

**Books about the Environment, Wildlife and the Wilderness
For Grades K-5**

Picture Books:

Brown, Peter. **The Curious Garden**, 2009. JE BROWN Curious
Liam discovers a hidden garden and with careful tending spreads color throughout the gray city.

Jay, Alison. **Bee & Me**, 2017. JE JAY Bee
In this wordless book, a girl befriends a bee and goes on a journey revealing action that every child can make to aid the plight of the honey bee and conservation.

Lindstrom, Carole. **We are Water Protectors**, 2020. JE LINDSTROM We
Water is the first medicine. It affects and connects us all... When a black snake threatens to destroy the Earth and poison her people's water, one young water protector takes a stand to defend Earth's most sacred resource. Inspired by the many indigenous-led movements across North America, this bold and lyrical picture book issues an urgent rallying cry to safeguard the Earth's water from harm.

Quattlebaum, Mary. **Jo MacDonald Saw a Pond**, 2011. JE Quattlebaum Jo
In this version of the classic song "Old MacDonald Had a Farm," the farmer's granddaughter discovers the creatures living at a pond. End notes present facts, outdoor activities, and games related to this lively ecosystem.

Smith, Brooke. **The Keeper of Wild Words**, 2020. JE SMITH Keeper
Mimi is a writer and when she finds that some of her favorite words for natural things, such as wren, violet, and dandelion, are disappearing she appoints her granddaughter, Brooke, as the keeper of wild words, and shows her how to bring them to life by knowing, appreciating, and using the things they stand for.

Trice, Linda. **Kenya's Art**, 2016 JE (not available in Akron, but available through SearchOhio)
Instructed to get rid of all her broken toys, Kenya, with the help of her father, recycles them into art for her class project.

Tucker, Zoe. **Greta and the Giants: Inspired by Greta Thunberg's Stand to Save the World**, 2019. JE
Greta is a little girl who lives in a beautiful forest threatened by Giants. When the Giants first came to the forest, they chopped down trees to make houses. Then they chopped down more trees and made even bigger homes. The houses grew into towns and the towns grew into cities, until now there is hardly any forest left. Greta knows she has to help the animals who live in the forest, but how? Luckily, Greta has an idea.

Van Allsburg, Chris. **Just a Dream**, 1990. JE or JFIC VAN ALLSBURG Just
When he has a dream about a future Earth devastated by pollution, Walter begins to understand the importance of taking care of the environment.

Fiction/Chapter Books and Graphic Novels:

Alison, Rachel Hope. **I'm Not a Plastic Bag: A Graphic Novel**, 2012. JGN 741.5973 AL439i

Based on the real-life occurrence of The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, an island of floating trash in a remote area of the Northern Pacific Ocean more than twice the size of Texas, I'm Not a Plastic Bag tells a moving story about loneliness, beauty, and humankind's connection to our planet.

Berne, Emma Carlson. Illus by Erwin Madrid. **Orca in Open Water**, 2019. JFIC BERNE Orca

Elsa Roth and her best friend, Olivia, are excited to go on a month-long expedition with Elsa's mother to study the diet of orca whales in the San Juan Islands. But when a young orca is found separated from his pod, things take an unexpected turn. It's up to Elsa and the rest of the sanctuary staff to keep the orca safe and teach him how to survive on his own.

Brandford, Anna. Illus by Elanna Allen. **Violet Mackerel's Natural Habitat**, 2013. JFIC BRANDFORD Violet

As the youngest in her family, seven-year-old Violet identifies with small creatures in the natural world, but when she tries to help special ladybug, she learns an important lesson about animal habitats.

Brown, Peter. **The Wild Robot**, 2016. JFIC BROWN Wild

Roz the robot discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island with no memory of where she is from or why she is there, and her only hope of survival is to try to learn about her new environment from the island's hostile inhabitants.

Dominquez, Angela. **Stella Díaz Never Gives Up**, 2020. JFIC Dominquez Stella

Stella gets a big surprise when her mom plans a trip to visit their family in Mexico! Stella loves marine animals, and she can't wait to see the ocean for the first time . . . until she arrives and learns that the sea and its life forms are in danger due to pollution. Stella wants to save the ocean, but she knows she can't do it alone.

George, Jean Craighead. **My Side of the Mountain**, 1959. JFIC George My

A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature, his animal friends, and his ultimate realization that he needs human companionship. First in a trilogy.

Hiaasen, Carl. **Hoot**, 2002. JFIC HIAASEN Hoot

Hoot takes place in Florida, where new arrival Roy makes two oddball friends and a bad enemy, and joins an effort to stop construction of a pancake house which would destroy a colony of burrowing owls who live on the site. Look for other ecological mysteries by Hiaasen like **Chomp** and **Flush**.

Rorby, Ginny. **How to Speak Dolphin**, 2015. JFIC RORBY How

Lily struggles to care for her autistic half-brother, Adam, after her mother dies. When Lily's father, an oncologist, hears about a dolphin with cancer, he brings Lily and Adam along to meet her. Adam bonds with the dolphin, Nori, instantly. Lily realizes Nori can't spend the rest of her life in captivity and should be with her family. Can Lily find a way to help Nori get her freedom without betraying her family?

Sachar, Louis. **Fuzzy Mud**, 2015. JFIC SACHAR Fuzzy

Two middle-grade kids take a shortcut home from school and discover what looks like fuzzy mud but is actually a substance with the potential to wreak havoc on the entire world

Nonfiction and Biographies:

Beck, W. H. **Glow: Animals with their Own Night-lights**, 2016. JNF 572.4358

Whether it's used to hunt, hide, find a friend, or escape an enemy, bioluminescence - the ability to glow - is a unique adaptation in nature. In this fun and fascinating nonfiction picture book, join world-renowned photographers and biologists on their close encounters with the curious creatures that make their own light.

Campbell, Sarah C. **Growing Patterns: Fibonacci Numbers in Nature**, 2010. JNF 512.72 C191g

The biggest mathematical mystery in nature--Fibonacci numbers! Named after a famous mathematician, the number pattern is simple: 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13. . . Each number in the sequence comes from adding the two numbers before it. What's the mystery? The pattern crops up in the most unexpected places. You'll find it in the disk of a sunflower, the skin of a pineapple, and the spiral of a nautilus shell.

Gregory, Josh. **From Butterfly Wings to Display Technology**, 2014. JNF 621.3815 G822f

Learn how nature has inspired technological innovations with this book on the similarities between butterfly wings and the invention of new digital display technology. Look for other titles in the Innovations from Nature series.

Jenkins, Steve. **The Animal Book: A Collection of the Fastest, Fiercest, Toughest, Cleverest, Shyest – And Most Surprising Animals on Earth.**, 2013. JNF 590 J52a

Shares facts on over three hundred animals and offers a brief overview of the history of life on Earth.

Knowles, Laura. **It Starts with a Seed**, 2017. JNF 582.16 K737s

With lyrical text and beautiful illustrations, this picture book takes you on a journey through the seasons and years as you follow a seed's transformation from a seedling to a sapling, then a young tree, until it becomes a large tree with its branches and roots filling the page.

Koontz, Robin M. **Animal Inspired Robots**, 2019. JNF 629.892 K82a

Animimics are the designers and engineers who are inspired by the genius of nature. Using a science called biomimicry, they rely on nature's 3.8 billion years of experience to research and create new or improved designs, materials and systems. Robotics is one of the most exciting fields where scientists and engineers have been inspired by ideas from nature.

Messner, Kate and Matthew Forsythe. **The Brilliant Deep: Rebuilding the World's Coral Reefs**, 2018. JNF 333.9553 N371m

Looks at the life of the coral restoration pioneer Ken Nedimyer, from his early fascination with the ocean to his ongoing efforts to save and rebuild the world's coral reefs.

Mulder, Michelle. **Brilliant! Shining a Light on Sustainable Energy**, 2013. JNF 333.794 M954b
Did you know that cars can run on french-fry grease or that human poop can be used to provide power to classrooms? Kids in Mexico help light up their houses by playing soccer, and in the Philippines, pop-bottle skylights are improving the quality of life for thousands of families.

Napoli, Donna Jo. Il. By Kadir Nelson. **Mama Miti: Wangari Maathai and the Trees of Kenya**, 2010. JNF 333.7209 N216m

The story of Wangari Maathai, who in 1977 founded the Green Belt Movement, an African grassroots organization, and in 2004 was the first African woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Paul, Miranda. **One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of Gambia**, 2015. JNF 363.7288 P324o

Plastic bags accumulated in ugly heaps alongside roads. Water pooled in them, bringing mosquitoes and disease. Some bags were burned, leaving behind a terrible smell. Some were buried, but they strangled gardens. They killed livestock that tried to eat them. Something had to change. Isatou Ceesay was that change. She found a way to recycle the bags and transform her community.

Peterson, Brenda. Illus. by Wendell Minor. **Wild Orca: The Oldest, Wisest Whale in the World**, 2018. JNF 599.536 P485w

Mia, her family, and friends gather in the San Juan Islands for Orca Sing, hoping that 105-year-old Granny, the oldest orca, will return with the pods she watches over. Includes facts about Granny and orcas.

Sisson, Stephanie Roth. **Spring after Spring: How Rachel Carson Inspired the environmental Movement**. JBIO CARSON,R Si623s

As a child, Rachel Carson lived by the rhythms of the natural world. Spring after spring, year after year, she observed how all living things are connected. And as an adult, Rachel watched and listened as the natural world she loved so much began to fall silent. Spring After Spring traces Rachel's journey as scientist and writer, courageously speaking truth to an often hostile world through her book, and ultimately paving the way for the modern environmental movement.

Winter, Jeanette. **Our House is on Fire: Greta Thunberg's Call to Save the Planet**, 2019. JNF 363.7056 T535w

Tells the story of Greta Thunberg, a Swedish teenage climate activist who has sparked a worldwide student movement and is demanding action from world leaders who refuse to address climate change.

Winter, Jeanette. **The Watcher: Jane Goodall's Life With the Chimps**, 2011. JBIO GOODALL,J W785w

Follow Jane from her childhood in London watching a robin on her windowsill, to her years in the African forests of Gombe, Tanzania, invited by scientist Louis Leakey to observe chimps, to her worldwide crusade to save these primates who are now in danger of extinction, and their habitat.

Woolf, Alex. **You Wouldn't Want to Live Without Bees**, 2016. JNF 595.799 W913y

Combines facts with humorous illustrations and speech bubbles to teach about bees.