservation challenges, and she introduces Earth Overshoot Day, which is a means for tracking sustainability: the "date when human demand . . . exceeds what the Earth can produce and absorb in an entire year." The book describes how the Earth has long provided natural resources so that we can build homes and have fuel for energy – but, alongside images of billowing smokestacks and congested highways, the author writes, "We are using too much." Later pages portray a cheerful, eco-conscious world, with wind farms and children bicycling and planting trees, beside information that highlights practices like reforestation that make positive changes. The poetic main text is suitable for younger readers, while the sidebars and the specific suggestions for action in the back matter are more sophisticated. With vibrant illustrations in picture book format.



McAnulty, Stacy. Our Planet! There's No Place Like Earth. Illustrated by David Litchfield.

Henry Holt & Company, 2022. 40 pages. Series: *Our Universe*.

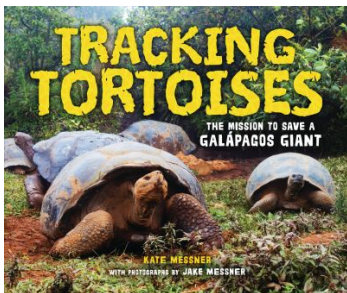
Grades 2 – 4. In this book, Planet Earth directly addresses the reader with humor and energy. The text establishes facts about how Earth's location with regard to the sun allows life to flourish; the roles of the ocean and the atmosphere; the distinctions between weather and climate, and how people have accelerated climate change. In the illustrations, Planet Earth is appealingly represented with animated facial features. The palette brightens and darkens in sync with the text's respective messages of hope and alarm. The final pages introduce alternative energy sources: wind, hydro, solar, and "human power—that's from your own two feet." Lastly, Earth provides ideas for local change, from buying less new stuff to planting trees. In picture book format. See also, by the same creative team: *Ocean!: Waves for All*.



McKibben, Bill. We Are Better Together. Illustrated by Stevie Lewis.

Henry Holt & Company, 2022. 32 pages.

Grades 1 – 3. From well-known environmentalist and author Bill McKibben comes this hopeful, inspiring picture book, in which he shares how teamwork and cooperation can help save the planet from climate change. He does not spell out the specifics of what needs to be done but offers basic suggestions. This can be seen as a drawback to the book or as an opportunity to encourage students' ideas. With brightly colored illustrations in picture book format.

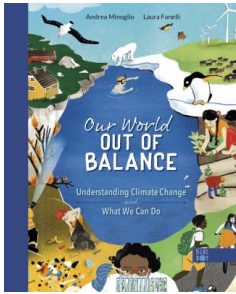


Messner, Kate. Tracking Tortoises: The Mission to Save the Galápagos Giant. Photographs by Jake Messner.

Millbrook Press, 2022. 64 pages.

Grades 4 - 9. As the title suggests, this book is a chronicle of how scientists, veterinarians, and citizens of the Galápagos Tortoise Movement Ecology Programme are studying the iconic Galápagos giant tortoises, with the goal of saving them from extinction caused by the pressures of human activity. The narrative covers the geological history of the islands, the arrival of plant and animal species, Darwin's theory of evolution, the tortoises and their habitat, and hopes for their survival into the future. As with similar titles featuring scientists in the field, the fully illustrated text is accompanied by photographs of scientists at work, charts, maps, and informative sidebars, which fill in relevant scientific information. The final pages include information on how to join a conservation team, an author's note, timeline, and references for additional reading.

See also, by the same author: *Tracking Pythons: The Quest to Catch An Invasive Predator and Save An Ecosystem*. 2020.



Minoglio, Andrea. Our World Out of Balance: Understanding Climate Change and What We Can Do. Illustrated by Laura Fanelli.

Blue Dot Kids Press, 2021. 68 pages.

Grades 3 – 6. The text in this thorough overview of climate change is organized in four-page sections, each explaining one effect of climate change, why it has become a problem worth paying attention to, and how people can and are helping. For example, feeding the world’s rapidly expanding population has led to intensive farming practices that are not sustainable. Suggestions for helping include eating less meat and switching to sustainable farming practices, such as vertical farming. Other

topics include rising sea levels, shrinking forests, the growth of urban areas, melting ice, endangered wildlife, plastics, polluted air, bleached coral reefs, water eutrophication, forest fires, and trash. Drawings, bold subtitles, and interesting examples make the information accessible to middle grade readers.

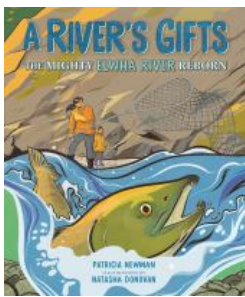


Montgomery, Sy. Condor Comeback. Photographs by Tianine Strombeck.

Houghton Mifflin, 2020. 90 pages. Series: *Scientists in the Field*.

Grades 5 – 8. This book tells the story of how scientists and citizens saved the giant California condor from near extinction. As with other titles in this series, the work of conservationist Dr. Estelle Sandhaus, zookeeper Ellie Culip, and biologists Nadya Seal Faith, Molly Astell, and Joseph Brandt frames this hearty appreciation for this giant and often misunderstood bird. In an engaging way,

the author makes connections between readers’ personal experiences and the scientific information in the book. On the very first page, Montgomery introduces the remarkable condor with the observation that “She needs to do nothing more than stand still to attract a crowd.” This condor, at home in the San Diego Zoo’s condor facility, is four feet tall (taller than an average seven-year-old child), has giant two-foot long feathers, and a wingspan of ten feet. In Estelle Sandhaus’s words, she has sass, attitude and “knows she’s the boss.” The final chapters tell of the relationship between the Chumash nation and condors, vultures in worldwide cultures, and how children might participate in condor conservation efforts. Photographs, maps, sidebars, a timeline, and a list of how to get involved support this restoration chronicle.

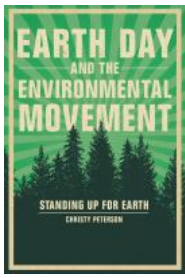


Newman, Patricia. A River’s Gifts: The Mighty Elwha River Reborn. Illustrated by Natasha Donovan.

Millbrook Press, 2023. 48 pages.

Grades 4 – 8. This book chronicles the life of the Elwha River in the Pacific Northwest. Once a free-flowing river with abundant wildlife, including salmon, it was dammed by white settlers, causing devastating environmental consequences to the health of the river’s wildlife. Community action, led by the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, beginning in the 1970’s and culminating in 1992, dismantled the dam, restored the river, and brought back the salmon and a way of life. The richly hued paintings by Donovan, a member of the Métis nation, capture the aesthetic of Northwestern

Native American art and illuminate the story. The narrative is formatted in blank verse, with factual sidebars providing information about the Strong People, their stewardship of the Elwha, how dams provide electric power, the life cycle of salmon, and efforts to remove dams on other rivers, thus revitalizing natural ecosystems. In the back matter are afterwards by the author, the illustrator, and a member of the Lower Elwha Klallam nation, a timeline, and further resources.

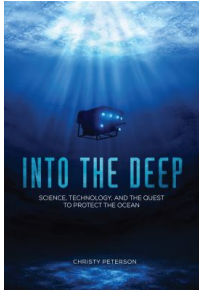


Peterson, Christy. Earth Day and the Environmental Movement: Standing up for Earth.

Minneapolis: Twenty-First Century Books, 2020. 120 pages.

Grades: 6 – 9. On April 22, 1970, an estimated twenty million people demonstrated their support for environmental protections. The new celebration, Earth Day, was the largest nationwide event ever. This book explains how, fifty years later, climate change remains an urgent concern: in the US, the political divide continues to widen as environmental policy has become an increasingly partisan issue, and the spread of disinformation has challenged scientific fact. Information is provided about a new generation of advocates

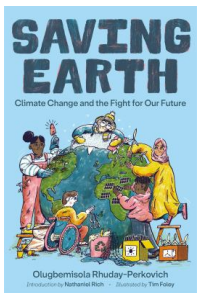
who are continuing the fight to make environmental policy a top priority around the globe. Illustrated with many photographs.



Peterson, Christy. Into the Deep: Science, Technology, and the Quest to Protect the Ocean.

Minneapolis: Twenty-First Century Books, 2020. 152 pages

Grades 6 – 9. This book presents the work of scientists who are engaged in groundbreaking research to understand and find ways to mitigate the harmful effects of human activity on the oceans. The author describes how cutting-edge technologies are now solving many of the mysteries of the oceans, and the sidebars offer insightful profiles of scientists. With a colorful layout and many photos and diagrams on every page.

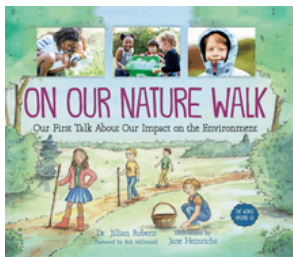


Rhuday-Perkovich, Olugbemisola. Saving Earth: Climate Change and the Fight for Our Future. Illustrated by Tim Foley.

Farrar Straus Giroux, 2022. 200 pages.

Grades 4 – 6. This book features straight talk, sometimes from climate activists, about the realities of climate change and human responsibility. As such, all people with political power should read it and take the issues seriously. Topics include a history of human activity resulting in climate change, the history of climate activism, climate change denialism, environmental justice, coping with climate change anxiety, and working together to make a difference. The back matter has extensive references and

ideas for kids becoming active.



Roberts, Jillian. On Our Nature Walk: Our First Talk about Our Impact on the Environment. Illustrated by Jane Heinrichs.

Orca Book Publishers, 2020. 32 pages. Series: *The World Around Us*.

Grades 2 – 4. Crafted around a conversation between a grade-school-aged child and an adult, this book can help children shape their understanding of the natural world. The author starts the discussion with the types of pollution and trash that children might notice on a nature walk or a trip to the beach, how they are caused, and how to work to improve things in their own lives and

communities. The text uses a Q-and-A format, with fairly short answers that are supplemented with sidebars that provide more extensive information. The book concludes with an emphasis on the innovation and problem solving that are needed to save our planet. Images include drawings of concerned-looking children and large color photos related to the topic of each page. In picture book format.

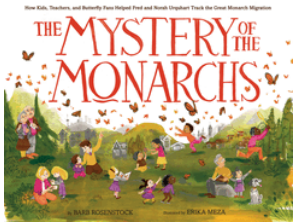


Romito, Dee. The Last Plastic Straw: A Plastic Problem and Finding Ways to Fix It. Illustrated by Ziyue Chen.

Holiday House, 2023. 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. This timely exploration of an environmental problem begins with the long history of straws, which date back more than five millennia to ancient Sumer. Over the centuries, other civilizations developed similar drinking tubes made from various plants and other items, including straw, from which the implement derived its name. The paper straw was invented and patented in the late 19th century. The bendy

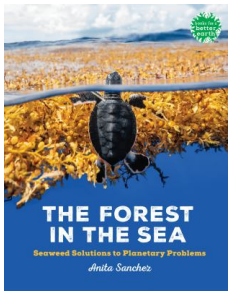
straw was followed by plastic straws, which by the 1960s were everywhere, ultimately contributing to environmental disaster. The author makes starkly clear how single-use plastics, such as straws, water bottles, and plastic bags, harm the Earth, oceans, and sea creatures. Easy and responsible solutions to the problem are described. The lively illustrations show the straw's history over centuries: the variety of materials tried, the beverages they were designed for, and the people who used them. In picture book format.



Rosenstock, Barb. The Mystery of the Monarchs: How Kids, Teachers, and Butterfly Fans Helped Fred and Norah Urquhart Track the Great Monarch Migration. Illustrated by Erika Meza.

Alfred A. Knopf Books, 2022. 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. Based on a true story. Canadian zoologist Fred Urquhart, who, together with his wife, Norah Roden Urquhart, and thousands of volunteers, solved the mystery of where monarch butterflies go in the winter. A highlight of the book is the lengthy trial and error that's often involved in science, as Fred is shown trying and often failing to mark monarchs so that others could find ones he released and tell him their location. Another great lesson is that science is collaborative. Norah asked the public for help with tagging and volunteers responded: they started a "butterfly family," a community of children, teachers, and nature enthusiasts from three countries – Canada, the United States, and Mexico – to answer the question: Where do the monarchs go? The back matter includes maps of monarch migration, the life cycle of the butterfly, and the cultural relevance of monarch butterflies in Mexico, as well as information on environmental efforts towards monarch conservation – migratory populations have declined in numbers some 80% over the past 20 years. Meza, the illustrator, was born in Michoacán, Mexico, where the monarchs have special significance, especially to the Purépecha and Mazahua people, and, in an afterword, she describes visiting Michoacán and meeting the community that is collectively caring for butterflies through sanctuaries. The illustrations show the many child and adult volunteers, always with butterflies flitting about them. In picture book format.

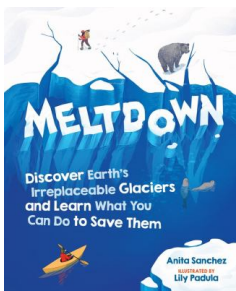


Sanchez, Anita. The Forest in the Sea: Seaweed Solutions to Planetary Problems.

Holiday House, 2023. 92 pages.

Grades 3 – 6. In addition to a great deal of fascinating information about the range and many varieties of seaweed, this book focuses on one approach to solving the consequences of planetary climate change: protecting and restoring seaweed forests. In particular, the ocean's seaweed forests capture carbon, produce oxygen, continue to provide food and shelter for sea life, and contribute to nourishing many people around the world. Keeping a steady eye on solving the problems of climate change and environmental degradation, the chapters show how seaweed can be put to use. A particularly interesting example is altering the percentage of methane, a greenhouse gas, in cows' gaseous discharges: research has found that eating seaweed lowers the methane in a cow's digestive system. How can people help? One way might be mitigating the massive algae blooms caused by human-generated fertilizers on an offshore kelp farm, such as the one established by several members of the Long Island-based Shinnecock Nation. Kelp absorbs chemicals from the chemical-laden run-offs that cause the algae blooms. Illustrated with full color photography.

See also: *Rotten! Vultures, Beetles, Slime, and Nature's Other Decomposers*, 2019, by the same author.

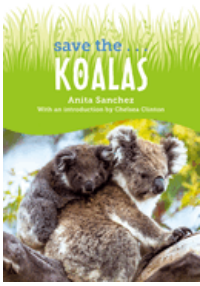


Sanchez, Anita. Meltdown: Discover Earth's Irreplaceable Glaciers and Learn What You Can Do to Save Them. Illustrated by Lily Padula.

Workman Publishing, 2022. 120 pages.

Grades 5 – 8. The vital importance of earth's glaciers, which contain three-quarters of the earth's fresh water and help to shield the earth from solar heat, is the subject of this carefully researched book on the disappearance of these huge ice masses. The text does not sidestep the reality that human activity has caused this alarming meltdown. Readers will learn a great deal about how glaciers were formed, how they move, and how scientists study them. As the title indicates, suggestions for climate

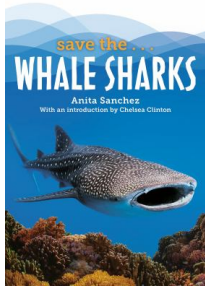
action by individuals and communities offer hope that this can be reversed by reducing the impact of using fossil fuels.



Sanchez, Anita. Save the Koalas.

Philomel Books, 2023. 96 pages. Series: *Save the ...*

Grades 3 – 5. Did you know that koalas spend most of their lives up in the treetops, only coming down if they run out of leaves to munch on? Or that koalas eat almost every minute that they're awake? Or that these cute and cuddly looking animals can give off earsplitting roars that can be heard half a mile away? This information is provided in a list of fun facts about koalas, but the main focus here is that koalas are endangered. The author explains how deforestation, droughts, and wildfires have diminished the habitats and food supply of koalas. Infectious disease and the koalas' limited diet (only eucalyptus leaves) also impact their chances of survival in the wild. A chapter introduces The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the seven levels of its Red List of Endangered Species, as it applies to koalas. The back matter offers suggestions about what kids can do to help save koalas from extinction. In chapter book format and illustrated with black-and-white photographs on many pages.



Sanchez, Anita. Save the Whale Sharks.

Philomel, 2020. 79 pages.

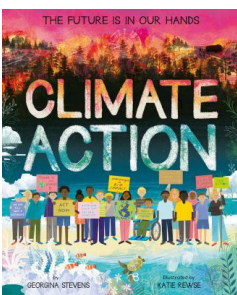
Grades 5 – 8. This book quickly establishes that the twenty-ton, gentle whale shark is a truly interesting creature, worthy of being protected in its own right as well as for its role in the ocean ecosystems that are its home. They are endangered by fishing nets, microplastics, and hunters who harvest them for their meat. The individuals in this ancient species have unique patterns of glowing stars on their bodies and thousands of sharp teeth that line their mouths. Like all sharks, they do not have bones, only cartilage, enabling them to swim efficiently on their long migrations. The last several pages list eleven ways citizens, young and old, can help prevent this species from going extinct. Illustrated with black-and-white photographs.



Steen, David A. Rewilding: Bringing Wildlife Back Where It Belongs. Illustrated by Chiara Fedele.

Neon Squid, 2022. 80 pages.

Grades 4 – 6. Rewilding is the process of returning animals and plants to habitats where they once thrived. In this book, the author, an acclaimed conservation biologist, introduces the scientists determined to turn back time to create a greener future. After a brief introduction to the topic, the focus is on a wide range of rewilding projects, from working with condors in California, to beavers in England, and Kihansi spray toads in Tanzania. Double spreads depict a large, colorful scene of an animal in its natural environment with explanatory text boxes. Each description of a rewilding project presents the reasons for the loss of wildlife, the rewilding plan, the successes and failures of the plan, and how the wildlife species is faring today. Interspersed pages address relevant issues, such as why species disappear; the conflicts over rewilding unwanted animals (like rattlesnakes) versus "charismatic creatures" (like bears); plants in danger; how to measure success; and even criticisms of rewilding. Throughout the book, important terminology is explained within the text. The final pages give readers tips for helping to protect and advocate for their local environments. In large format.



Stevens, Georgina. The Future Is in Our Hands: Climate Action. Illustrated by Katie Rewse.

Tiger Tales Books, 2021. 64 pages.

Grades 3 – 6. This comprehensive overview is organized in manageable bite-size chunks on double spreads with sidebars featuring brief profiles of international changemakers and "What can we do?" Interesting examples clarify the science and the issues. While addressing the seriousness of the problem, this book also describes, in context, what people can do to help. The sections are titled "Causes", "Effect", "Our Part", and "Inspiration" which addresses effective activism, green futures, and

the emotional impact of the challenges ahead.

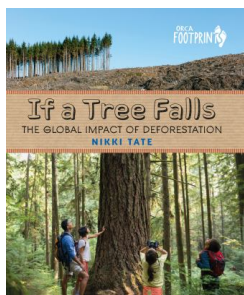


Sudyka, Diana. Little Land. Illustrated by the author.

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2023. 48 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. This book provides an introduction to how the environment has changed over eons, from dinosaurs to the ice age, with life always finding a balance – until now. The biggest environmental changes came with the arrival of humans, who drained the planet’s resources until everything tipped out of balance resulting in climate change. But, the author writes, anyone can make a difference by taking care of the land once more. The back matter includes a glossary of terms, the names of the creatures depicted in the book, and

descriptions of geological epochs. The illustrations depict the interconnectedness of life on Earth with scenes of vibrant flora, fauna, and geological features. In picture book format.

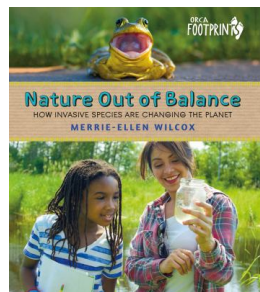


Tate, Nikki. If a Tree Falls: The Global Impact of Deforestation.

Orca Book Publishers, 2020. 48 pages.

Grades 4 – 7. In this reader-friendly discussion of the vital role forests play in the health of the planet, the chapters are titled “You Call That a Forest?” “How We Harvest Trees,” “Forests of Today,” and “Trees for the Future.” Sidebars, factual “Tree Trivia,” photographs, charts, and diagrams add interesting information to the discussion of the science and how humans have used the resources provided by trees. The final section of the book – “Trees for the Future” – suggests ways that citizens and governments can take action to conserve and restore the earth’s life-

sustaining forests.

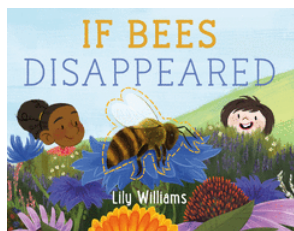


Wilcox, Merrie-Ellen. Nature Out of Balance: How Invasive Species Are Changing Our Planet.

Orca Book Publishers, 2021. 48 pages.

Grades 4 – 8. Invasive species, defined as any type of living thing – plant, animal, fungus, virus, or bacteria – that moves into a habitat in which it is not a native, proceeds to spread, causes problems for native species, and travels globally, sometimes accidentally or purposefully, hitchhiking with humans. The impact of these invasive species on natural areas is often profound, and thus the title “Nature Out of Balance.” This book takes a close look at interesting examples of this

phenomenon such as zebra mussels, cane toads, the brown tree snake, tree blights, Asian carp, and feral cats. How science and technology, and the sheer physical efforts employed to cope with these invasions, can be well advised or have unintended consequences are discussed as well. The book concludes with ideas on how to help ecosystems repair themselves through restoration of the natural habitats and conservation, which aims to prevent or reduce the damage before it gets started. Photographs, drawings, sidebars, charts, and eco-facts add to the narrative throughout.

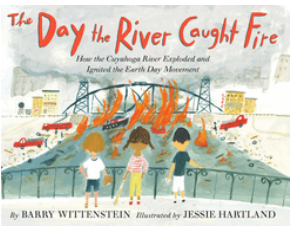


Williams, Lily. If Bees Disappeared. Illustrated by the author.

Roaring Brook Press, 2021, 40 pages. Series: *If Animals Disappeared*.

Grades 2 – 4. This book describes the crucial role that honeybees play in nature and how we can help them survive and remain healthy. The colorful illustrations are packed with information about the different kinds of bees, the inside of a hive, the process of pollination, and the foods that depend on honeybee pollination. Many important vocabulary words and phrases are

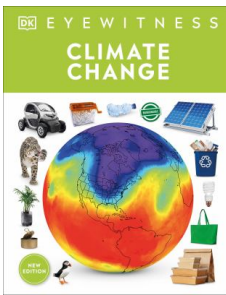
introduced and explained, such as *keystone species*, *pollinators*, *superorganism*, and *Colony Collapse Disorder*. The threats to honeybee survival and the consequences of their disappearance are described: if honeybees disappeared, most of the plants that bees pollinate would also disappear. Additionally, our favorite foods would become scarce, birds might disappear, and there would be a limited variety of crops. This unraveling effect is called a trophic cascade. The extensive back matter includes a substantial list of ways to save the bees. See also by the same author: *If Sharks Disappeared*, *If Polar Bears Disappeared*, and *If Elephants Disappeared*.



Wittenstein, Barry. *The Day the River Caught Fire: How the Cuyahoga River Exploded and Ignited the Earth Day Movement.* Illustrated by Jessie Hartland.

Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books, 2023. 48 pages.

Grades 1 – 4. In 1969, a passing spark ignited the sludge and pollution on the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland, Ohio. The river was on fire: this had happened 13 times since 1886. This time, residents led by Carl Stokes, one of the first Black mayors of a major U.S. city, took action. These activists were at the forefront of the environmental movement, and their calls for change led to the creation of Earth Day in 1970, the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Clean Air Act. This eventually became a global movement with people urging corporate and political action to combat pollution and climate change. The text points out that though the river is much cleaner today, it is not as clean as it was when Indigenous peoples fished and swam in it. The illustrations effectively convey the horror of the disgusting trash, toxic clouds, and brown slime infesting the waterway, especially as contrasted with the green grass and pristine blue water of the waterway before the industrial revolution. The back matter includes an author's note and a timeline.

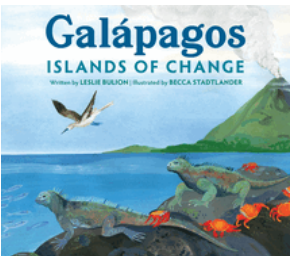


Woodward, John. *DK Eyewitness: Climate Change.*

Penguin Random House, 2021. 72 pages.

Grades 5 – 8. This book is a thorough overview of the science and history of climate change: its causes and consequences, human activities that contribute to the situation, the impact on vulnerable populations, and what can be done to mitigate the situation. Photos accompany short paragraphs of text and changes in font size signal the level of detail. The information is organized in the familiar DK book design with double spreads about each topic: for example, “What scares the scientists?” The back matter includes a timeline, glossary, and further references.

In Poetry Form: Nonfiction about the Natural World



Bulion, Leslie. *Galápagos: Islands of Change.* Illustrated by Becca Stadlander.

Peachtree Publishers, 2023. 48 pages.

Grades 2 – 6. This is a poetic introduction to the distinctive islands that are home to many species found nowhere else on Earth. Following an introduction that details the archipelago's volcanic origins and seasonal weather variations, the story of a young volcanic ecosystem begins. Some of the many distinctive organisms featured include giant daisy trees, Galápagos penguins, marine iguanas, blue-footed boobies, and Galápagos giant tortoises. Each striking and colorful two-page spread features a poem and scientific information about an animal and/or habitat. The back matter includes poetry notes, a glossary, resources, and a list of the species that are highlighted in the book. In picture book format. See also: *Island: A Story of the Galápagos* (2012) by Jason Chin.

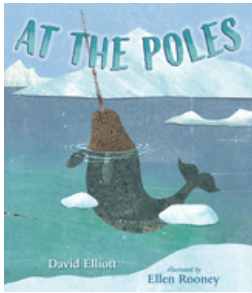


Bulion, Leslie. *Serengeti: Plains of Grass.* Illustrated by Becca Stadlander.

Peachtree Publishers, 2022. 48 pages.

Grades 3 – 6. This is a lyrical tribute to one of the most spectacular and productive ecosystems on Earth; the term Serengeti is from the Maasai language and means “endless”. In this portrait of the rainy season on East Africa's southern Serengeti Plain, readers can see an ecosystem in action. With a series of interconnected verses inspired by an East African Swahili poem form, the utendi, the book's rhythmic lines reflect the web of life in the Serengeti and follow the great migration of wildebeest, zebras, and other animals across the vast plain. The rich, evocative illustrations reflect the grandeur of this immense and complex environment and provide close-up details of its wildlife

inhabitants. There are scientific notes on each spread, and the back matter offers more specific facts. In picture book format.



Elliott, David. At the Poles. Illustrated by Ellen Rooney.

Candlewick Press, 2023. 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. This is an illustrated, poetic ode to the creatures that inhabit the North and South poles. The stark, cold landscapes of Earth's poles may seem inhospitable, but an astounding variety of creatures live there, including the mysterious giant squid, the fast Arctic hare, and the towering polar bear. With lively poems filled with humor and admiration accompanied by vivid multimedia art, this book speaks to the beauty and preciousness of life at the ends of the Earth. With notes on each animal in the back matter, and in picture book format. See also other poetic

explorations of nature by the author: *At the Pond, In the Woods, On the Wing.*



Going, K. L. This Is the Planet Where I Live. Illustrated by Debra Frasier.

Beach Lane Books, 2023. 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. Using a cumulative nursery rhyme format similar to "The House That Jack Built," the text begins with "This is the planet where I live" and slowly builds to give an account of ecosystems and the food web. While the rhyming text is aimed at younger readers, this book would also work well with older children to start discussions of conservation, science, and climate change. The verses themselves are delightful and perfect for saying aloud. The collage illustrations are a mix of brightly colored art and photography. In picture book format.

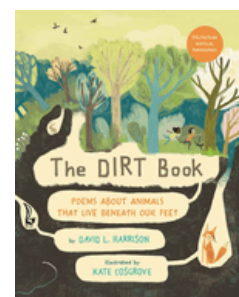


Harjo, Joy. Remember. Illustrated by Michaela Goade.

Random House Studio, 2023. 40 pages.

Grades 1 – 3. Jo Harjo, the first Native American to serve as U.S. poet laureate, served three terms from 2019-2022. This is the picture book adaptation of her well-known poem, *Remember*. In simple and direct language, Harjo, a member of the Mvskoke Nation, encourages readers to look to the universe, their own beginning within it, and the interconnectedness of all its creatures. Michaela Goade, drawing from her Tlingit culture, has created vivid illustrations that make the words come alive in an engaging and accessible way. Each spread features only a sentence or

two, allowing readers to pause and reflect upon the text's significance and the illustrations' details. A rich tribute to life, family, and poetry in picture book format.

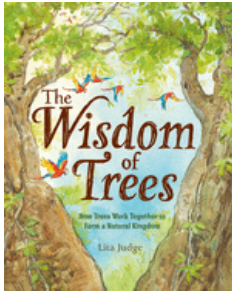


Harrison, David. The Dirt Book: Poems about Animals That Live Beneath Our Feet. Illustrated by Kate Cosgrove.

Holiday House, 2021. 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. This charmingly illustrated collection of poetry highlights animals that live underground, from earthworms and spiders to toads and moles. The book opens with a fact box about dirt, explaining how some dirt is millions of years old and that it can take hundreds of years for an inch of dirt to accumulate. The illustrations make clever use of the book's vertical orientation - with double-page spreads depicting both aboveground and underground habitats, along with a poem positioned to one side. The back matter includes brief paragraphs on each animal and notes about dirt

and the organisms that live in it. In picture book format.



Judge, Lita. The Wisdom of Trees: How Trees Work Together to Form a Natural Kingdom. Illustrated by the author.

Roaring Brook Press, 2021. 48 pages.

Grades 3 – 5. With free verse poems, detailed illustrations, and accessible scientific information, this book is an exploration of the hidden communities that trees create to strengthen themselves and others through community, communication, and cooperation. Trees not only sustain life on our planet – they can also teach us important lessons about patience and teamwork. Watercolor and pencil illustrations portray flora and fauna; the back matter includes extensive information about fungi,

the life spans of trees, and additional details about the tree species pictured. In picture book format.

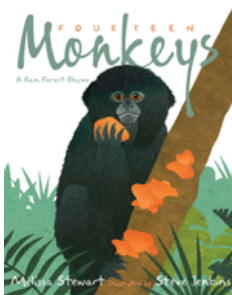


Sidman, Joyce. Hello, Earth!: Poems to Our Planet. Illustrated by Miren Asiain Lora.

Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2021. 68 Pages.

Grades 3 – 6. In the reverse of the usual order, the illustrations inspired the author to create the poems – an activity which students can emulate. The poems are about scientific theories, including plate tectonics and continental drift, conservation, and the human impact on the planet's ecosystems. Sidman's poetry is conversational and spare, and it highlights the connection humans have with the Earth. The illustrations present an "I Spy" experience: readers can discover hidden activity in many of the spreads, such

as boa constrictors quietly winding through the treetops.



Stewart, Melissa. Fourteen Monkeys: A Rain Forest Rhyme. Illustrated by Steve Jenkins.

Beach Lane Books, 2021. 32 pages.

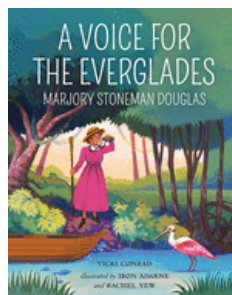
Grades 1 – 4. In Manâu National Park in Peru, fourteen different species of monkeys live together – more than in any other rainforest in the world. This lyrical, rhyming picture book explores each monkey's habits, diet, and home, illustrating how this delicate ecosystem and its creatures live together in harmony. For each species, the author pairs a rhyming couplet in large font with a narrative paragraph in smaller font. The rhythmic lines of poetry highlight a monkey species and a fun fact about it: "Squirrel monkeys peep and purr, as they stroke their babies fur." The accompanying

narrative text elaborates: "Black-capped squirrel monkeys use at least 26 calls to communicate. They twitter to greet one another and bark when they feel threatened ..." Location is key to the monkeys' co-existence: an infographic on each spread pinpoints where in the shared trees each monkey species lives. The detailed illustrations are vivid and engaging, and the back matter provides additional information. In picture book format.

Biographies and Profiles of Scientists and Activists of All Ages:

Exploring, preserving, restoring the natural world

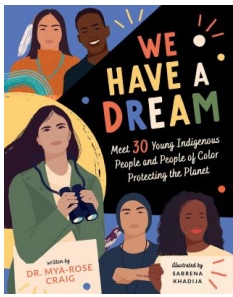
and addressing the challenges of climate change and environmental injustice



Conrad, Vicki. A Voice for the Everglades: Marjory Stoneman Douglas. Illustrated by Ibon Adarne and Rachel Yew.

Albert Whitman & Company, 2021. 40 pages.

Grades 1 – 4. Through her writing and activism, Marjorie Stoneham Douglas (1890 – 1998) became the voice of the Everglades. Her work led to the conservation of this ecosystem, which supports an astonishing variety of wildlife, and to the creation of the Everglades National Park. In addition to information about Douglas' life and work, this book explores, through text and images, the flora and fauna of the Everglades. With colorful illustrations in picture book format.

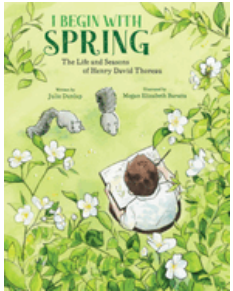


Craig, Mya-Rose. We Have a Dream. Meet 30 Young Indigenous People and People of Color Protecting the Planet. Illustrated by Sabrena Khadija.

Magic Cat Publishing, 2021. 62 pages.

Grades 6-8. In this book about the disproportionate impact of climate change and environmental degradation on communities of color, each double spread focuses on one person who is active in conservation efforts, including halting deforestation and ensuring the availability of clean water, as well as protecting indigenous rights. Each profile focuses on how their young lives led to their activism. The book design is attractive, albeit with text in a tiny font. U.S.-based activists include Litokne Kabua,

Zanagee Artis, Thomas Tonatiuh Lopez Jr., Caitlyn Baikie, Rebeca Sabnam, Autumn Peltier, and the author.



Dunlap, Julie. I Begin With Spring: The Life and Seasons of Henry David Thoreau. Illustrated by Megan Elizabeth Baratta.

Tilbury House Publishers, 2022. 96 pages.

Grades 3 and up. Illustrated with drawings and primary sources, as if in a personal journal, this book is an exploration of seasonal changes and also a visual story of Thoreau's (1817 – 1862) life and times. As an inquisitive and observant child, Thoreau had the ability to use all of his senses to connect with plants, animals, and the flow of the seasons. His upbringing and the significant people he met had an impact on his life and writing. The text, illustrations, timelines highlighting Thoreau's observations,

and Thoreau's own words show a deep respect for the beauty in nature, which could inspire readers to treat the earth and its inhabitants with kindness and care as well.

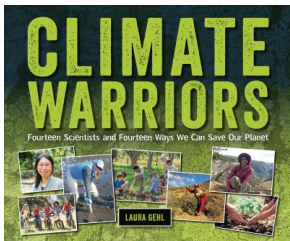


Fountain, Carrie. The Poem Forest: Poet W. S. Merwin and the Palm Tree Forest He Grew from Scratch. Illustrated by Chris Turnham.

Candlewick Press, 2022. 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. Pulitzer Prize winner and U.S. Poet Laureate of 2010, William Stanley Merwin (1927 – 2019) was both a poet and a dedicated conservationist. Leaving his life in the city, he created a home on Maui on a plot of land that was considered a wasteland. Planting one palm tree nearly every day to help heal the earth, Merwin and his wife planted thousands of palms, including endangered species, creating a forest that eventually became the Merwin Conservancy. The back matter includes

an informative author's note and a poem by Merwin. With delightful illustrations in picture book format.

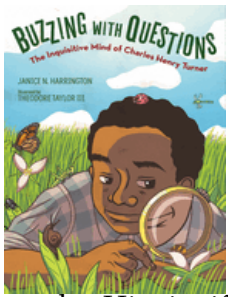


Gehl, Laura. Climate Warriors: Fourteen Scientists and Fourteen Ways We Can Save Our Planet.

Millbrook Press, 2023. 72 pages.

Grades 5 – 8. This book features scientists and activists working in the field of climate change. Each chapter begins with a short profile of a researcher or activist and concludes with a discussion titled "What *you* can do." In a clear writing style, the candid and thoughtful discussion reveals how complex the issues of climate change are. Topics include restoring forests, sustainable urban

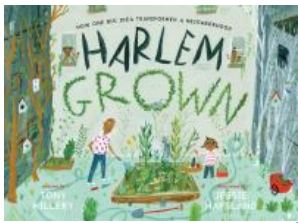
practices, how to communicate effectively about climate change, species conservation, using AI to solve climate change problems, preserving and protecting wetlands, how to motivate people to become active climate warriors, the economics of climate change on farming and sustainable living, cellular agriculture, better material technologies, alternative sources of power, development of biofuels and bioproducts, respect for all communities, and public health. In picture book format and book design featuring photographs, charts, sidebars with relevant information, and six pages at the end on how to be a climate warrior.



Harrington, Janice N. Buzzing with Questions: The Inquisitive Mind of Charles Henry Turner. Illustrated by Theodore Taylor III.

Calkins Creek Books, 2019. 48 pages.

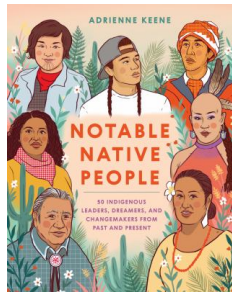
Grades 2 – 5. This is a biography of African American scientist Charles Henry Turner (1867-1923). From a young age, he was fascinated by plants, animals and bugs - questions buzzed endlessly in his mind. His teacher encouraged him to "go and find out," and that is what he spent his life doing. He attended college when most colleges didn't accept African Americans; even when he faced racial prejudice, he constantly read, researched, and experimented. He studied spiders, crustaceans, ants, bees, and moths. His significant findings are explained both in the illustrations and in the text, which describes his experiments, conclusions, and his meaningful contributions to knowledge about nature. The illustrations highlight the scientist at work in the lab and outdoors. In picture book format with an author's note and timeline.



Hillery, Tony. Harlem Grown: How One Big Idea Transformed a Neighborhood. Illustrated by Jessie Hartland.

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2020. 40 pages.

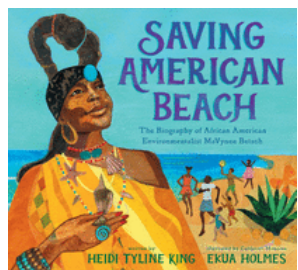
Grades 1 – 3. Harlem Grown is an urban farm and garden in New York City, which grew out of an abandoned lot and now feeds a neighborhood. Written by the African American man who came up with the idea of the garden while volunteering in a Harlem elementary school in 2010, the book addresses the environment, sustainability, and community engagement. With colorful illustrations, a note from the author, and instructions for how to "start a garden anywhere."



Keene, Adrienne. Notable Native People: 50 Indigenous Leaders, Dreamers, and Changemakers from Past and Present. Illustrated by Ciara Sana.

Ten Speed Press, 2021. 143 pages.

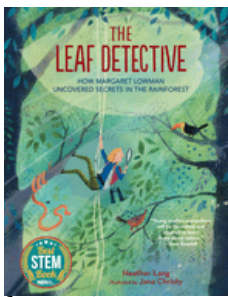
Grades 6 – 9. These one-page profiles of 50 indigenous people from American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian nations include several whose work has focused on sustainable living, climate activism, environmental justice, and political advocacy: Chris Newman (Piscataway), Jihan Gearson (Diné), Bobbi Jean Three Legs (Cheyenne River Lakota), Billy Frank, Jr. (Nisqually), Princess Daazhraii Johnson (Gwich'in), and Viola Waghiyi (Yup'ik). Each profile includes biographical information, specifics about their activism work, and a portrait. Two additional double spreads feature settler colonialism, representational matters, current issues in Indian country, a history of settler colonialism in Hawai'i and Alaska, and "Whose land are you on?"



King, Heidi Tyline. Saving American Beach: The Biography of African American Environmentalist Mavynee Betsch. Illustrated by Ekua Holmes.

G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2021. 40 pages.

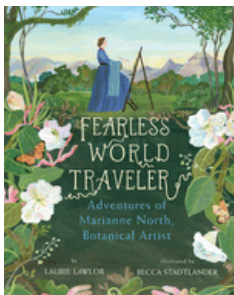
Grades 2 – 4. This biography tells the story of MaVynee Betsch (1935 – 2005), an African American opera singer, environmentalist, and activist. During the 1930s in Jim Crow-era Jacksonville, Florida, where most beaches were for whites only, her grandfather bought some shoreline property and turned it into American Beach, a resort open to everyone. In 1977, when Betsch discovered that the property was being taken over by developers, she saved the beach and devoted her fortune and the rest of her life to environmental activism. American Beach is now a historical landmark. In picture book format with vivid and powerful illustrations.



Lang, Heather. The Leaf Detective: How Margaret Lowman Uncovered Secrets in the Rainforest. Illustrated by Jana Christie.

Calkins Creek Books, 2021. 48 pages.

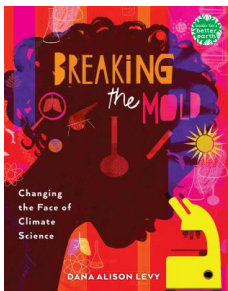
Grades 2 – 5. Meg Lowman (b. 1953) was always fascinated by the natural world above her head - the colors, the branches, the leaves, and the mysterious organisms living there. As a scientist, Meg set out to climb up and investigate the rain forest tree canopies. She encountered many challenges – male teachers would not let her into their classrooms, the high canopy was difficult to get to, and, worst of all, people were logging and clearing the forests. Lowman never gave up: she created a future for herself as a scientist and made sure that the rainforests had a future as well. Presented with a poetic text and lively illustrations, most spreads include a direct quotation and text boxes about rain forests. The author describes her personal encounter with "Canopy Meg" when Lowman served as a guide for a 2017 citizen-science trip to a rain forest in Peru. A final spread depicts the levels of a Peruvian rain forest and the various creatures that inhabit the environment. In picture book format.



Lawlor, Laurie. Fearless World Traveler: Adventures of Marianne North, Botanical Artist. Illustrated by Becca Stadlader.

Holiday House, 2021. 48 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. This is an account of the adventurous life of Marianne North (1830 – 1890), a self-taught English artist and scientist who challenged Victorian gender roles and excelled in the field of botanical illustration. After the deaths of her parents, and with financial security and important connections, she pursued goals that most women of her time could not. She traveled all over the world and recorded botanical and wildlife specimens. Her paintings and her contributions to the botanical and natural sciences were extraordinary – in fact, her paintings are the only images left of some extinct animals and plants. The book's illustrations are done with attention and care, in the spirit of North's own work. The back matter includes a "who's who" of well-known people in North's noteworthy life, and eight reproductions of North's own paintings. In picture book format.



Levy, Dana Alison. Breaking the Mold: Changing the Face of Climate Science.

Holiday House, 2023. 220 pages.

Grades 5 – 8. "All around the world, the communities and people who are most affected by climate change are often some of the most oppressed. In order to come up with solutions that will truly help all of humanity, we need all of humanity to be a part of the process." This introduction to this extensively researched group biography of scientists from around the globe working in a range of fields including biology, vulcanology, earth science, and climate change, makes it clear that the focus is on environmental justice. Many of the scientists featured felt they didn't fit into the stereotypes of who scientists are. Each profile has a photograph of the scientist, at least one quote, and the story of their work. Sidebars provide relevant information, some of which addresses issues in climate science – such as who pays for research. Extensive back matter includes suggestions for climate activism, references, and vetted websites. The engaging text and terrific book design make this book accessible and likely attractive to middle-grade readers.

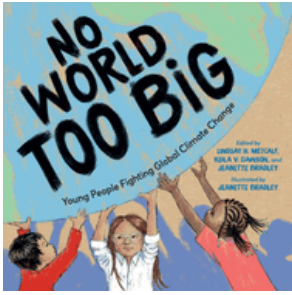


Lindstrom, Carole. Autumn Peltier, Water Warrior. Illustrated by Bridget George.

Roaring Brook Press, 2023. 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. Honoring the activism of a great aunt, a great niece, and the Indigenous women who have been speaking out on behalf of *nibi*, the word for water in Anishinaabe, this book encourages readers to engage in vital environmental work. In the foreword, Anishinaabe activist Autumn Peltier (b. 2004) explains, "In our culture, we look at water as a living being, and we're taught to treat it with the same respect we would show another human." With this in mind, the author (Anishinaabe/Métis) and illustrator (Anishinaabe) tell their story in lyrical language from the perspective of *nibi* itself, beginning with the Anishinaabe tradition of "looking seven generations into the future" to ensure that water is clean for everyone. The book celebrates Indigenous

land and water stewardship and Autumn's growth as an organizer under her ancestors' guidance. In picture book format with powerful illustrations. The back matter offers more details about Grandma Josephine's and Autumn's activism.

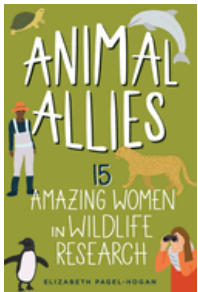


Metcalf, Lindsay et. al. No World Too Big: Young People Fighting Global Climate Change. Illustrated by Jeanette Bradley.

Charlesbridge, 2023. 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. This book celebrates twelve young activists and three activist groups on the front lines of the climate crisis. Everyone feels the impact of climate change (whether or not they acknowledge it), but the future belongs to young people. Fourteen poems by different writers are matched with the stories and portraits of activists from all over the world. Additional text provides details about each activist's life and how readers can get involved. The back matter

includes capsule biographies of the poets and descriptions of each form of poetry, which vary from popular forms such as found poetry and free verse to lesser-known forms such as dokugin renga, a Japanese form of linked verse. The many poetry types reinforce the belief that different peoples and ideas can work together to effect change. In picture book format with well-designed illustrations.

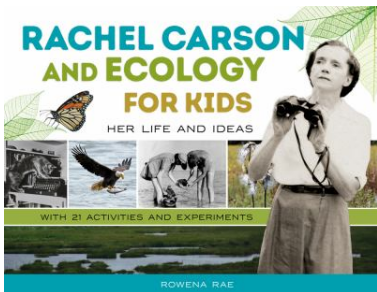


Pagel-Hogan, Elizabeth. Animal Allies: 15 Amazing Women in Wildlife Research.

Chicago Review Press, 2022. 224 pages. Series: *Women of Power*.

Grades 6 – 9. The women profiled in this book are from many countries; they are all working on issues that intersect with biodiversity, species conservation, biology, and more. They stand out for their work in their fields and are also dedicated to science communication – sharing their knowledge with others. Through their lives and work, they challenge assumptions about who a scientist is and what a scientist looks like.

Organized into sections by the type of animal life in question – birds, arthropods, sea creatures, reptiles and amphibians, and mammals, each chapter focuses on an individual woman. For example, Michelle LaRue uses satellites to study Antarctic birds; Kristen Hecht chases the elusive hellbender amphibian; Enikèo Kubinyi uses robots to get information on wolf pups. The book notes gender and racial biases they have faced as well as their activism – both their personal and professional struggles and accomplishments are included. Written with an engaging narrative style, with fact boxes on every page.

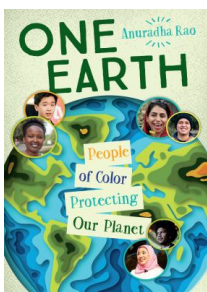


Rae, Rowena. Rachel Carson and Ecology for Kids: Her Life and Ideas.

Chicago Review Press, 2020. 134 pages.

Grades 5 – 8. This straightforward chronicle of Rachel Carson's life and accomplishments is interspersed throughout with ideas about how kids can conduct experiments and science activities related to the environment. Readers will learn about basic ecology concepts, including the components of ecosystems, adaptations by living things, energy cycles, food chains and food webs, and the natural balance of ecosystems. The

illustrations are black and white photos, accompanied by charts, and nature drawings. The sidebars contain information about scientists and related issues addressed by Carson.



Rao, Anuradha S. One Earth: People of Color Protecting Our Planet.

Victoria, British Columbia: Orca Book Publishers, 2020. 207 pages.

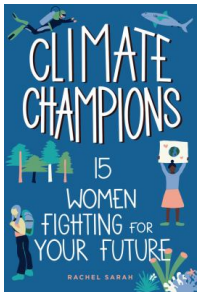
Grades 5 – 8. This book profiles twenty activists of color from around the world who work to protect and restore their local ecosystems, the wildlife, soil, water quality, forests, and grasslands. Their individual stories show how living in the community and geographical area, in addition to their ethnicity, culture and language, are assets in this work. The profiles are illustrated with full-color photos of the people and their projects and with direct quotes in text boxes.



Reynolds, Emma. Drawn to Change the World: 16 Youth Climate Activists, 16 Artists. Illustrated by sixteen artists.

Harperalley, 2023. 208 pages.

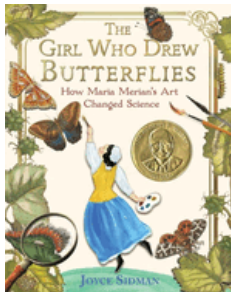
Grades 4 – 8. This book begins with information about what “climate crisis” is, which parts of the ecosystem the crisis affects, what measures have been taken to combat it, who is most vulnerable, and what individual people can do to mitigate its reach. The spotlight is on 16 young activists from around the world: each is given a four-page comic that summarizes their work, with “what are they doing now” text updates. Two of the subjects have demonstrated in countries where the act of environmental protest itself is severely limited and dangerous: Russia and China. Several young activists identify as queer; Thunberg and McAnulty are autistic; Daphne Frias, a Latina American who has worked to eliminate single-use plastics from her college dining hall, has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair. The comics were created by artists whose backgrounds and styles are wide-ranging as well. The back matter includes one-paragraph biographies of each artist, an extensive timeline, a glossary, and meaningful quotes.



Sarah, Rachel. Climate Champions: 15 Women Fighting for Your Future.

Chicago Review Press, 2023. 209 pages.

Grades 5 – 8. As with Rachel Sarah’s *Girl Warriors*, this book offers young readers relatable examples of how women in many fields are actively addressing climate change by drafting policy, doing scientific research, leading organizations working to save the earth from the effects of climate change, and speaking out about environmental injustice. The sections are titled Challenge the System, Hold Fast to Science, and Take a Stand for Justice. These women are climate scientists, journalists, professors, academics, researchers, and policy makers. Each profile includes personal information, how the person got involved in climate activism, sidebars with pertinent information about climate change, other activists, references, and media suggestions. As a whole, the take away is the impressive range of ways to get involved.

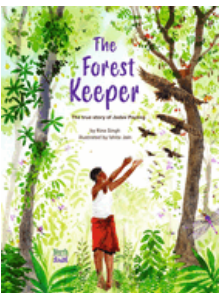


Sidman, Joyce. The Girl Who Drew Butterflies: How Maria Merian's Art Changed Science.

Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018. 120 pages.

Grades 4 – 8. Artist and scientist, Maria Merian (1647 - 1717) was known for her meticulous observations of insects and her exquisite depictions of them in their natural habitats. Born in seventeenth-century Germany, she discovered the truth about metamorphosis and documented the science behind it. She challenged convention in the pursuit of knowledge and traveled to Suriname in South America, in the company of her daughter. Photographs, etchings, maps, paintings, and reproductions of Merian’s botanical art enhance the text. The author also provides background information about topics that influenced Merian’s life, such as art, engraving, printing processes, religion in the 1600s, and slavery in Suriname.

See also for younger students: **Marsh, Sarah Glenn. The Bug Girl: Maria Merian’s Scientific Vision. Illustrated by Filippo Vanzo.** Albert Whitman & Co., 2019. 32 pages. Grade 2 - 4. This picture book account of Merian’s life and work is gorgeously illustrated in full double spreads. The extensive author’s note fills out additional information about her contribution to “humanity’s understanding of the interaction between insects, animals, and the environment.” The end papers are reproductions of some of her hand-colored engravings of the insects and the plants they lived on.



Singh, Rina. The Forest Keeper: The True Story of Jadav Payeng. Illustrated by Ishita Jain.

Northsouth Books, 2023. 40 pages.

Grades 1 – 3. In 1979, the Brahmaputra River flooded the island of Majuli in northeastern India. Jadav Payeng (b. 1959), a teenage boy, saw many water snakes wash up on the shore; with no trees for shelter, they died. He asked his tribal elders for help, but they dismissed his plans. The forest department gave him bamboo seedlings, which he planted on an abandoned island. Every day for years, he planted new

seedlings of bamboo and other species as well. As the trees grew, animals arrived, including rabbits, deer, tigers, elephants, and many birds. Now known as the Forest Man, Payeng has created a thriving forest, and he lives there with his family. Showing what one person with limited resources can do to restore the environment, the story celebrates Payeng's vision and determination. From the back matter, we learn that Jadav's work went unnoticed by most others until 2009, when a photographer happened upon the forest. With rich illustrations in picture book format.

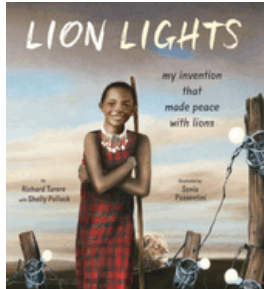


Teave, Mahani with Marni Fogelson. *The Girl Who Heard the Music: How One Pianist and 85,000 Bottles and Cans Brought New Hope to an Island.* Illustrated by Marta Alvarez Miguéns.

Sourcebooks Explore, 2023. 40 pages.

Grades 1 – 3. Mahani Teave (b.1983) grew up on Rapa Nui, also known as Easter Island, one of the most remote islands in the world. When she began taking lessons on the island's only piano, she proved to have great talent; she left her home when she was just nine to continue her music education. Teave became an internationally acclaimed classical pianist, but her island home called her back.

Years later, she returned to Rapa Nui to stay and to fulfill a new dream: to save its environment and culture. She helped create a music and arts school, so that children there could learn music in ways that kept the island's unique traditions alive. Teave also saw the island's struggles with sustainability issues and pollution from tourism and ocean plastics, so the school was built using thousands of tires, bottles, and cans in its walls, and incorporating rain barrels, solar panels, and a food garden. Teave and her team have created an inspiring place that celebrates the land of Rapa Nui and its people. The bright illustrations capture the beauty of the island, with cultural details in almost every scene, such as references to the Rapanui who carved the island's Moai (statues) and the incorporation of bright, floral fabrics and traditional instruments and dances. The back matter includes additional facts about co-author Mahani Teave, Rapa Nui and its famous Moai, the Rapanui language, and increasing pollution from ocean plastics. In picture book format.



Turere, Richard and Shelley Pollock. *Lion Lights: My Invention That Made Peace with Lions.* Illustrated by Sonia Possentini.

Tilbury House Publishers, 2022. 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. A Maasai herder's duty is to protect his livestock. Author Turere describes how, at the age of 12, he came up with a cheap and ingenious solution to a problem that had stumped his own Maasai people and outside experts. Lions from the nearby Nairobi National Park were killing valuable cattle at night; desperate farmers were spearing or poisoning the lions. Fires, fences, and fixed lights all failed to keep the lions away, but Turere noticed that the predators avoided his flashlight.

The young inventor experimented with old electrical parts until he developed a set of blinking lights that proved effective enough to save the lions and earn him international recognition. The illustrations show the author in both traditional Maasai and modern dress – guarding the herd as a 9-year-old, taking his mother's new radio apart, and later delivering a TED talk and reflecting that he had done "a Maasai warrior's duty." The back matter includes extensive information about the Maasai, a glossary of Maasai words, and an update on the young inventor – he received a special commendation from the African Leadership Awards for his critical role in creating awareness about the crisis affecting lions in Kenya. With evocative illustrations in picture book format.

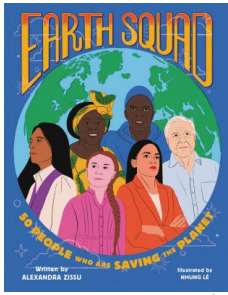


Willis, Birdie. *Seen: Rachel Carson.* Illustrated by Rii Abrego.

Boom Box, 2021. 80 pages. Series: *Seen: True Stories of Marginalized Trailblazers.*

Grades 5 – 8. This graphic-format biography is about the life of Rachel Carson (1906 – 1964), the scientist and writer best known for the book *Silent Spring*, which energized a movement around the dangers of DDT and other pesticides and which ultimately spurred the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The story is narrated in the first person and begins with Carson reflecting on her own childhood interests and observations. The title itself refers to both Carson noticing the dangers of substances that were all but invisible and her wish to be seen and accepted, not only as an authority and communicator but also as a whole person. The back matter includes

an extensive teaching guide with discussion questions and reading and writing activities. In a small, full-color graphic format.



Zissu, Alexandra. Earth Squad: 50 People Who Are Saving the Planet. Illustrated by Nhung Lê.

Running Press Kids, 2021. 156 pages.

Grades 6 – 9. This book emphasizes how people can work together for change and how every individual can do their part. Each profile in this compilation of stories about environmental activists – some of whom are well known and others not – tells the story of an “eco activist.” The strong book design uses subtitles and a watercolor portrait of each activist against a background of their typical field of work. They are from an impressively wide range of professional fields, countries, identities, and specific foci of their work: activism and community, science, politics, food, art, innovation, and journalism. The profiles end with a short suggestion titled: “Act like (first name of person and related work/activity).” For example, “Act like Lamya” features an ocean activist and her efforts to stop overfishing and other unsustainable fishing practices, with the suggestion to eat less fish.

Fiction: Caring for the Natural World



Dee, Barbara. Haven Jacobs Saves the Planet.

Aladdin, 2022. 283 pages.

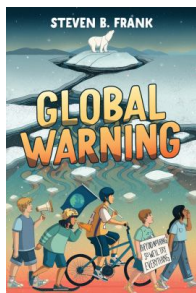
Grades 5 – 8. This novel calls to mind the paper mills that polluted the Androscoggin River in Maine. Sixth-grader Haven is full of anxiety about climate change. She becomes active in forcing the local factory - a bad actor that poses as a good citizen in town by supporting town projects, schools, and supplying the science equipment the kids use to test the river water - to stop polluting the river that runs through her town. The tension in the story comes from the reality that the factory provides jobs for Haven’s father, as well as other people in the town. Haven is courageous and very believable as a budding activist and her classmates become part of her effort to clean up the river.



Fitzgerald, Maria José. Turtles of the Midnight Moon.

Knopf, 2023. 312 pages.

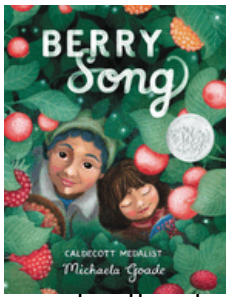
Grades 4 – 6. In the rural Honduran town Pattaya, sixth-graders Barana and Abby form a strong friendship as they go about discovering who is poaching leatherback turtle eggs and, by doing so, are endangering the species. The chapters in this middle grade mystery alternate between Barana’s and Abby’s perspectives. The text is sprinkled throughout with words, phrases, and short exchanges in Spanish. The themes of community and engaging in activism on behalf of the regional habitat inform the narrative.



Frank, Steven B. Global Warning.

Clarion Books, 2023. 263 pages.

Grades 5 - 8. In this lively, funny novel, middle school teacher Steven Frank captures the voices of a class of 12-year-olds who decide to take action by writing a Constitutional amendment that establishes the right to “A stable climate being necessary for the survival of life on Earth, the right of the people to inhabit a planet free from pollution and unnatural warming shall not be infringed.” They proceed to get the amendment ratified. However preposterous, this novel might serve as a Civics 101 primer for how to take political action and for the process of getting an amendment ratified. The class gets help from a civil rights lawyer and a grandmother with experience in demonstrating for change. The sixth graders’ success is both inspiring and educational. The recent success of Montana students in *Held vs. Montana* suggests the story is less fanciful than it at first seems.



Goade, Michaela. Berry Song. Illustrated by the author.

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2022. 40 pages.

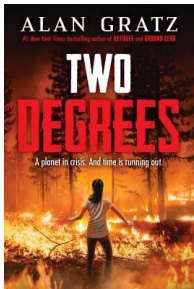
Grades 1 – 3. This is an intergenerational story of cultural rituals shared by a grandmother and her granddaughter. As a young Tlingit girl collects wild berries over the seasons, she sings with her grandmother and learns to speak to the land and listen when the land speaks back. The two go to a nearby island for a berry-picking adventure in the forest. To alert the forest bear that they are nearby, they sing a harvest song. As they gather berries, they listen to the sounds of insect wings, inhale the scent of cedar, and feel the soft moss on tree branches. Back at home, the girl, her grandmother, her father, and her younger sister use the berries to make food to share. This story features artwork inspired by the landscape of Goade’s hometown, Sheet’ká, Alaska, and incorporates symbolism and imagery from Tlingit culture. A closing author’s note explains the sacred Tlingit principles mentioned in the story, and the endpapers identify different berry varieties. In picture book format.



González, Karina Nicole. The Coquíes Still Sing: A Story of Home, Hope, and Rebuilding. Illustrated by Krystal Quiles.

Roaring Brook Press, 2022. 40 pages.

Grades 1 – 4. This powerful story about home, community, and hope was inspired by the rebuilding of Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria in 2017. Elena and her family shelter inside during the hurricane, watching it destroy their home and everything they care about. When they emerge from the rubble, the natural beauty of the island is gone – or seems forever changed. As Elena and her family adapt to their new lives and piece their home back together, the return of the native coquí frogs and their song reminds Elena of the resilience and strength of Puerto Rico. The book’s glossary and author’s note provide more background about the events that inspired the book and explain the Spanish vocabulary used. The rich illustrations enhance the story, which was published in both English and Spanish versions. In picture book format.



Gratz, Alan. Two Degrees: A Planet in Crisis and Time is Running Out.

Scholastic, 2022. 365 pages.

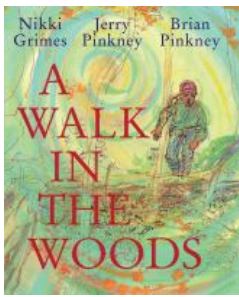
Grades 4 – 7. In this climate crisis 101 call-to-action, author Gratz reveals how the impact of climate change is not isolated to particular locations but has worldwide effects. Four middle-grade children, representing diverse identities, face the consequences of climate change in their different geographic locations. Akira confronts a wildfire threatening giant sequoias. Brothers Owen and George deal with ravenous bears in Manitoba. Natalie is washed out to sea during a hurricane. Each is in a very dangerous situation, likely brought on by climate change and habitat degradation. The three stories relate to one another loosely, with thinly drawn characters. The dramatic nature of the stories is likely to attract some young readers seeking adventure narratives, while provoking climate anxiety in others.



Griffith, Evan. Manatee Summer.

Quill Tree Books, 2022. 271 pages.

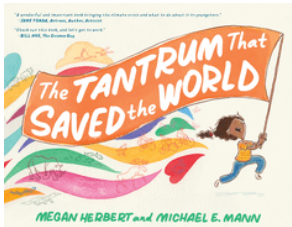
Grades 4 – 7. This coming-of-age story features two 11-year-old boys who are best friends and nature enthusiasts. Peter and Tommy set about compiling a “discovery journal” of the local wild animals in their central Florida town and discover a manatee in a canal. Peter forms a bond with the injured manatee and joins local environmental efforts to save manatees all the while dealing with his best friend Tommy moving away, and the care of his aging grandfather.



Grimes, Nikki. A Walk in the Woods. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney and Brian Pinkney.

Neal Porter Books, 2023. 40 pages.

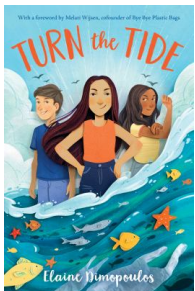
Grades 2 – 4. A Black boy opens an envelope from his father, who recently died, and finds a treasure map marked with a red X. Disappointed his dad hasn't left him a letter, the boy reluctantly enters the woods to find the treasure. As he walks along the Hudson, he sees animals and reminders of the Mohicans, the original inhabitants of the land. Entering the ruins of a house, he finds a metal box containing sketches of woodland wildlife with an unfinished story beneath each drawing. His father had created both the sketches and the writing when he was a boy. His son is encouraged to finish the stories and to draw and write his own. The back matter tells of the book's creation: Grimes and Jerry Pinkney decided to collaborate on a book in which Black characters engage with nature. Grimes wrote the free verse text, and, before his death in 2021, Jerry Pinkney finished the detailed drawings, which reflect his love for the natural world. Afterwards, his son Brian Pinkney was asked to add the watercolor washes to the illustrations. The author's quiet yet powerful poetry captures the boy's loss and also the memories his father left behind. In a moving author's note, Grimes discusses her decades long friendship with Jerry Pinkney; in an illustrator's note, Brian Pinkney describes how he completed the artwork and explains how this story mirrors his own experience of coping with his father's death. Together, Grimes and the Pinkneys have created a meditation on how the ones we love never really leave us; joy and hope exist alongside sadness and grief in this extraordinary picture book.



Herbert, Megan and Michael Mann. The Tantrum That Saved the World. Illustrated by Megan Herbert.

North Atlantic Books, 2022. 64 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. Tantrums are bad, except when they save the world. This humorous story is about finding your voice, taking collective action, and saving the planet. Sophia is hanging out at home when the doorbell announces an unexpected guest – a polar bear. Despite Sophia's protests, he walks right in. His ice cap is melting – where else is he supposed to go? Soon, more climate refugees arrive – a dispirited sea turtle, farmers whose lands have gone dry, confused bees, and a grumpy Bengal tiger. Sophia is frustrated and confused – she doesn't understand what any of this has to do with her. But as Sophia hears their stories, she learns that this is her fight, too. Sophia and the animals head to City Hall only to wait around for hours before being dismissed. Sophia just can't hold it in anymore: "Raging with purpose, with banners unfurled, She kicked off a tantrum to save the whole world!" This book is part environmental story, part ode to community action, and part blueprint for building a better world. Exuberantly illustrated in picture book format.



Kimopoulos, Elaine. Turn the Tide.

Clarion, 2022. 359 pages.

Grades 4 – 7. In this novel in verse, twelve-year-old Mimi's science teacher shows the class a TED talk by young climate activists Melati and Isabel Wijsen who led a successful movement to ban single-use plastic bags from their island of Bali. Mimi decides to become an activist and lead her classmates in a movement to do the same at her new home on a Florida island. The back matter contains extensive and very useful information about how to get involved with climate action efforts.



Lindstrom, Carole. We Are Water Protectors. Illustrated by Michaela Goade.

Roaring Brook Press, 2020. 40 pages.

Grades 1- 4. Inspired by the many Indigenous-led movements across North America, this story honors those who fight for environmental justice by protecting the Earth's water. A grandmother teaches a child that "Water is the first medicine.... Water is sacred." The girl tells of the arrival of an oil pipeline, the "black snake" that will "spoil the water ... wreck everything in its path." The girl begins a protest and others join her. The author, who is Anishinabe/Métis

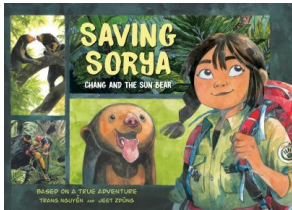
and a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe Indians, and the illustrator, who is Tlingit and Haida, have created a book that is a passionate call to environmental stewardship. The author's note refers to the inspiring 2016 Standing Rock protests in the Dakotas. With powerful and beautiful illustrations in picture book format.



Martinez-Neal, Juana. *Zonia's Rain Forest*. Illustrated by the author.
Candlewick Press, 2021. 40 pages.

Grades 1 – 3. Zonia, a young Asháninka girl living in the Amazon rainforest, begins her days with a walk through the forest, greeting all her animal friends. On her way home, the girl stumbles upon a patch that has been a victim of deforestation. Frightened and concerned, she decides that she must protect her home. The back matter includes information about the Asháninka people and facts about threats to the Amazon rainforest, as well as information about the

animals Zonia encounters. With dynamic and colorful illustrations in picture book format.



Nguyen, Trang. *Saving Sorya: Chang and the Sun Bear*. Illustrations by Jeet Zdung.

Dial Books for Young Readers, 2021. 116 pages.

Grades 4 – 6. This middle-grade graphic novel is based on the true story of a Vietnamese conservationist and activist who discovers a bear bile farm near her home. Chang rescues a young sun bear, whom she names Sorya, and raises her from infancy, ultimately returning Sorya to the wild. In addition to a compelling

story, this book provides scientific information about conservation of a habitat and its species.



Otter, Isabel. *Dear Earth*. Illustrated by Clara Anganuzzi.

Tiger Tales, 2023. 40 pages.

Grades 1 – 3. Tessa's grandfather used to be an explorer and loves talking about the Earth. Inspired, Tessa decides to write a love letter to the Earth, explaining that she, too, wants to be an explorer and describing where she'd like to go.

Whimsical illustrations show Tessa as she imagines swimming, running, and flying her way across the globe. She investigates different environments, plants, and animals. The book ends with Grandpa reassuring Tessa that the planet can

still be saved. The back matter describes the effects of climate change as well as ways that kids can make a difference. In picture book format.

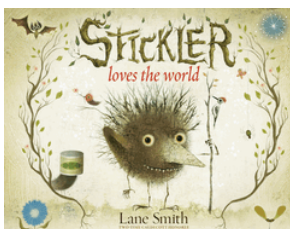


Owen, Ruth. *The Story of Our Tree*. Illustrated by the author.

Ruby Tuesday Books, 2022. 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 6. This science-packed book follows two very different groups of young friends as they each plant a tree and then share their excitement through a series of pen pal letters. In the USA, five friends plant an acorn that grows into an oak tree seedling. They learn about their tree's life cycle and how it will become an ecosystem that gives food and a home to birds, insects, and other animals. In Senegal, Africa, five friends plant an acacia tree as part of Africa's Great Green Wall Project. They learn how their tree will nourish the soil, trap water, shade the hot land, and help their village grow

crops. Both groups of friends also discover that their trees will help fight climate change. The back matter includes instructions for planting trees. With engaging and informative illustrations in picture book format.



Smith, Lane. *Stickler Loves the World*. Illustrated by the author.

Random House Studio, 2023. 40 pages.

Grades 1 – 3. The world is a place of awesome wonder to Stickler, a strange little creature who lives in the forest. Stickler is a nut-like being with a pointed nose, oversized ears, stick-like limbs, and eight googly eyes, which move around and appear and disappear. For Stickler, there are so many things to see and experience: buzzy bees, yummy honey, and hoppy rabbits, not to mention the

forest's impressive range of sticks. Stickler is absolutely thrilled, then, to introduce this wonderful world

to a stranger who has clearly never been to the forest before. Stickler shares its favorite delights, but then the stranger is revealed to be Stickler's old pal Crow with its head stuck in a tin can. Crow reassures Stickler that their trek through the forest has made the bird appreciate the world in a new way. The message here is not just to find the beauty in the world, but delight in its absolute weirdness and wondrous possibilities – the Earth is worth saving. In picture book format with charming illustrations.



Wynter, Anne. *Nell Plants a Tree*. Illustrated by Daniel Miyares.

Balzer & Bray, 2023. 40 pages.

Grades 1 – 3. Four Black children race toward a giant tree. They climb, each finding their own place among its sturdy branches. Then, a flashback to an earlier time, when a solitary girl picks up a seed: this is Nell. One day she will be a grandmother, sustaining her family just as the tree does. The intertwining stories create a dual narrative. In the present, there is a lot of joyous activity around the tree, and the movement is reflected in the delightful language of the text. Each page begins with a description of what is happening in the illustration, then the action is carried backward in time. As the tree grows, people join Nell; they get older, and the tree's

roots and branches expand. By the end, the tree's trunk is wide and solid, and a large, multigenerational family gathers next to it, enjoying pecan pie made from the tree's nuts. In this book, the concept of a family tree is both a physical tree and a representation of a loving family's genealogy. The charming illustrations help differentiate the two entwined story lines. In picture book format.

Note: Several juvenile novels in graphic format featuring climate change and climate action have *not* been included in this bibliography. These books include cultural stereotyping and exaggerated drama typical of graphic action novels thus detracting from the intention to showcase teenage characters' efforts to save the habitats they love.

Resources for Selecting Children’s Literature about Caring for the Environment Through Science, Stories, and Action

Professional Journals (Many articles and book lists are available on the websites without a subscription.)

Book Links: a quarterly supplement to *BookList*, a publication of the American Library Association, provides reviews of recommended children's books; articles tied to national standards on using books in the classroom; strategies and information for library media specialist/teacher collaboration: <https://www.booklistonline.com/booklinks>

Horn Book Magazine: features articles, book reviews, and other information related to children's and young adult literature: <http://www.hbook.com>

School Library Journal: serves librarians who work with young people in schools and public libraries. It provides reviews of materials to create quality collections for children and young adults: <http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com>

Learning for Justice Magazine: published by the Southern Poverty Law Center, provides educators with free educational materials and lists of resources that promote respect for differences and diversity in the classroom and beyond. (Previously known as Teaching Tolerance): <https://www.learningforjustice.org/>

National Science Teaching Association: for teachers and scientists committed to science education; publishes grade-range-specific journals (*Science & Children*, *Science Scope*, *The Science Teacher*), as well as *Connected Science Learning*, which bridges in-school and out-of-school science teaching and learning. <https://www.nsta.org/journals>

Online Resources

CBC Diversity Initiative: part of the Children’s Book Council’s commitment to promoting diverse voices in literature for young people. The CBC is the nonprofit association of children’s book publishers in North America dedicated to supporting the industry and promoting children’s books and reading: <https://www.cbcbooks.org/>

CCBC (Cooperative Children's Book Center), School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison: provides book lists of recommended books on a wide range of topics. *CCBC Choices* is a best-of-the-year list created annually: <https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/>

Embrace Race: a multiracial community of parents, teachers, experts, and other caring adults who support each other to meet the challenges that race poses to children, families, and communities. Includes tips for educators, and book lists: <https://www.embracerace.org>

Kirkus Reviews: provides reviews of books, lists of recommended book lists, and news of upcoming books: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/>

National Science Teaching Association: publishes an annual list of Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K–12. <https://www.nsta.org/ostb23>

Notable Trade Books for Young People: provides annotated lists of books that were evaluated and selected by the Book Review Committee appointed by the National Council for Social Studies in cooperation with the Children's Book Council:

<https://www.socialstudies.org/notable-trade-books>

Primary Source: works to advance global and cultural learning in schools by collaborating with teachers and schools to offer professional development courses and resources:

<https://www.primarysource.org/>

Social Justice Books: a program of Teaching for Change, provides an annotated list of the best multicultural and social justice children's books and the *Guide for Selecting Anti-Bias Children's Books*: <https://socialjusticebooks.org>

WNDB (We Need Diverse Books): advocates essential changes in the publishing industry to produce and promote literature that reflects and honors the lives of all young people. The website includes links to book lists on many other websites: <https://diversebooks.org/>

Children's Book Awards

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) is the world's largest organization dedicated to the support and enhancement of library service to children. The website provides links to their own awards and those of many other organizations and groups:

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia>

Amelia Bloomer List: the committee of the Feminist Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association compiles a booklist of excellent books with significant feminist content: <http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/amelia-bloomer-book-list>

American Indian Youth Literature Award: given by the American Indian Library Association, this award honors the best writing and illustrations by and about American Indians:

<https://ailanet.org/activities/american-indian-youth-literature-award>

Americás Award: sponsored by the National Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs (CLASP), and given in recognition of U.S. works of literature for children published in English or Spanish that authentically portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinos in the United States: <http://www.claspprograms.org/americasaward>

Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature: given by the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association, these awards honor books about Asian/Pacific Americans and their heritage, based on literary and artistic merit: <http://www.apalaweb.org/awards/literature-awards>

Batchelder Award: presented by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and awarded to an American publisher for a children's book originally published in a language other than English in a country other than the United States:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/batchelderaward>

Carter Woodson Award: given by the National Council for the Social Studies to the most distinguished social science books that depict ethnicity in the United States sensitively and accurately: <https://www.socialstudies.org/awards/woodson>

Coretta Scott King Award: presented annually by the American Library Association to a Black author and a Black illustrator whose works encourage world unity and peace and serve as an inspiration to young people: <http://www.ala.org/rt/emiert/cskbookawards>

Jane Addams Children's Book Awards: presented by the Jane Addams Peace Association, and given to the children's books that promote the cause of peace, social justice, world community, and the equality of the sexes and all races as well as meeting literary and artistic standards for excellence: <http://www.janeaddamspeace.org>

Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children: given by the National Council of Teachers of English to promote and recognize excellence in the writing of nonfiction for children: <https://ncte.org/awards/orbis-pictus-award-nonfiction-for-children/>

Pura Belpré Award: given by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) to a Latinx writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms and celebrates the Latino cultural experience for children and youth: <http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/belpremedal>

Rainbow Book List: created by the Rainbow Book List Committee of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table of the American Library Association, this annual list highlights books for children with significant gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or queer/questioning content: <https://glbtrt.ala.org/rainbowbooks>

Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal: presented by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and awarded annually to the author(s) and illustrator(s) of the most distinguished informational book published in the United States: <http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/sibertmedal>