



# *Guide to Using Environmental Fiction and Nonfiction in the Classroom*

Environmental issues feel more immediate and expansive than ever. Whether it's the global movements organized by youth activists like Greta Thunberg or the more localized efforts taking place in communities around the country, kids are at the forefront of the demand for change. They're exploring their surroundings with an eye for connection and sustainability; they're learning to recognize growing problems and working to identify possible solutions.

This guide will help encourage and activate young people looking to learn more about the world around them or to better understand the conversations around climate change. They can reflect and interact with one another about topics that are meaningful and immediate while developing creative ideas, engaging critical thinking, and strengthening STEM skills. These discussion questions and activities can be adapted across age levels, and recommended reading categories include nonfiction and fiction selections from board books through YA.

# Discussion Questions

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1. Why should we care about the environment? Using books featured below or news articles, name some of the ways we rely on nature and how our choices are affecting it. Does anything you've learned change how you currently engage and think about your surroundings?
2. In Jeanette Winter's picture book *Our House Is on Fire*, the author describes Greta Thunberg's school strike and its growing momentum. "Children started striking everywhere. If grown-ups won't act to save the planet, children will." Why is Greta frustrated with adults? How does she feel about the planet's future? What roles do you feel children can play in helping to save and preserve the world around us? How else have you seen kids speak out and act against these issues?
3. *How to Change Everything* has a section called "Students on Strike" as well. Author Naomi Klein writes, "organizers of the first school strike estimate that there were almost 2,100 youth climate strikes in 125 countries that day. More than a million and a half young people showed up." She describes strikers in Cape Town, South Africa; the Pacific Island nation of Vanuatu; and Delhi, India, who are all seeing changes in their environments due to the climate crisis. What have you seen or heard about natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, droughts, or floods and conditions such as air pollution occurring in other countries? How might those events affect the people living there? How can rising temperatures cause or worsen these situations? How can students striking from all over the world send a powerful message? How can their efforts inspire action and hope for the future?
4. What do you love most about your community or state? Think about parks, gardens, hiking grounds, lakes, oceans, and other natural landscapes, or places that allow you to interact with plants and animals such as nature preserves, museums, or zoos. As a class, discuss some of these locations that you'd like to recommend for people visiting your area. Did classmates suggest any places that you'd never heard of before? Why might it be important for people to be able to access the outdoors and spend time in nature?
5. What is a favorite novel, picture book, or nonfiction book you've read that involves elements of the natural world or environmental concerns? Share your own eye-opening fact with your classmates.

# Activities

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1. Take a walk in your neighborhood or in your favorite park. What wildlife and plants do you notice? How does the time in nature make you feel? Write an essay, poem, or short story about appreciating these surroundings.  
**EXTENSION ACTIVITY:** Write about how these surroundings are in danger, and what the consequences might be if we don't act.
2. As a class or in a small group, discuss what you know about animals and their habitats, and what kinds of food and climates they need to survive. Consider reading picture books such as *Fur Feather Fin—All of Us Are Kin*, *The Honeybee*, *The Beak Book*, *Crossings*, *What Do They Do with All That Poo?*, and *Amara and the Bats*. Brainstorm a list of three to five animals you'd like to learn more about; then, independently or in small groups, choose one animal to focus on. Use some of the book suggestions below, the internet, or resources in your school library to collect information. Share your most interesting findings with your class.

**EXTENSION ACTIVITY:** Gather information about animal habitats as they relate to the climate crisis: How are they changing? Which animals are particularly endangered? Create a list of ways you could help protect them, or draw a picture of the environment they currently have alongside the one they need to survive to hang throughout your school or classroom as a way to help spread awareness.

3. A garden can be a place of solace, a sustainable way to grow and consume your own food, and a meeting place that brings people together. Imagine you could start your own community garden. Where would it be located? How much space would it take up, and how many people could have their own plots? What kinds of food would you plant? Draw a map of your garden. For inspiration, consider reading picture books such as *Harlem Grown*; *Thank You, Garden*; *In a Garden*; *Hundred Feet Tall*; and *Growing an Artist*.

**EXTENSION ACTIVITY:** How could you give back to your community and the environment? Read about topics like composting, food donation, food accessibility, reuse and recycle, and single-use packaging and think about how you can incorporate these processes or types of awareness into your daily life.

4. Interview a classmate, friend, or family member. What do they most value or enjoy in being around nature? What changes have they noticed in the environment? What do they consider to be the most important issues we're facing? What do they plan to do about it?

**EXTENSION ACTIVITY:** Once your classmate, friend, or family member has answered all your questions, open it up into a conversation where you can both share your feelings and ideas. Then use their interview answers and your discussion to come up with two to four topics you'd like to use to get people talking about the climate; brainstorm one new person you can chat with once a week for the next month.

5. Look at the colorful protest signs on the endpages of *Our House Is on Fire*, or think about others you've seen in the news or in your community. Then create your own sign using your own message about what topics or actions are most important to you.
6. Choose an environmental topic that concerns you, such as an endangered species or a disappearing landscape. Imagine you're writing a fictional short story or novel that incorporates this situation and setting. Who would be telling this story? Who would some of the other characters be? What would be the major conflict and the climax? Once you've brainstormed these details, write one pivotal scene for a novel or a short story. For inspiration, consider reading books like Stuart Gibbs's *FunJungle* series, Fabien Cousteau and James O. Fraioli's *Fabien Cousteau Expeditions* series, *Arrow* by Samantha M. Clark, *The Islanders* by Mary Alice Monroe, *Haven Jacobs Saves the Planet* by Babara Dee, and *Dry* by Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman. Why do you think authors and illustrators insert real environmental concerns into fictional stories? What happens when you give a larger concept like climate change a specific face and name?
7. Start an environmental club in your school, or join one and help to increase membership if it already exists. What messages would you like to convey? What topics will you discuss? What kind of projects will you take on? How often will you meet? How will you draw in members?
8. Investigate organizations in your community, and make a list of any that are environment-related. Are you surprised by the number available? Are there any issues or topics you think are missing? Are there any that you'd consider joining or recommending to a friend or family member?



## Encourage Environmentally Conscious Kids and Budding Activists!



Denotes reading group guide/ curriculum guide available on [SimonandSchuster.net](http://SimonandSchuster.net).



### ***This Little Environmentalist***

By Joan Holub  
Illustrated by Daniel Roode  
BB: 9781534475588  
Grades P–K | Ages 3–5



### ***Harlem Grown***

By Tony Hillery  
Illustrated by Jessie Hartland  
HC: 9781534402317  
Grades P–3 | Ages 4–8  
Lexile® AD540L | Fountas & Pinnell™ L



### ***Our House Is on Fire***

By Jeanette Winter  
HC: 9781534467781  
Grades P–3 | Ages 3–8  
Lexile® 680L | Fountas & Pinnell™ M



### ***Thank You, Garden***

By Liz Garton Scanlon  
Illustrated by Simone Shin  
HC: 9781481403504  
Grades P–2 | Ages 3–7  
Lexile® AD240L



### ***Green on Green***

By Dianne White  
Illustrated by Felicita Sala  
HC: 9781481462785  
Grades P–3 | Ages 4–8  
Lexile® 350L



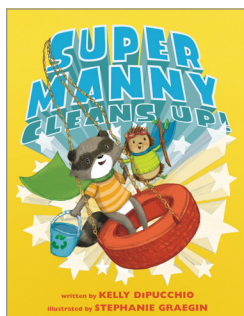
### ***Growing an Artist***

By John Parra  
HC: 9781534469273  
Grades P–3 | Ages 4–8  
Lexile® AD620L  
**Also available in Spanish!**



### ***In a Garden***

By Tim McCanna  
Illustrated by Aimée Sicuro  
HC: 9781534417977  
Grades P–3 | Ages 4–8  
Lexile® AD770L



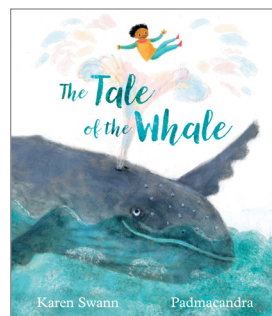
### ***Super Manny Cleans Up!***

By Kelly DiPucchio  
Illustrated by Stephanie Graegin  
HC: 9781481459624  
Grades P–3 | Ages 4–8  
Lexile® 730L



### ***Some Questions About Trees***

By Toni Yuly  
HC: 9781534489158 | EB: 9781534489165  
Grades P–3 | Ages 4–8  
Lexile® AD270L



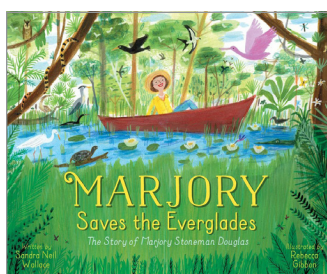
### ***The Tale of the Whale***

By Karen Swann  
Illustrated by Padmacandra  
HC: 9781534493940  
Grades P–3 | Ages 4–8  
Lexile® AD580L



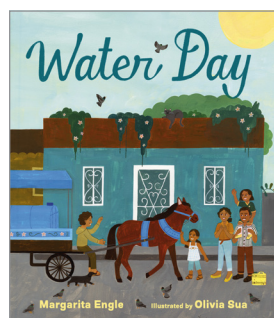
### ***Harriet's Ruffled Feathers***

By Joy McCullough  
Illustrated by Romina Galotta  
HC: 9781534486768  
Grades P–3 | Ages 4–8  
Lexile® AD910L



### ***Marjory Saves the Everglades***

By Sandra Neil Wallace  
Illustrated by Rebecca Gibbon  
HC: 9781534431546  
Grades P–3 | Ages 4–8  
Lexile® AD750L



### ***Water Day***

By Margarita Engle  
Illustrated by Olivia Sua  
HC: 9781665918718  
Grades P–3 | Ages 4–8



### ***When Giants Burn***

By Beth Vrabel  
HC: 9781665918626  
Grades 3–7 | Ages 8–12



### ***Kids Who Are Changing the World***

Ready to Read Level 3  
By Sheila Sweeney Higginson  
Illustrated by Alyssa Petersen  
HC: 9781534432154 | PB: 9781534432147  
Grades 1–3 | Ages 6–8  
Lexile® 870L | Fountas & Pinnell™ P





**Kids Who Are Saving the Planet**  
Ready to Read Level 3  
By Laurie Calkhoven  
Illustrated by Monique Dong  
HC: 9781534456471 | PB: 9781534456464  
Grades 1–3 | Ages 6–8  
Lexile® 940L | Fountas & Pinnell™ Q



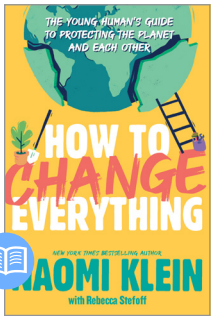
**Best Buds Forever**  
Book 7 of Craftily Ever After  
By Martha Maker  
Illustrated by Xindi Yan  
HC: 9781534463554 | PB: 9781534463547  
Grades K–4 | Ages 5–9



**Kidstory**  
By Tom Adams  
Illustrated by Sarah Walsh  
HC: 9781534485150  
Grades 3 & Up | Ages 8 & Up  
Lexile® 1020L | Fountas & Pinnell™ W



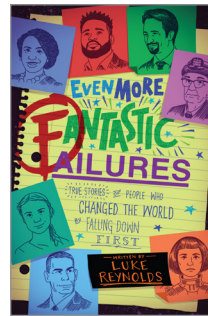
**Greta's Story**  
By Valentina Camerini  
Illustrated by Veronica Carratello  
Translated by Moreno Giovannoni  
HC: 9781534468771 | PB: 9781534468788  
Grades 3–7 | Ages 8–12  
Lexile® 980L | Fountas & Pinnell™ W



**How to Change Everything**  
By Naomi Klein  
Adapted by Rebecca Stefoff  
HC: 9781534474529 | PB: 9781534474536  
Grades 5 & Up | Ages 10 & Up  
Lexile® 1110L | Fountas & Pinnell™ Z



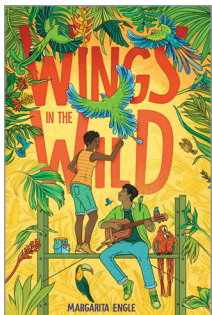
**Together We March**  
By Leah Henderson  
Illustrated by Tyler Feder  
HC: 9781534442702  
Grades 2 & Up | Ages 7 & Up  
Lexile® 1260L



**Even More Fantastic Failures**  
By Luke Reynolds  
HC: 9781582707334 | PB: 9781582707341  
Grades 3–7 | Ages 8–12  
Lexile® 1130L



**Haven Jacobs Saves the Planet**  
By Barbara Dee  
HC: 9781534489837 | PB: 9781534489844  
Grades 4–8 | Ages 9–13  
Lexile® 640L



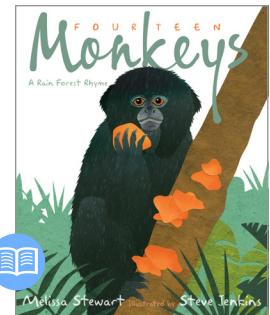
**Wings in the Wild**  
By Margarita Engle  
HC: 9781665926362  
Grades 7 & Up | Ages 12 & Up  
Lexile® NP



Denotes reading group guide/  
curriculum guide available on  
SimonandSchuster.net.



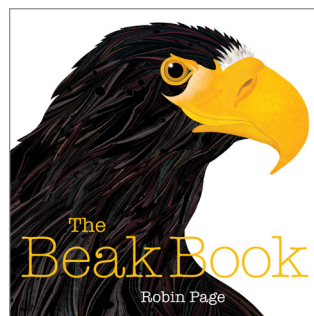
**Whose Nest Is Best?**  
By Heidi E.Y. Stemple  
Illustrated by Gareth Lucas  
BB: 9781665917087  
Grades P–K | Ages 1–5



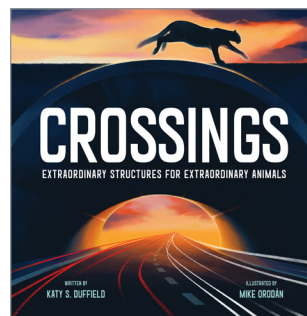
**Fourteen Monkeys**  
By Melissa Stewart  
Illustrated by Steve Jenkins  
HC: 9781534460393  
Grades P–3 | Ages 3–8  
Lexile® AD850L



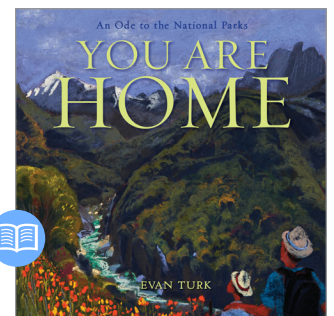
**Rock by Rock**  
By Jennifer Bradbury  
Illustrated by Sam Boughton  
HC: 9781481481823  
Grades P–3 | Ages 4–8  
Lexile® AD870L



**The Beak Book**  
By Robin Page  
HC: 9781534460416  
Grades P–3 | Ages 3–8  
Lexile® AD840L



**Crossings**  
By Katy S. Duffield  
Illustrated by Mike Orodán  
HC: 9781534465794  
Grades P–3 | Ages 3–8  
Lexile® AD1080L



**You Are Home**  
By Evan Turk  
HC: 9781534432826  
Grades P–3 | Ages 4–8  
Lexile® NP





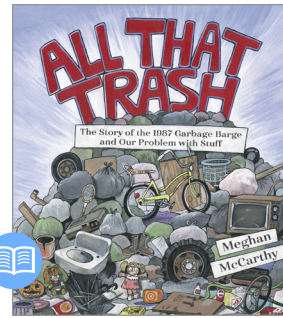
### Heartbeat

By Evan Turk  
HC: 9781481435208  
Grades P-3 | Ages 4-8  
Lexile® AD280L



### The Honeybee

By Kirsten Hall  
Illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault  
HC: 9781481469975  
Grades P-3 | Ages 4-8  
Lexile® AD480L



### All That Trash

By Meghan McCarthy  
HC: 9781481477529  
Grades P-3 | Ages 4-8  
Lexile® 800L



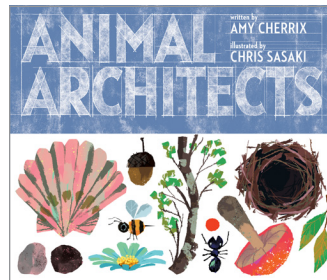
### What Do They Do with All That Poo?

By Jane Kurtz  
Illustrated by Allison Black  
HC: 9781481479868  
Grades P-3 | Ages 3-8  
Lexile® AD910L



### Fur Feather Fin—All of Us Are Kin

By Diane Lang  
Illustrated by Stephanie Laberis  
HC: 9781481447096  
Grades P-3 | Ages 3-8  
Lexile® AD590L



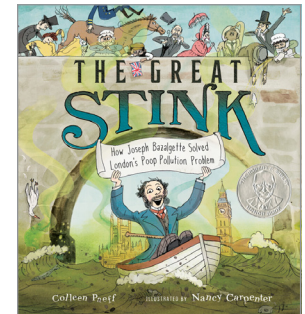
### Animal Architects

By Amy Cherrix  
Illustrated by Chris Sasaki  
HC: 9781534456259  
Grades P-3 | Ages 3-8  
Lexile® AD780L



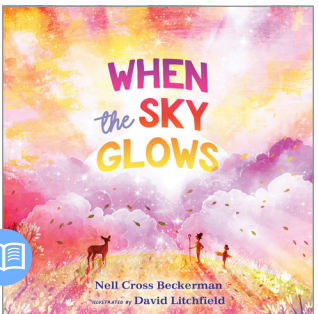
### Just You and Me

By Jennifer Ward  
Illustrated by Alexander Vidal  
HC: 9781534460980  
Grades P-3 | Ages 3-8  
Lexile® AD840L



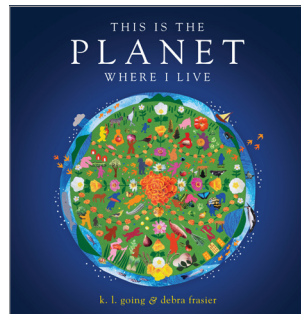
### The Great Stink

By Colleen Paëff  
Illustrated by Nancy Carpenter  
HC: 9781534449299  
Grades P-3 | Ages 4-8  
Lexile® AD950L



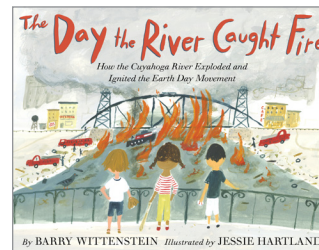
### When the Sky Glows

By Nell Cross Beckerman  
Illustrated by David Litchfield  
HC: 9781534450394  
Grades P-3 | Ages 4-8  
Lexile® AD920L



### This Is the Planet Where I Live

By K. L. Going  
Illustrated by Debra Frasier  
HC: 9781481465632  
Grades P-3 | Ages 4-8  
Lexile® AD610L



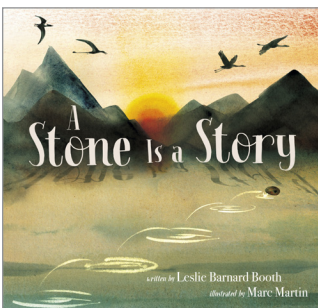
### The Day the River Caught Fire

By Barry Wittenstein  
Illustrated by Jessie Hartland  
HC: 9781534480834  
Grades P-3 | Ages 4-8  
Lexile® AD650L



### Our Blue Planet

By Leisa Stewart-Sharp  
Illustrated by Emily Dove  
HC: 9781665928021  
Grades P-3 | Ages 4-8



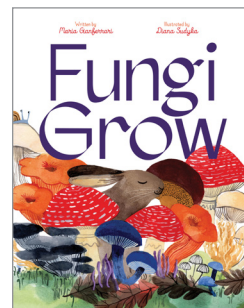
### A Stone Is a Story

By Leslie Barnard Booth  
Illustrated by Marc Martin  
HC: 9781534496941  
Grades P-3 | Ages 4-8



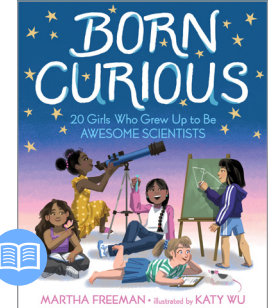
### The Snow Man

By Jonah Winter  
Illustrated by Jeanette Winter  
HC: 9781665932394  
Grades Up to 3 | Ages Up to 8  
**Available October 2023**



### Fungi Grow

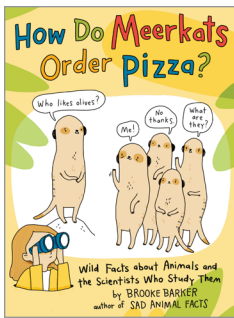
By Maria Gianferrari  
Illustrated by Diana Sudyka  
HC: 9781665903653  
Grades Up to 3 | Ages Up to 8  
**Available October 2023**



### Born Curious

By Martha Freeman  
Illustrated by Katy Wu  
HC: 9781534421530  
Grades 2-7 | Ages 7-12  
Lexile® 1000L





### How Do Meerkats Order Pizza?

By Brooke Barker

HC: 9781665901604 | PB: 9781665901611  
Grades 3–7 | Ages 8–12  
Lexile® 680L



### WildLives

By Ben Lerwill

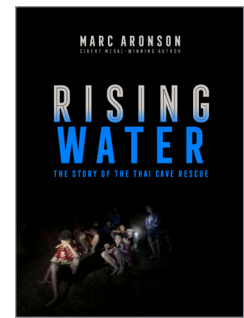
Illustrated by Sarah Walsh  
HC: 9781534454842  
Grades 3 & Up | Ages 8 & Up  
Lexile® 1020L



### The Impossible First

By Colin O'Brady

HC: 9781534461987 | PB: 9781534461994  
Grades 5 & Up | Ages 10 & Up  
Lexile® 1130L



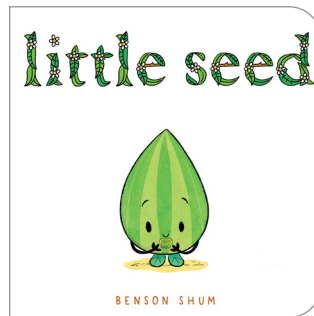
### Rising Water

By Marc Aronson

HC: 9781534444133 | PB: 9781534444140  
Grades 5–9 | Ages 10–14  
Lexile® 1090L | Fountas & Pinnell™ Z



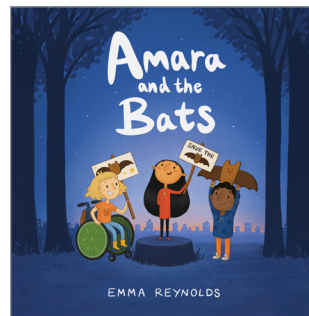
Denotes reading group guide/  
curriculum guide available on  
SimonandSchuster.net.



### Little Seed

By Benson Shum

BB: 9781665902946  
Grades P–K | Ages 1–5



### Amara and the Bats

By Emma Reynolds

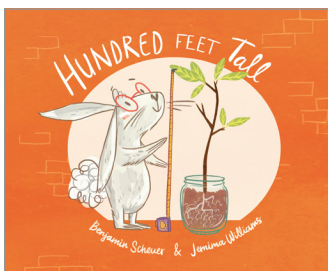
HC: 9781534469013  
Grades P–3 | Ages 4–8  
Lexile® AD820L



### This Pretty Planet

By Tom Chapin and John Forster

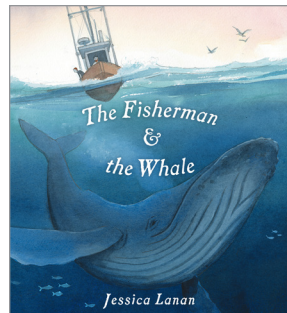
Illustrated by Lee White  
HC: 9781534445321  
Grades P–3 | Ages 4–8  
Lexile® AD360L



### Hundred Feet Tall

By Benjamin Scheuer

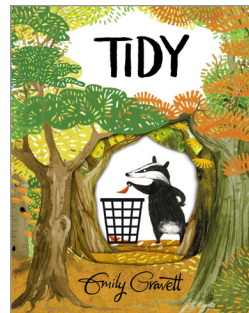
Illustrated by Jemima Williams  
HC: 9781534432192  
Grades P–3 | Ages 4–8  
Lexile® AD510L



### The Fisherman & the Whale

By Jessica Lanan

HC: 9781534415744  
Grades P–3 | Ages 4–8



### Tidy

By Emily Gravett

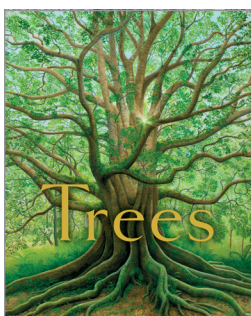
HC: 9781481480192  
Grades P–3 | Ages 4–8  
Lexile® AD590L



### Feel the Fog

By April Pulley Sayre

HC: 9781534437609  
Grades P–3 | Ages 3–8  
Lexile® AD380L



### Trees

By Tony Johnston

Illustrated by Tiffany Bozic  
HC: 9781534475175  
Grades P–3 | Ages 4–8  
Lexile® AD360L



### Wildfire!

By Ashley Wolff

HC: 9781534487734  
Grades P–3 | Ages 3–8  
Lexile® AD620L



### Back to Nature

By Rachel Alpine

Illustrated by Addy Rivera Sonda  
HC: 9781534475397 | PB: 9781534475380  
EB: 9781534475403  
Grades 2–5 | Ages 7–10  
Lexile® AD610L | Fountas & Pinnell™ M

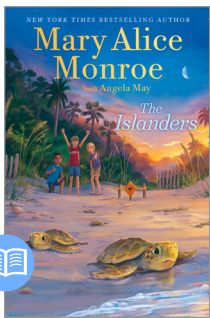


### Saltwater Secrets

By Cindy Callaghan

HC: 9781534417441 | PB: 9781534417434  
Grades 4–8 | Ages 9–13  
Lexile® 640L





### **The Islanders**

By Mary Alice Monroe  
With Angela May

HC: 9781534427273 | PB: 9781534427280  
Grades 3–7 | Ages 8–12  
Lexile® 550L



### **Search for Treasure**

By Mary Alice Monroe  
With Angela May

HC: 9781534427303 | PB: 9781534427310  
Grades 3–7 | Ages 8–12  
Lexile® 610L



### **Arrow**

By Samantha M. Clark

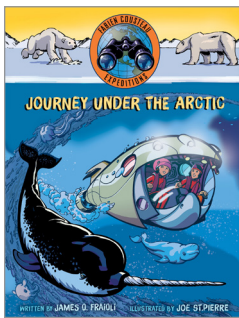
HC: 9781534465978 | PB: 9781534465985  
Grades 3–7 | Ages 8–12  
Lexile® 610L



### **Hawai'i Sea Turtle Rescue**

By Fabien Cousteau and James O. Fraioli  
Illustrated by Joe St.Pierre

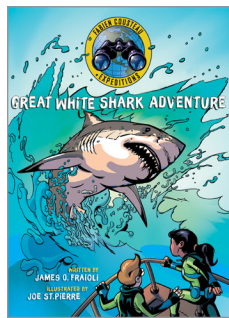
POB: 9781534420960 | HC: 9781534420977  
Grades 3–7 | Ages 8–12  
Lexile® GN680L



### **Journey under the Arctic**

By Fabien Cousteau and James O. Fraioli  
Illustrated by Joe St.Pierre

POB: 9781534420908 | HC: 9781534420915  
Grades 3–7 | Ages 8–12  
Lexile® GN800L | Fountas & Pinnell™ V



### **Great White Shark Adventure**

By Fabien Cousteau and James O. Fraioli  
Illustrated by Joe St.Pierre

POB: 9781534420878 | HC: 9781534420885  
Grades 3–7 | Ages 8–12  
Lexile® GN890L | Fountas & Pinnell™ V

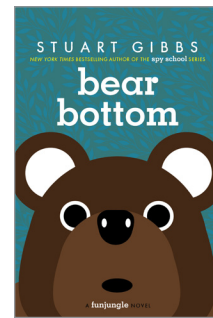


### **Whale Done**

Book 8 of FunJungle

By Stuart Gibbs

HC: 9781534499317  
Grades 3–7 | Ages 8–12  
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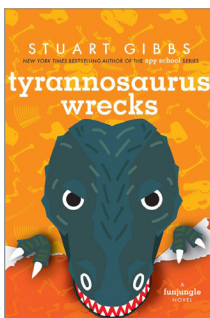


### **Bear Bottom**

Book 7 of FunJungle

By Stuart Gibbs

HC: 9781534479463 | PB: 9781534479470  
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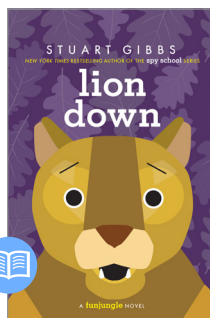


### **Tyrannosaurus Wrecks**

Book 6 of FunJungle

By Stuart Gibbs

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Grades 3–7 | Ages 8–12  
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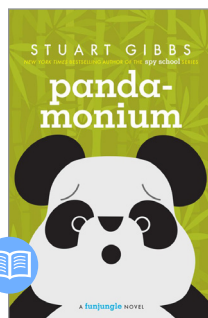


### **Lion Down**

Book 5 of FunJungle

By Stuart Gibbs

HC: 9781534424739 | PB: 9781534424746  
Grades 3–7 | Ages 8–12  
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### **Pandamonium**

Book 4 of FunJungle

By Stuart Gibbs

HC: 9781481445672 | PB: 9781481445689  
Grades 3–7 | Ages 8–12  
Lexile® 780L | Fountas & Pinnell™ W



### **Big Game**

Book 3 of FunJungle

By Stuart Gibbs

HC: 9781481423335 | PB: 9781481423342  
Grades 3–7 | Ages 8–12  
Lexile® 740L | Fountas & Pinnell™ V



### **Poached**

Book 2 of FunJungle

By Stuart Gibbs

HC: 9781442467774 | PB: 9781442467781  
Grades 3–7 | Ages 8–12  
Lexile® 750L | Fountas & Pinnell™ W



### **Belly Up**

Book 1 of FunJungle

By Stuart Gibbs

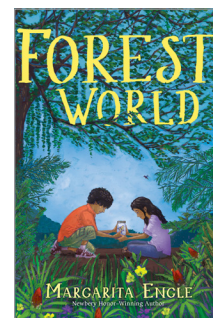
HC: 9781416987314 | PB: 9781416987321  
Grades 3–7 | Ages 8–12  
Lexile® 820L | Fountas & Pinnell™ W



### **The Mutant Mushroom Takeover**

By Summer Rachel Short

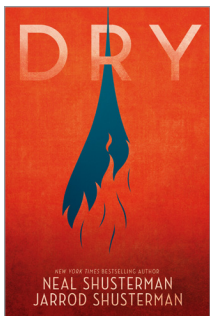
HC: 9781534468658 | PB: 9781534468665  
Grades 4–7 | Ages 9–12  
Lexile® 670L



### **Forest World**

By Margarita Engle

HC: 9781481490573 | PB: 9781481490580  
Grades 5 & Up | Ages 10 & Up  
Lexile® 1240L



### *Dry*

By Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman

HC: 9781481481960 | PB: 9781481481977

Grades 7 & Up | Ages 12 & Up

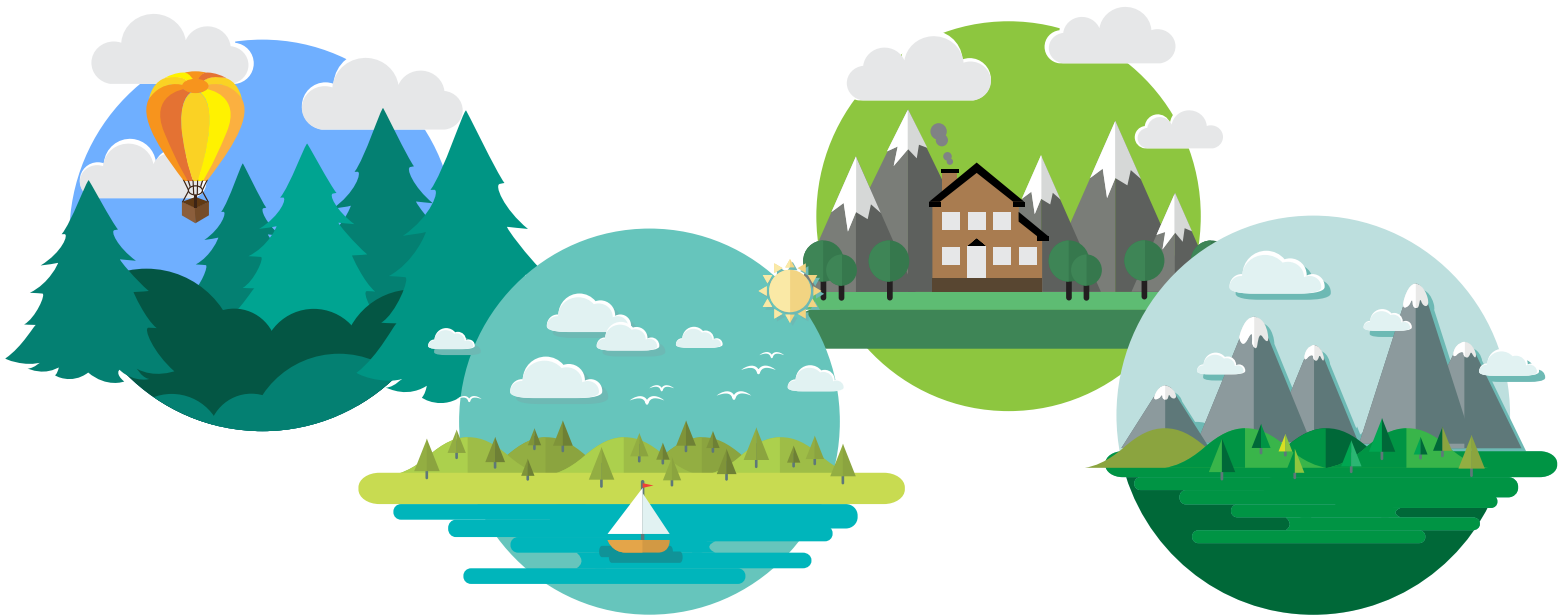
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#KidLit4Climate

# Authors & Illustrators for the Environment!

## SHARING RESOURCES FOR KIDS TO PARTICIPATE

Emma Reynolds, illustrator of *Rescuing Mrs. Birdley* and author/illustrator of *Amara and the Bats*, started the **#KidLit4Climate** campaign, bringing together thousands of children's illustrators and authors from more than fifty countries in solidarity with the youth climate strikes. For more information, visit [EmmaReynoldsIllustration.com/KidLit4Climate](https://EmmaReynoldsIllustration.com/KidLit4Climate).



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"The cormorant dives and snags a fish with its hooked beak. Then the bird comes to the surface and flips its prey into its mouth. The shoebill stork's large, heavy beak is perfect for crushing lungfish, catfish, and the occasional lizard or baby crocodile."

Excerpted from *The Beak Book*, written and illustrated by Robin Page (Grades P–3; Ages 3–8)

"'My government has failed to take steps to regulate and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which are causing extreme climate conditions,' Ridhima [Pandey] told a newspaper [after filing a petition against the government of India]. 'This will impact both me and future generations.' Ridhima began to worry about climate change in 2013 when she was five years old. Uttarakhand, the northern Indian state where Ridhima lives, is in the foothills of the Himalayan Mountains. In June 2013, flash floods and landslides in her state killed hundreds of people and left thousands homeless...Ridhima learned that the flooding was caused by some of the most powerful monsoons in modern history. A monsoon is a period of wind and rain in the Indian Ocean that sweeps over countries in southern Asia. Scientists believe that climate change has led to bigger and more dangerous monsoons."

Excerpted from *Kids Who Are Saving the Planet* by Laurie Calkhoven, illustrated by Monique Dong (Grades 1–3; Ages 6–8)

"Over, under, across, through. Around the world, construction crews build overpasses, underpasses, bridges, and tunnels—ways for people to get from one place to another. But what about the animals that live in these places? What happens when construction spreads over, under, across, through their habitats? Around the world, in search of solutions, animal lovers come together...Construction crews work again. But these structures aren't for traveling people. They're for traveling animals...The Trans-Canada Highway is home to more than forty wildlife overpasses and underpasses. And the crossings don't just benefit elk. Bears, wolves, cougars, bighorn sheep, and other animals use the crossings too."

Excerpted from *Crossings* by Katy S. Duffield, illustrated by Mike Orodán (Grades P–3; Ages 3–8)



"A reef-killing event called a mass bleaching had the Great Barrier Reef in its grip. Bleachings happen at times of high water temperature. The living corals turn ghostly and bone-white. They can return to normal if temperatures quickly go back down to lower levels. In the spring of 2016, though, temperatures had stayed high for several months. A quarter of the reef had died and turned into a brown goo of decay...The water of the Pacific Ocean didn't have to warm very much to cause this massive die-off at the Great Barrier Reef. Ocean temperatures went up just 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit, or 1 degree Celsius, past the levels at which these corals can live...Food and income for a billion or so people around the world come from the fish that depend on coral reefs. When reefs die, the loss reaches far."

Excerpted from *How to Change Everything* by Naomi Klein, adapted by Rebecca Steffoff (Grades 5 and Up; Ages 10 and Up)



"In 2018, the temperature [in Sweden] reached record highs, the highest ever recorded in 262 years. While warm temperatures can be nice for people who aren't familiar with global warming, thirty-three fires are a real problem that everybody understands. Wildfires can be catastrophic. And that summer there were lots of wildfires in Scandinavia. Fires were burning everywhere, even in the remote north. In the region called Lapland, something occurred that had never happened before: more than sixty fires devastated entire forests. This was partly due to the high temperatures, the dry climate, and the fact that it hadn't rained in almost two months...They were unprepared for the fires. Volunteers, helicopters, and even the army were called in, but the blazes seemed unstoppable...The temperature rose to 30°C (86°F), an unbelievable temperature for freezing Lapland, which spends most of the year under a blanket of snow. Everyone talked about what was going on. Newspapers with dramatic headlines arrived in the shops, but no one did anything practical. No one except Greta."

Excerpted from *Greta's Story* by Valentina Camerini, illustrated by Veronica Carratello, translated by Moreno Giovannoni (Grades 3–7; Ages 8–12)