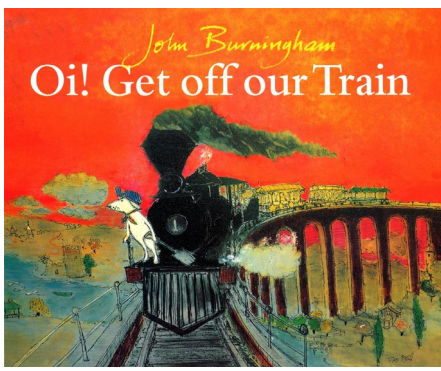


Environment

The number and variety of books for children that feature themes concerned with the environment have increased considerably in recent years and here is a revised, updated and expanded version of our booklist. It is divided into the following sections: Picture Books; Poetry; Fiction; Information Books; Biographies

Picture Books



Oi! Get Off Our Train by John Burningham
 Red Fox 9780099853404

A boy and his pyjama-case dog take a dreamtime train and on the way pick up several animal passengers. Each animal is initially greeted with the refrain 'Oi! Get Off Our Train' but each has an environmentally sound reason for getting on board. The reader can revel in the lines and colours of Burningham's distinctive illustrations.

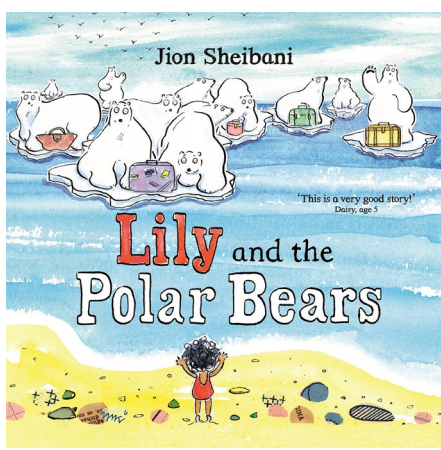
A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/oi-get-our-train>



The Journey Home by Frann Preston-Gannon
 Pavilion 9781843652090

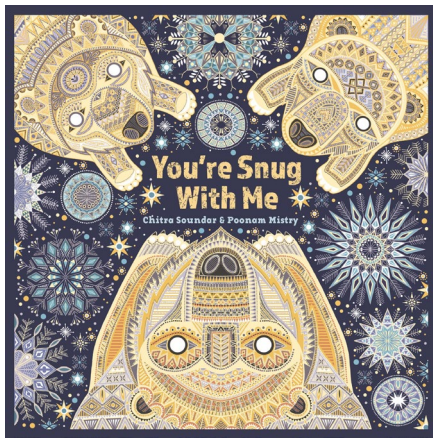
A polar bear realises that he needs to leave his Arctic home as the ice melts and his food supply dwindles. So he climbs into a little boat and sets sail. Along the way he is joined by other animals whose habitat is threatened. The story ends on a note that combines a mixture of hope and uncertainty about whether they will ever be able to return to their original home.

A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/journey-home>



Lily and the Polar Bears by Jion Sheibani
 Faber & Faber 9780571337767

This picture book combines themes around migration due to climate change with understanding and acceptance of refugees integrating into a new society in ways that are thought-provoking at the same time as being humorous. While at the seaside, Lily spots a crowd of polar bears floating in to shore on ice floes with their suitcases. She invites them home and they quickly become involved in the community to the delight of children but to the initial consternation of adults.



You're Snug with Me by Chitra Soundar and Poonam Mistry
Lantana Publishing 9781911373476

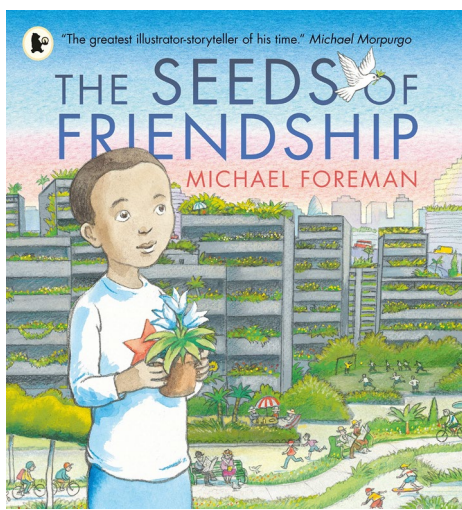
A polar bear gives birth to two cubs in a den where she 'waited for the falling snow to seal it shut.' She prepares them for the wonders and the dangers of the world they will face outside, reassuring them with the comforting refrain of the title. The stunning illustrations use beautifully designed patterns and a carefully chosen palette to create the frozen land of ice and snow and its surrounding ocean. The text incorporates reminders that the earth is a shared place and that it needs to be taken care of.



Leaf by Sandra Dieckmann
Flying Eye 9781911171737

One day a large white creature floats to shore and tries to find shelter and safety in an old cave. The animals of the Wild Wood fear him at first and name him Leaf because they observe him gathering leaves and because they want him to leave. They are divided by what they regard as Leaf's strange behaviour but gradually come to understand that this bewildered polar bear (for that is what he is although this is not stated until the story nears its close) just wants to get home. A picture book which draws on themes about the environment, prejudice against those who seem different and learning to communicate, illustrated in a manner which combines the naturalistic and the fantastic.

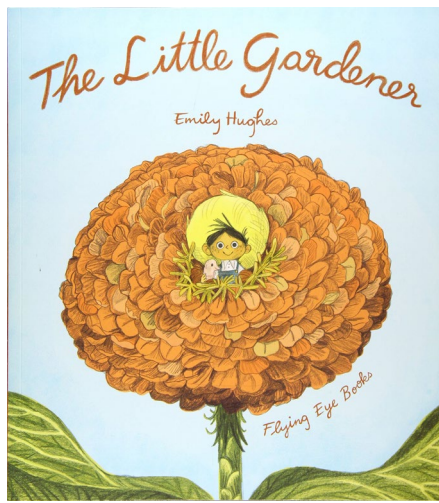
A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/leaf> A teaching sequence for this book is available to Power of Reading subscribers.



The Seeds of Friendship by Michael Foreman
Walker 9781406365900

Although Adam loves his new home in an urban high rise flat where he feels he is 'living in the sky', he misses 'the faraway place where he used to live.' He makes friends by bringing his own knowledge and experience to his new environment, linked to the seasons and outdoor play. In winter they make snow animals. Then the growth of seeds planted in their school garden and window boxes encourages them to make gardens throughout their community.

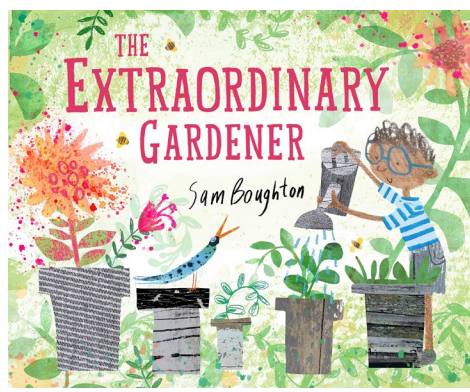
For more books by Michael Foreman see:
<https://clpe.org.uk/clpe/library/booklists/michael-foreman-booklist>



The Little Gardener by Emily Hughes
 Flying Eye 9781911171249

Emily Hughes depicts a garden in shades of green and brown, and inside it she places a tiny gardener who makes strenuous efforts to nurture the plants and make them grow. The garden provides him with shelter and nourishment and 'It was his joy.' Sometimes he despairs of coping with it all. However, hope is at hand as one flower blossoms and is noticed by someone who can help him. Emily Hughes uses an earthy palette redolent of loam for her illustrations which are accompanied by an uncomplicated and repetitive text, supportive for young readers who can keep returning to appreciate its message more deeply.

A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/little-gardener>



The Extraordinary Gardener by Sam Boughton
 Tate Publishing 9781849766890

A small boy with a vivid imagination is motivated to bring life and colour to his dull and grey urban environment. Inspired by an idea in his favourite book, Joe finds and plants an apple seed and waits for nature's magic to begin. As his garden grows and expands to include many other plants, his neighbours are captivated by it and he finds ways to share it with them and people throughout his city. The illustrations which are of mixed media, including collage and crayon, have a childlike charm and the way they are placed in tandem with the text within the overall design of the book perfectly matches the pace of the story. Joe is a child who intuitively understands that learning comes from a variety of sources – including books and observation of and interaction with nature.

A CLPE Book of the Week <https://clpe.org.uk/extraordinary-gardener-sam-boughton>



The Secret Sky Garden by Linda Sarah & Fiona Lumbers
 Simon & Schuster 9781471119262

Funni loves hearing the planes and watching the sights from the abandoned airport car park, but she feels that something is missing. Over the course of the book, she transforms the abandoned area into a beautiful garden and with it, discovers a new friend. A wonderful story sharing the impact small actions can make on a community and on ourselves and one that could be used to encourage children to value and consider how to improve their own environment. Illustrator Fiona Lumbers uses

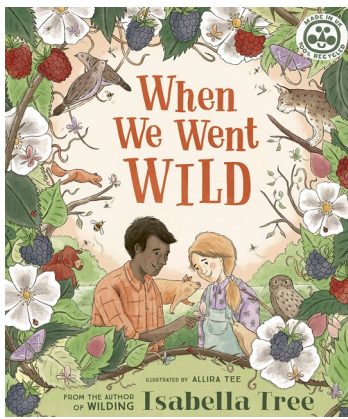
colour and layout cleverly to chart the transformation from urban desolation to a sumptuous explosion of nature.

A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/secret-sky-garden> A teaching sequence for this book is available to Power of Reading subscribers.



The Last Garden by Rachel Ip and Anneli Bray
Hodder 9781444946345/9781444946352

In a war-torn city, Zara tends the last garden left, growing and sharing fruit and vegetables and providing a place for peaceful play. When it becomes too dangerous for people to stay they leave for a time but when they return some months later they find that the plants have kept on growing 'tall and strong and wild and free.' A story with a message of hope told in simple, straightforward language with detailed pictures to pore over.



When We Went Wild by Isabella Tree illustrated by Allira Tee
Ivy Kids 9780711262850

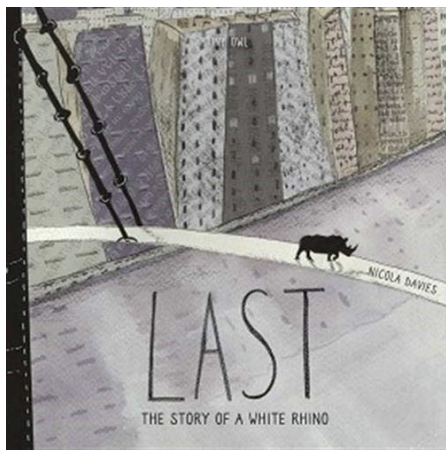
Drawing on the author's own experience, described in her adult book *Wilding* (Picador 9781509805105) this tells the story of how a couple go about rewilding the land on their farm, returning it to a more natural environment without chemicals and milking machines. Their neighbours are not happy until they discover the benefits for themselves.



The Last Wolf by Mini Grey
Red Fox 9781849419826

As Little Red wends her way through the Autumnal wood she happens upon the home of the Last Wolf in the land who introduces her to the Last Lynx and the Last Bear. Together they tell her about the days when there were miles of verdant forest to run through and food to eat. Once she understands the planet's plight, Little Red comes up with a solution although she knows it will take a long time to come to fruition. A green take on the Red Riding Hood tale illustrated with humour.

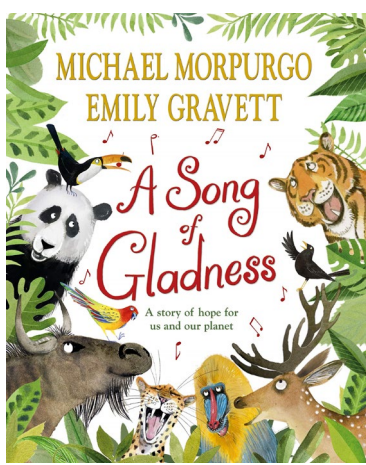
A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/last-wolf> A teaching sequence for this book is available to Power of Reading subscribers.



Last by Nicola Davies
Tiny Owl 9781910328484

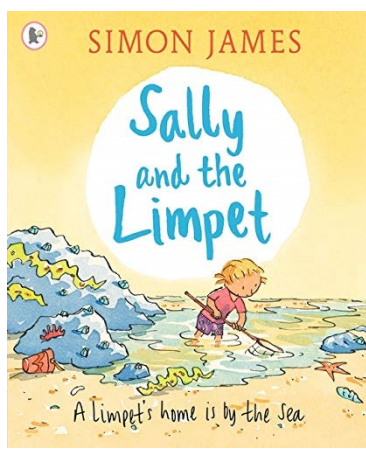
From the small enclosure where he is incarcerated in a zoo in the middle of a city, a rhino remembers his childhood in the wild. He reflects that he believes he is the last of his kind along with other animals being held there in captivity. However, this picture book – the first that Nicola Davies has illustrated as well as written – ends on a note of hope as the rhino is returned to the wild.

For more books by Nicola Davies, see
<https://clpe.org.uk/clpe/library/booklists/nicola-davies-booklist>



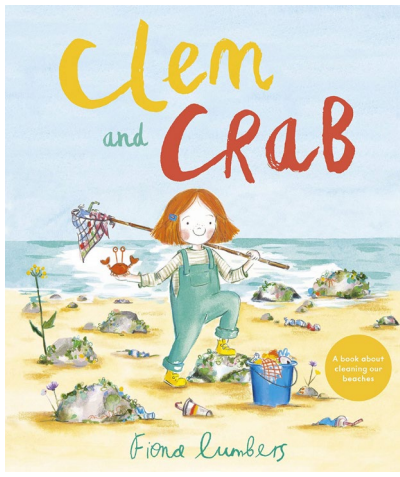
A Song of Gladness by Michael Morpurgo and Emily Gravett
Two Hoots 9781529063318

The author talks to a blackbird in his garden every morning, telling him why people are feeling so sad. The blackbird picks up the message and, portrayed in Emily Gravett's joyful pictures, spreads it throughout the natural world. It's a message 'that this earth is precious and fragile, that every plant and creature matters as much as we do' and 'that we need to know the wild world about us at first hand, to walk in it, breathe it in, marvel at it, to know we are all part of the same earth.'



Sally and the Limpet by Simon James
Walker 9781406308464

Sally learns that most creatures need to remain in a suitable environment in order to survive when a limpet transfers from a seaside rock to the end of her finger. The story that unfolds is a gentle comedy humorously highlighted in the expressions on Sally's face.



Clem and Crab by Fiona Lumbers
Andersen Press 9781783449149

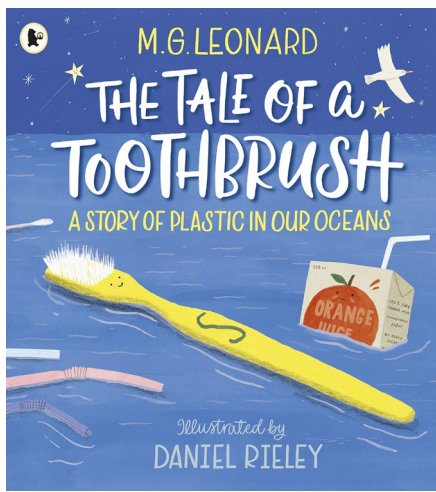
Clem's encounter with a crab whose claw is caught in twisted plastic leads to the realisation for her and her classmates that everyone can play a part in protecting sea and shore and the wildlife that inhabits them. 'Lots of small actions added together can make a big difference.' This picture book's clear environmental message is reflected in the detail of the illustrations which also incorporate some gentle humour.

A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/clem-and-crab>



Clean Up! by Nathan Bryon and Dapo Adeola
Puffin 9780241345894

In this second picture book about young activist Rocket, she and her mum and her mobile phone toting brother Jamal travel to the small Caribbean island where her grandparents run an animal sanctuary. When she realises the damage plastic is doing to wildlife, she makes sure everyone on the beach knows about it and organises a Clean-Up Crew to do something about it.

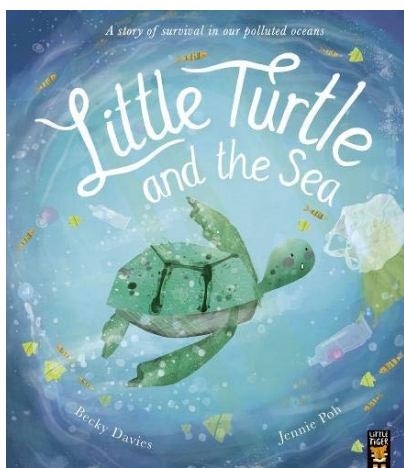


The Tale of a Toothbrush by M. G. Leonard and Daniel Rieley
Walker 9781406391817

Subtitled 'A Story of Plastic in Our Oceans' this picture book shows what happens when the bristles on Sofia's toothbrush, which she has affectionately named Sammy, wear out and her mother consigns him to the rubbish bin. We see his travels from there on and his eventual return home where new uses for him are found. An appendix shows the wider problems of plastic in the oceans.

Teaching notes for this book can be found here:

<https://clpe.org.uk/teaching-notes-tale-toothbrush-m-g-leonard-and-daniel-rieley>



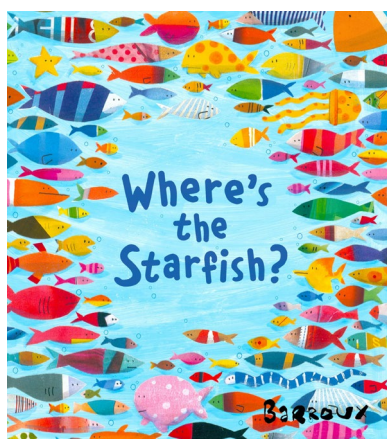
Little Turtle and the Sea by Becky Davies and Jennie Poh
Little Tiger 9781788815819

The life of a baby turtle is followed from the moment she launches herself into the ocean through her journey to the other side of the world until her encounter with some strange creatures. Readers can see that these are plastic bags and there are anxious moments until the turtle is freed by divers and swims off again through her beautiful ocean. Appendices explain more about the dangers of plastic to marine life.



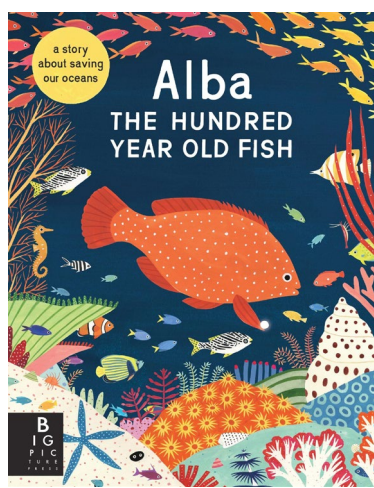
Somebody Swallowed Stanley by Sarah Roberts and Hannah Peck
Scholastic 9781407195100

Stanley seems to resemble a jellyfish but 'his stripes were too straight and his tentacles too few'. As he floats around the sea he is ingested and ejected from a number of creatures. Finally he finds his true vocation when a boy on the beach turns him into a kite. Readers can see that Stanley is a plastic bag although this is never stated in the text.



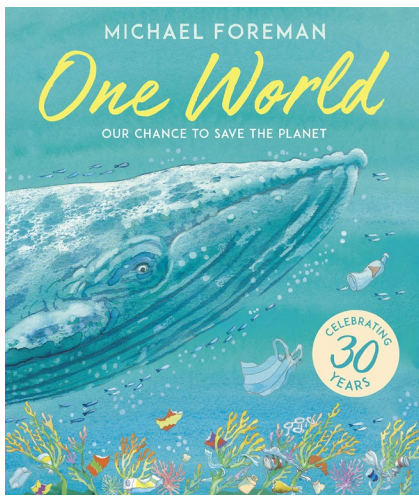
Where's the Starfish? by Barroux
Egmont 9781405271394

A shoal of multi-coloured fish of many shapes and sizes are intrigued by a pile of debris at the bottom of the ocean. The pile becomes a mountain of items discarded by human beings, destroying the underwater environment. Readers have been alerted at the beginning to look out for a starfish, a jellyfish and a clownfish throughout the book and these three support a helpful whale in finding a solution.



Alba the Hundred Year Old Fish by Lara Hawthorne
Big Picture Press 9781787417298

Alba is a very old fish who lives on a coral reef and has seen many changes in the ocean in her long life. However, she is not prepared for getting trapped inside a plastic bottle when she goes in search of a beautiful pearl. A story which encourages consideration about the dangers of plastics in the oceans and what humans can do about this. There is also a guide to some of the unique and colourful wildlife to be found in the coral reef.



One World by Michael Foreman
Andersen Press 9781849393041

It's more than thirty years since this book was first published and its message is still just as vital. A brother and sister explore the natural world of a rock pool, gathering and creating a tiny world in a bucket so that they can examine sea creatures and plant life more closely. Then they notice that what is left in the rock pool is a blob of oil and a rusty tin can and understand the connection that their tiny world has with the wider world and its pollution and destruction by humankind.

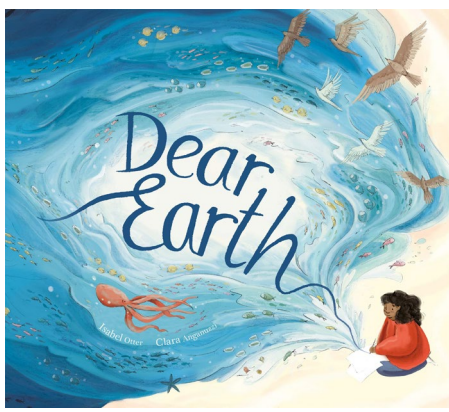
For more books by Michael Foreman see:

<https://clpe.org.uk/clpe/library/booklists/michael-foreman-booklist>



Like the Ocean We Rise by Nicola Edwards and Sarah Wilkins
Little Tiger 9781838911744

A picture book with a rhyming text that urges everyone to collaborate and protest to protect the planet from climate change. In addition to the idea of the rise of a political movement, the title is also related to the raindrops that appear on the pages as peep-through cut-outs and increase throughout the book, demonstrating the significance of water everywhere and showing how this manifests itself in different parts of the world.



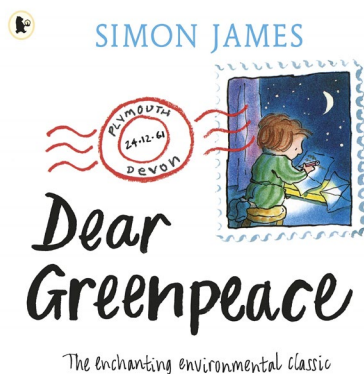
Dear Earth by Isabel Otter and Clara Anganuzzi
Caterpillar Books 9781838911706

A small girl writes a love letter to the Earth which she looks forward to exploring as her grandfather has told her about the many natural wonders he has seen on his travels. However, her grandfather has also told her that the Earth is fragile therefore she wants to spread her message so that humans can heal rather than harm the environment.



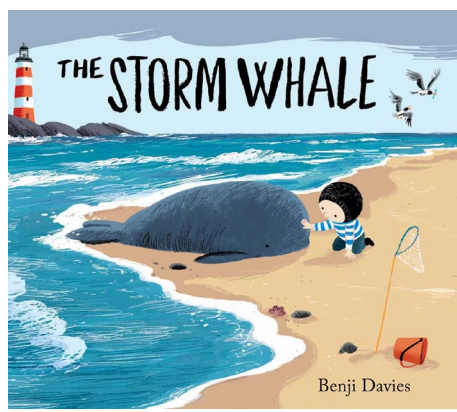
Greta and the Giants by Zoe Tucker and Zoe Persico
Frances Lincoln 9780711253759

Greta is a small girl who lives in a forest. She seems to be the only one who recognises the harm being done by the Giants who are chopping down the trees without a care for the fact that they are destroying the habitats of the creatures that live there. She begins a simple protest that grows exponentially until the Giants see the error of their ways. Inspired by Greta Thunberg's 'Strike for Climate', importantly there is an explanation at the end of the book that while this story 'has a happy ending, in the real world Greta is still fighting the Giants.' For books about Greta Thunberg and her life, see the Biographies section of this booklist.



Dear Greenpeace by Simon James
Walker 9781406367409

Emily exchanges a series of letters with the people at Greenpeace, seeking advice about the whale which has appeared in her garden pond. They send her lots of information but keep insisting that the creature in her pond cannot possibly be a whale. Who is right?

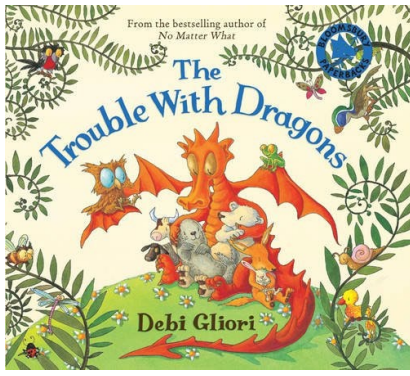


The Storm Whale by Benji Davies
Simon & Schuster 9781471115684

Noi lives a self-sufficient life with his dad by the sea in an isolated home reminiscent of the fishing huts at Hastings. One day he finds a little whale washed up on the sand and takes tender care of it until his dad persuades him that they need to return it to its aquatic home.

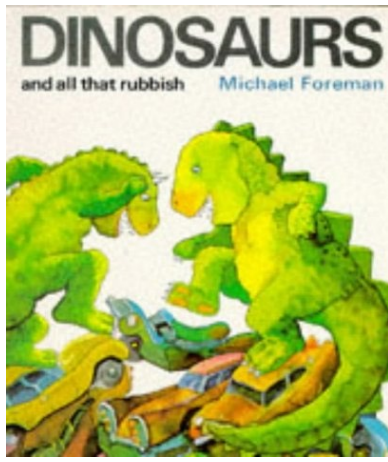
A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/storm-whale> A teaching sequence for this book is available to Power of Reading subscribers.

Also: *The Storm Whale in Winter* Simon & Schuster 9781471119989 and *Grandma Bird* Simon & Schuster 9781471171802. Benji Davies is one of the author/illustrators featured on the CLPE Power of Pictures website which is free to access: <https://clpe.org.uk/powerofpictures/davies-benji>



The Trouble with Dragons by Debi Gliori
Bloomsbury 9780747595410

The rhyming text in this picture book puts the destruction of our planet down to the behaviour of dragons but perspicacious readers will soon realise that humans could be substituted in most respects except perhaps breathing fire! The illustrations ensure that the strong message is leavened with humour.



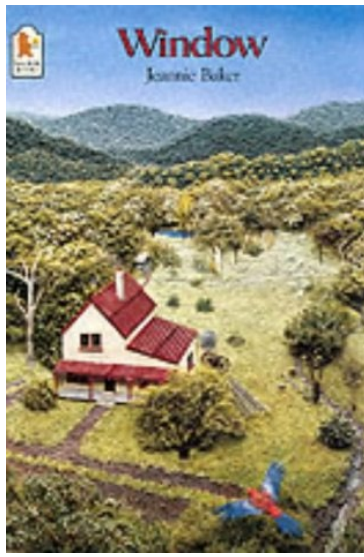
Dinosaurs & All That Rubbish by Michael Foreman
Puffin 9780140552607

An ecological fable whose central message is that the planet is home for all those who inhabit it and that all have a responsibility for its future. The language is simple and direct and the warmth of the pictures, in particular those depicting the kindly, caring dinosaurs, contribute enormously to making this a hopeful story.

A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/dinosaurs-and-all-rubbish>

For more books by Michael Foreman see:

<https://clpe.org.uk/clpe/library/booklists/michael-foreman-booklist>

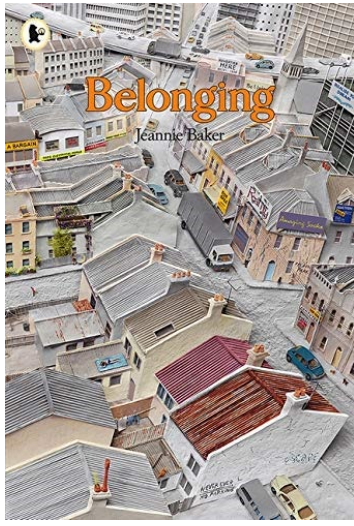


Window by Jeannie Baker
Walker 9780744594867

A wordless picture book which could provoke much discussion about the effects of humanity on the environment. A view from the same window is seen over a period of twenty years to show the changes that take place as a newborn child grows to adulthood. The collage illustrations are almost tactile.

A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/window>

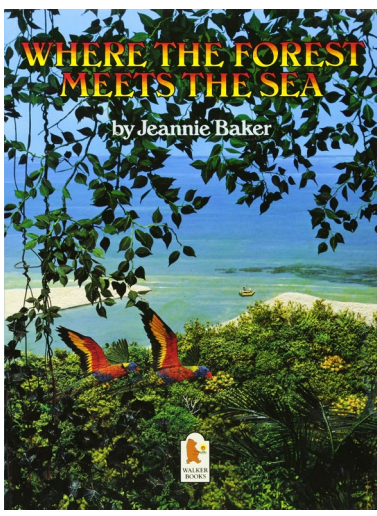
For more wordless books see <https://clpe.org.uk/library-and-resources/booklists/wordless-picture-books>



Belonging by Jeannie Baker
Walker 9781406305487

A companion volume to *Window*, this book charts the changes in an urban neighbourhood by viewing it through the same window frame as a baby grows to womanhood and has her own child. Unlike *Window*, this book is not entirely wordless as there are many examples of environmental print on the outside and clues about the girl's age on the inside on the windowsill. In an author's note, Jeannie Baker explains her belief that we belong to the land and vice versa and this is beautifully evoked in her collage pictures.

A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/belonging>



Where the Forest Meets the Sea by Jeannie Baker
Walker 9780744513059/Big Book 9780744563016

A boy and his father spend the day in the rainforest of northern Australia and the boy imagines both the primeval past and the possible future for the area. The striking illustrations, which are collages made largely from natural materials, combine with a spare but thought-provoking text.

A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/where-forest-meets-sea>

Also by Jeannie Baker:

The Hidden Forest Walker 9780744578768

Circle Walker 9781406382907

Mirror Walker 9781406309140 A CLPE Core Book

<https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/mirror>

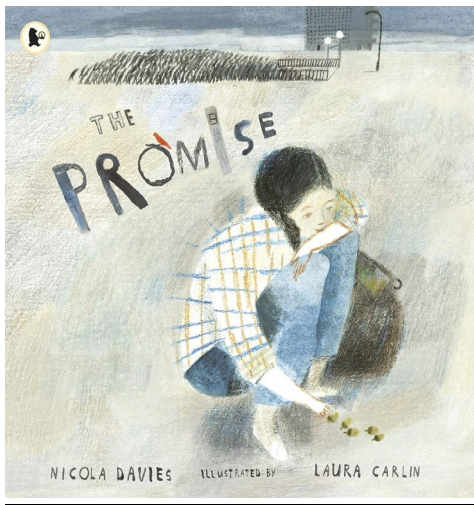
Playing with Collage Walker 9781406378665 A CLPE Book of the Week <https://clpe.org.uk/playing-collage-jeannie-baker>



Greenling by Levi Pinfold
Templar 9781783701872

Mr Barleycorn finds a green baby with rosy red apple cheeks. He tends and shelters the baby much to his wife's initial dismay. The vegetation around them burgeons overwhelmingly and the local people feel they are being pushed out of their world by this child. But who is truly the interloper? Who is the mysterious green baby and what is the old magic word that he speaks? An ecological fable with themes around prejudice and fear of the unknown. The stunning illustrations have a sense of the surreal and invite exploration.

A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/greenling>



The Promise by Nicola Davies and Laura Carlin
Walker 9781406355598

A girl who is hardened by the harsh urban environment that surrounds her is transformed into a guerrilla gardener by the unexpected booty resulting from a mugging. The burgeoning wildlife opens up people's hearts and minds and the girl moves on to multiply the magic. In spare poetic prose, Nicola Davies has fashioned a variation on the myth of the Green Man for a modern age. Laura Carlin has drawn absorbing grey and brown cityscapes which gradually become permeated with brightly coloured birds and flowers as the girl plants 'among rubble, ruins and rusty railings, by train tracks, tramlines and traffic lights'.

A CLPE Core Book

<https://clpe.org.uk/powerofreading/book/promise> A teaching sequence for this book is available to Power of Reading subscribers.

An animated film based on this story can be seen here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ea7W4EfhZGk>

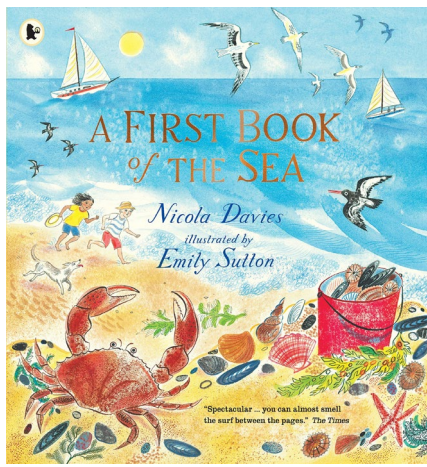
Signed version here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4cfQkelUBU>

An introduction by Nicola Davies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANYjX8dWbWk>

Poetry



A First Book of the Sea illustrated by Emily Sutton
Walker 9781406391015

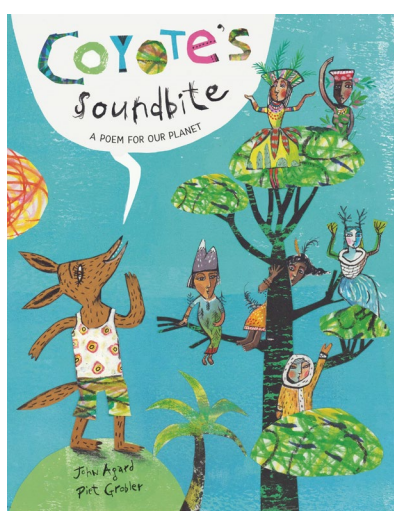
Starting with the seashore, Nicola Davies explores the oceans in verses that describe the wildlife within and beside it and how humans interact with these. There's an alliterative verse about sharks, instructions for how to sing like a humpback whale, a poem asking what is the deadliest thing in the sea (and no, it's not a living creature!). All are surrounded by Emily Sutton's illustrations that display in detail the diversity of colours and patterns in nature, combining delicacy and boldness. For more books by Nicola Davies, see:

<https://clpe.org.uk/clpe/library/booklists/nicola-davies-booklist>



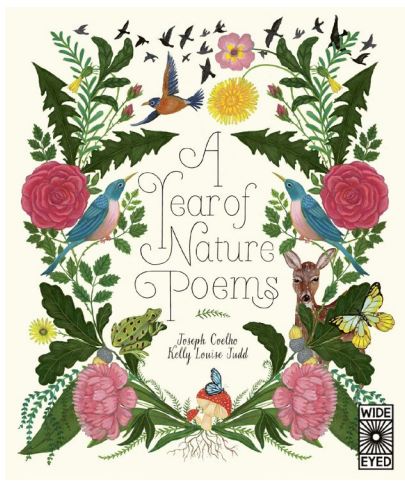
Wild World by Angela McAllister, illustrated by Hvas&Hannibal
Wide Eyed Editions 9781847809650/ 9781786039828

A poem is devoted to each of thirteen habitats around the world from Rainforest to Savannah, all framed within an illustration which includes creatures referenced within the poem. There is a short paragraph about each of the habitats at the end of the book, highlighting the specific environmental concerns affecting them.



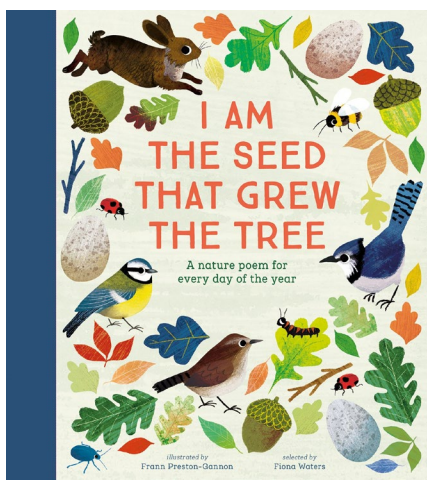
Coyote's Soundbite. A Poem for Our Planet by John Agard,
illustrated by Piet Grobler
Lantana 9781911373735

Trickster Coyote hears that the earth-goddesses are planning a conference to discuss the way humans are mistreating the planet. Only female creatures are allowed so Coyote dons his wife's blue dress and attends in disguise, listening to what the earth-goddesses from all around the world are saying and offering a suggestion of a soundbite that could unite. Returning home, he finds that his wife had the same idea and has just returned from the males-only gathering of earth-gods.



A Year of Nature Poems by Joseph Coelho, illustrated by Kelly Louise Judd
Wide Eyed Editions 9780711249943

A single poem for each month of the year is framed within an illustration created in pencil and gouache, linking observation of the natural world to growing up and change. The risk of scooping up frogspawn and taking it home now that the habitats of amphibians are diminished concludes February's verse while the poem for March enumerates the many kinds of daffodil 'each with their own unique style'.



I Am the Seed That Grew the Tree selected by Fiona Waters, illustrated by Frann Preston-Gannon
Nosy Crow 9780857637703

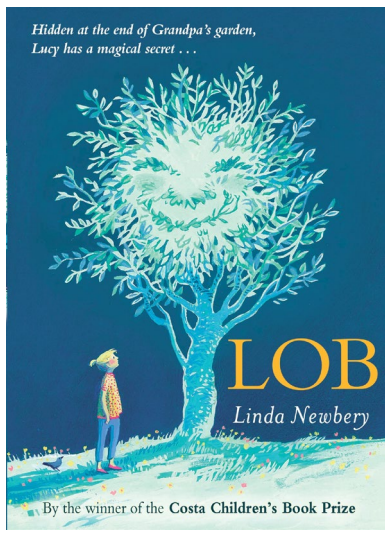
This sumptuous and superbly illustrated collection takes readers through the year with poems selected to suit the seasons. Each spread is exquisitely designed with the poems, which are often linked, placed within the picture. In late February poems about snow and icicles are set against a background of freshly emerged snowdrops, leaf boats float across ponds in late June, while rain drums down in mid October. There is a companion volume of animal poems for every day of the year: *Tiger, Tiger, Burning Bright!* selected by Fiona Waters and illustrated by Britta Teckentrup (Nosy Crow 9781788005678).



Poems from a Green and Blue Planet edited by Sabrina Mahfouz, illustrated by Aaron Cushley
Hodder 9781444951240

A compendium of poems that travels the world both present and past and explores the beauty of nature and humankind's relationship to it. As the editor says as the conclusion of one of her own poems: 'We are part of the heart of the world/Don't break it.'

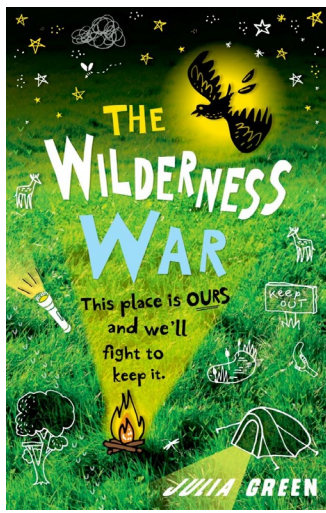
Fiction



Lob by Linda Newbery, illustrated by Pam Smy
Jonathan Cape 9781780080833

Lucy and Grandpa Will share a secret – they are the only ones in their family who see Lob, ‘a wild thing who wouldn’t let himself be caught or touched, or even stared at for long’, an ancient being who helps gardens to grow. When everything changes, Lob sets off to find a new ‘special person’ and the reader follows his journey through the seasons alongside Lucy’s adjustment to life without her beloved grandfather. The text is interwoven with subtle black and white illustrations, enabling readers to decide if they too can glimpse Lob. The novel is inspired by Edward Thomas’s poem of the same name and the narrative is interspersed with poetic interludes highlighted in an enlarged font. The story draws deeply on folklore, especially the legend of the Green Man and his association with seasonal death and rebirth.

A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/lob-0> A teaching sequence for this book is available to Power of Reading subscribers.



The Wilderness War by Julia Green
Oxford University Press 9780192743657

Noah and his friends have always played on a local patch of ground they call the Wilderness, making dens and observing the natural environment. Then one day they see a notice saying that the Wilderness, which they had believed to be common land, is up for sale and described as a derelict plot suitable for house building. How will they fight to keep the Wilderness in a state that can be enjoyed by all and out of the hands of property developers?



Run Wild by Gill Lewis

Barrington Stoke 9781781128282

The old gasworks is a place where Izzy and her friends can feel free and run wild, a haven for wildlife such as the Streaked bombardier beetle that her brother Connor draws carefully in his notebook. Their discovery of an injured wolf leads to encounters that appear to threaten the future of this special space and their access to it but is everything what it seems?

Also: *Eagle Warrior* Barrington Stoke 9781781128749

Swan Song Barrington Stoke 9781781129548



How to Save the World with a Chicken and an Egg by Emma Shevah

Chicken House 9781910655474

Ivy and Nathaniel tells their stories in alternate chapters as they bond over their love of animals and concern for the environment in the seaside town of Southwold. Ivy is genuinely able to communicate with animals, including a hen to whom she reads stories. Nathaniel has tremendous recollection of facts which he is inclined to recount at stressful moments. Friendships develop, family mysteries unravel and animals are rescued in a novel that is warm and humorous.

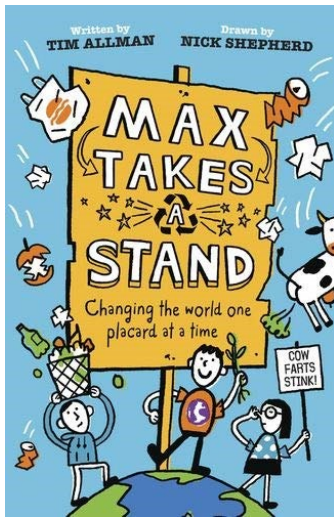


Hope Jones Saves the World by Josh Lacey, illustrated by Beatriz Castro

Andersen Press 9781783449279

Hope Jones has a New Year's resolution – to start saving the world by giving up plastic and persuading others to do the same. She documents her progress and her interactions with her family and local community on her blog which forms the text of this campaigning book. Hope's protest outside the local supermarket, part of a national chain, attracts considerable attention and while it becomes clear that she cannot save the world alone, she provides plenty of ideas for how we can all 'think global, act local'. There is an associated website

<https://www.hopejonesavestheworld.com> Sequel: *Hope Jones Will Not Eat Meat* Andersen Press 9781783449392



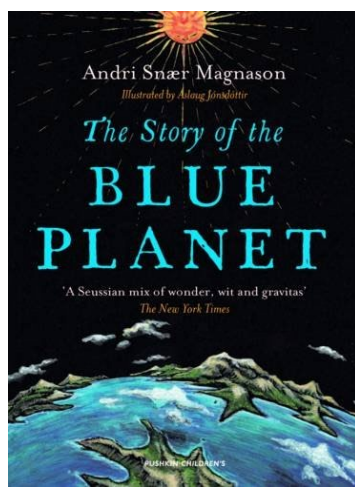
Max Takes a Stand by Tim Allman, illustrated by Nick Shepherd
Oxford University Press 9780192775139

Max is very anxious when he sees demonstrators carrying a banner declaring 'Ten Years to Stop Climate Chaos'. His parents persuade him that, instead of panicking, he should use his strong imagination for good things. He proceeds to put into action his Plan for the Planet that includes a Car-Free Campaign and planting a Forest of Hope. Comic characterisation combines with a compelling message written by an environmental activist and illustrated in a style that will appeal to fans of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. Sequel: *Max Against Extinction* Oxford University Press 9780192775153



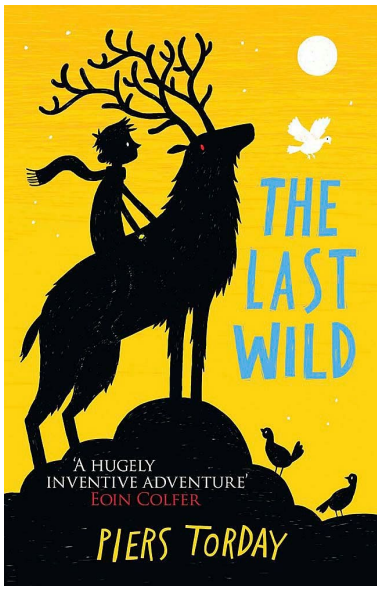
Beauty and the Bin by Joanne O'Connell
Macmillan 9781529032574

Laurie's family are ardent eco-warriors and this includes fighting food waste by retrieving food which is still perfectly edible from the bins at the back of the supermarket. While she supports her parents' principles, Laurie is in Year 7 and is anxious about how their lifestyle will appear to others as she settles into secondary school. Then a popular Year 9 girl with a strong social media presence latches on to the way Laurie and her little sister Fern create beauty products using natural ingredients and sees an opportunity to win an inter-school competition.



The Story of the Blue Planet by Andri Snær Magnason, illustrated by Áslaug Jónsdóttir, translated from Icelandic by Julian Meldon D'Arcy
Pushkin Press 9781782690658

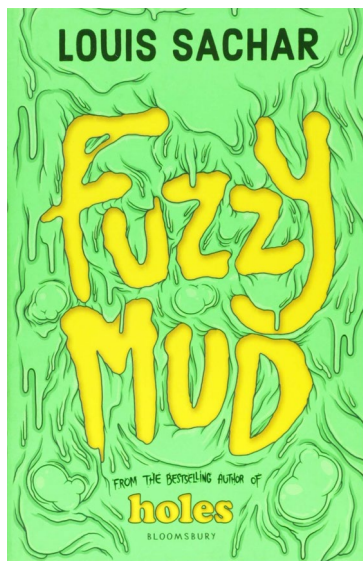
A fable about a peaceful planet inhabited only by children who take great joy in the beauty and wildness of their environment. Then one day a spaceship lands conveying an adult, Gleesome Gooday, into their midst. He brings with him ideas and activities which have a price, both literally and figuratively, for the children of the blue planet. Will the children's sense of justice and their desire for freedom prevail? A thought-provoking story which is also an engaging and exciting adventure.



The Last Wild by Piers Torday
Quercus 9781780878300

Kester lives in Spectrum Hall, an academy for challenging children. Unable to speak since separation from his parents, he unexpectedly finds he is able to communicate with a cockroach who helps him to break out from his prison-like existence. He has been lead to believe that all the animals in the outside world have died of disease and that human beings are under the same threat. But is this true? And what are the motives of those who spread these rumours? Kester is about to find out. A dystopian adventure with significant environmental and political themes. Kester's story continues in *The Dark Wild* Quercus 9781848663787 and concludes in *The Wild Beyond* Quercus 9781848669536. A prequel *The Wild Before* Quercus 9781786541116 is published in September 2021.

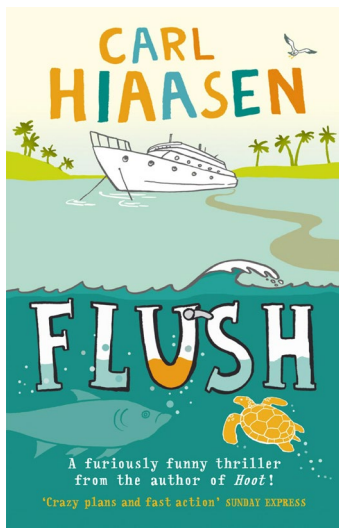
A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/last-wild> A teaching sequence for this book is available to Power of Reading subscribers.



Fuzzy Mud by Louis Sachar
Bloomsbury 9781408864753

A thrilling adventure story with peril, triumph and excitement. It's the story of school children who are negotiating school life, friendships, families and growing up – and the characters have been created with Sachar's inimitable style and wit. The star of the book though is the 'fuzzy mud' – an ecological disaster whose progress and destruction is described cleverly through flashbacks to State Committee inquiries and flash-forwards to disaster hearings, through newspaper and media reports and through an increasingly malevolent series of sums.

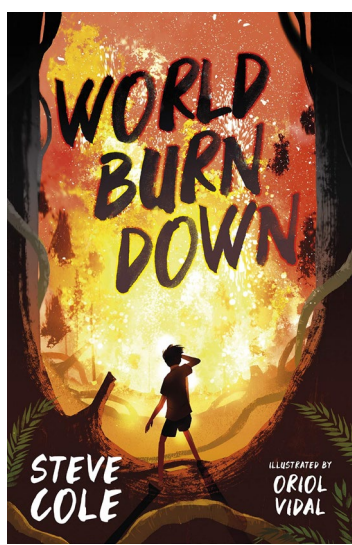
A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/fuzzy-mud-1>



Flush by Carl Hiaasen
Corgi 9780552553551

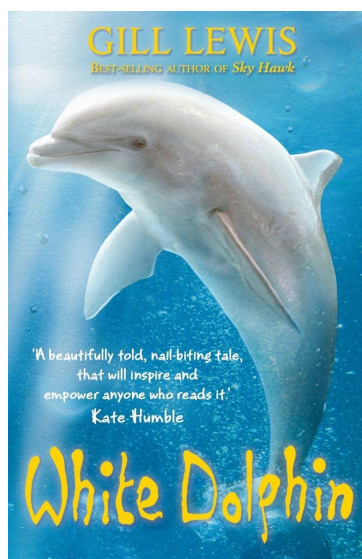
Noah's dad hates greed, injustice and cruelty to nature but he has a gungho way of putting his principles into practice which has repercussions for his family. The story opens with him in jail for sinking a boat from which he believes raw sewage is being dumped. Set in the Florida Keys, this novel has a strong environmental message, wisecracking humour and a riotous range of characters.

A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/flush>



World Burn Down by Steve Cole, illustrated by Oriol Vidal
Barrington Stoke 9781781129463

Carlos's mother works for the Special Forces Group of Brazil's environment agency, protecting the rainforest from Land-Grabbers whose greed is bringing destruction to the wildlife and the indigenous people who live there. It's dangerous work as Carlos discovers when he is kidnapped by corrupt and dangerous men who want to intimidate his mother and prevent her from carrying it out. In the course of this adventure story, the reader finds out about why the Amazon rainforest is described as the 'lungs of the Earth' and the importance of fighting against its devastation. Also by this author on an environmental theme: *Tin Boy* Barrington Stoke 9781781128725



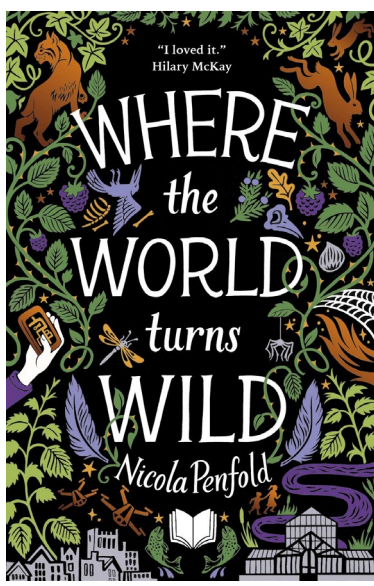
White Dolphin by Gill Lewis, illustrated by Mark Owen
Oxford University Press 9780192756213

Kara feels a strong connection to a dolphin that appears near to her coastal home and finds herself fighting to save its injured calf. She feels a spiritual link to these mammals, associated with the disappearance of her own mother a year earlier. Kara has other battles to contend with, both personally and within the local fishing community, as she joins with others to try and prevent the sustainable fishing that has been established from being undermined. A fast-paced story with empathetic characters.



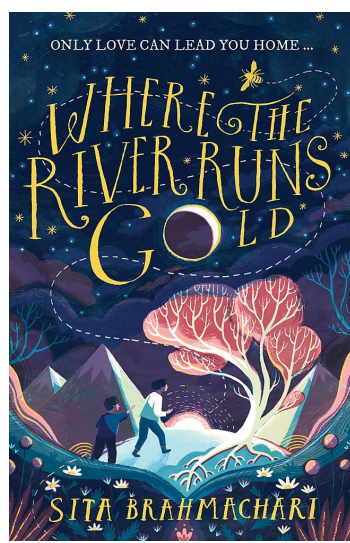
The Last Bear by Hannah Gold, illustrated by Levi Pinfold
HarperCollins 9780008411282

April accompanies her scientist father to the Arctic where he has been appointed to monitor data about how global warming is affecting the region. Living in isolation with her father, who is grieving for the loss of her mother, April steps out into the snow to explore and befriends a solitary bear who she realises cannot reach home because the ice floes are melting. An affecting story about relationships and what humans are doing to the natural world. See the author's blog <https://clpe.org.uk/blog/2021/how-make-climate-fiction-inspiring-children-blog-about-last-bear>



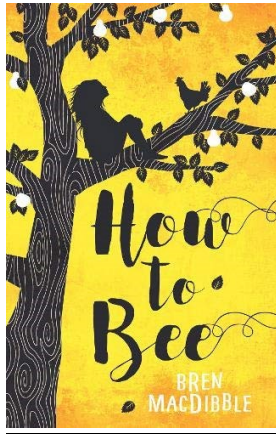
Where the World Turns Wild by Nicola Penfold
Stripes 9781788951524

Juniper and Bear live a sterile existence in a city cut off from the natural world. Their grandmother Annie Rose, a licensed Plant Keeper, tends one of only two places in the city where plants are grown under restricted conditions. Juniper and Bear are both considered to be rebels and the day comes when they need to leave the city and travel through the Wild to try and reach their parents. The novel's opening explains the background to the story - the destruction of the environment and how a disease was created by scientists that would affect only humans, forcing them to live enclosed in cities while Nature renews the world outside. A CLPE Book of the Week <https://clpe.org.uk/where-world-turns-wild-nicola-penfold>



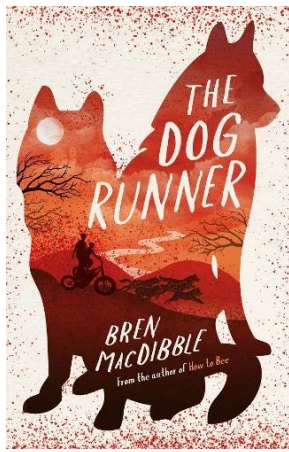
Where the River Runs Gold by Sita Brahmachari
Orion 9781510105416

When Shifa and Themba, who had always believed themselves to be twins, are placed at the Freedom Fields Farms, they do not anticipate the harsh conditions they will have to endure in their work as pollinators, caused by the disappearance of bees. Will they ever be able to escape and return to their papa Nabil and their home near the Flower Tracks? This is a dystopian but ultimately hopeful novel due to the love of nature and of humanity that shines through the characterisation and the writing. However, the themes around child exploitation, inequality and climate crisis have roots in today's reality.



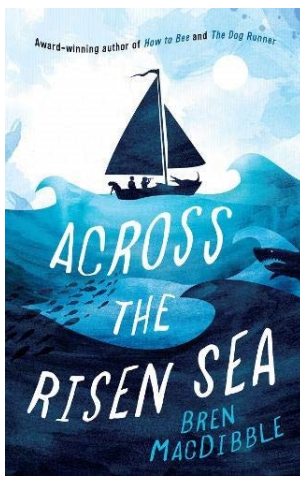
How to Bee by Bren MacDibble
Old Barn Books 9781910646441

In a future dystopian landscape set in Australia, Peony's ambition is to become a human bee, a hand pollinator in a world where bees have disappeared. After her mother drags her to the city to lead a very different lifestyle, will Peony be able to get back to the farm where she feels her true family live and will the bees ever come back?



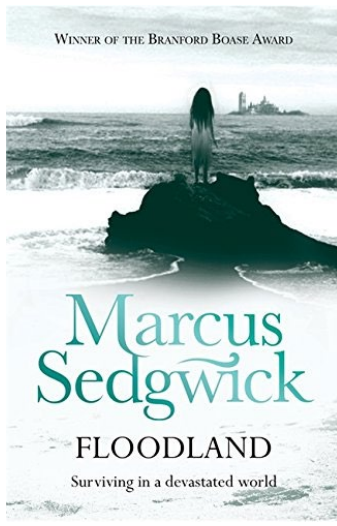
The Dog Runner by Bren MacDibble
Old Barn Books 9781910646489

When grass and grains cease to grow – ‘No rice in Asia even, with all those people needing it. No maize in Africa, and no corn in America. And no way to grow enough potatoes, pumpkins and cabbage to replace them in time’ - Ella and her half-brother Emery have to make a dangerous cross country journey in Australia with a team of five big dogs to find family and seek the life giving grains humans need to survive.



Across the Risen Sea by Bren MacDibble
Old Barn Books 9781910646670

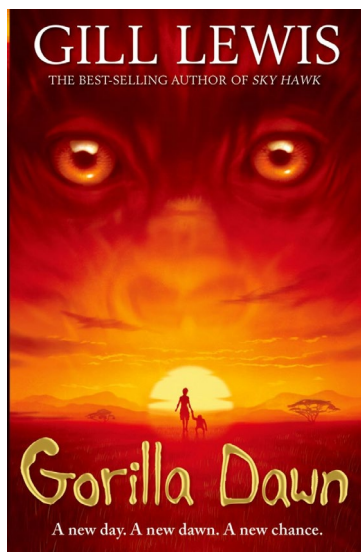
Neoma lives in the Ockery Islands where people lead gentle lives, surviving by fishing and salvage. It's a world where the seas have risen exponentially due to climate change, causing flooding of coastal towns and farmland, followed by rampant disease. People of the Valley of the Sun have assumed authority. The islanders are suspicious of technology so the installation of a flashing red light leads to consternation and when Neoma tries to dismantle it, conflict ensues.



Floodland by Marcus Sedgwick
Orion 9781858817637

Set in an all too believable near future when many parts of England are submerged in water and people drift into gangs, divided due to the scarcity of resources, especially food. Zoe has been left behind on an island which used to be the city of Norwich and discovers a boat which she wants to use to try and find her parents. She has to cope with human cruelties and frailties but the story ends on a note of hope.

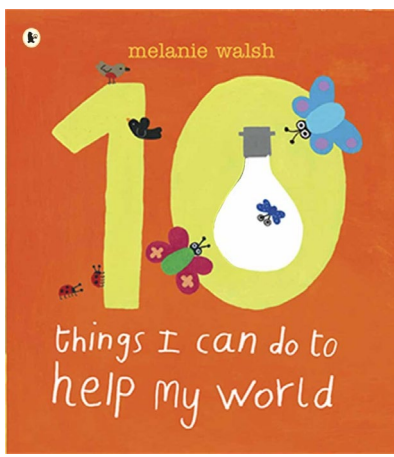
A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/floodland> A teaching sequence for this book is available to Power of Reading subscribers.



Gorilla Dawn by Gill Lewis
Oxford University Press 9780192739179

Gill Lewis's novel is set in the Democratic Republic of Congo where the habitat of gorillas is being destroyed due to the demand for coltan, a mineral used in the manufacture of computers and mobile phones. She exposes the exploitation and violence perpetrated by local rebel soldiers and Western companies and explores its impact on children. The narrative focuses on Imara, a girl kidnapped by rebel soldiers and made to believe that she is a Spirit Child, able to influence their fortunes. Her story soon becomes entwined with that of Bobo who is in search of his father, a ranger working to protect the gorillas, and a baby gorilla Imara names Kitwana. Gill Lewis has interpreted a complex and distressing situation by creating credible child characters with whom readers can identify. She doesn't pretend that there can be a happy ending for everyone in this story but by raising awareness, she has generated a message of hope in what is perhaps her most politically thought-provoking book. A CLPE Book of the Week <https://clpe.org.uk/gorilla-dawn>

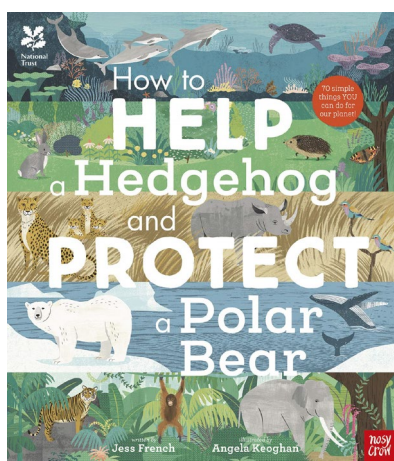
Information Books



10 Things I Can Do to Help My World by Melanie Walsh
Walker 9781406320299

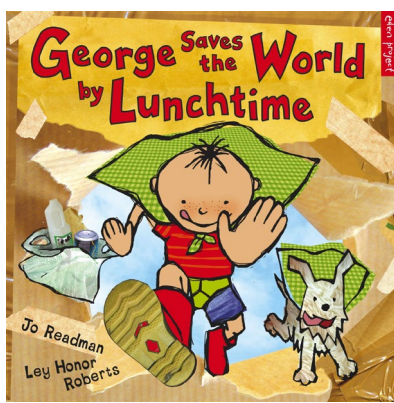
This book raises important matters for this generation in a simple and non-didactic way. As the pages are turned, they transform to reveal ten things that everyone can easily do at least one of in order to help conserve the world. Many of them, such as turning off the television properly, walking to school and turning off lights when leaving a room, are about conserving energy. Others, such as feeding the birds in winter and growing plants from seed, encourage an understanding of nature and conservation.

A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/10-things-i-can-do-help-my-world> A teaching sequence for this book is available to Power of Reading subscribers. Also by Melanie Walsh: *My Green Day* Walker 9781406377149



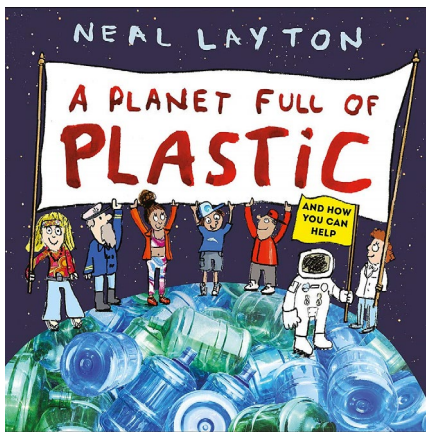
How to Help a Hedgehog & Protect a Polar Bear by Jess French and Angela Keoghan
Nosy Crow 9781788002578

Four pages are devoted to each type of habitat, focusing first on those common to the UK – gardens, hedgerows, wetlands, woodlands and coastlines – and moving out to terrains elsewhere in the world such as jungles and savannahs. General information is given about the threats specific to that environment, followed by fact files about species native to that habitat and positive suggestions about what children can do to help.



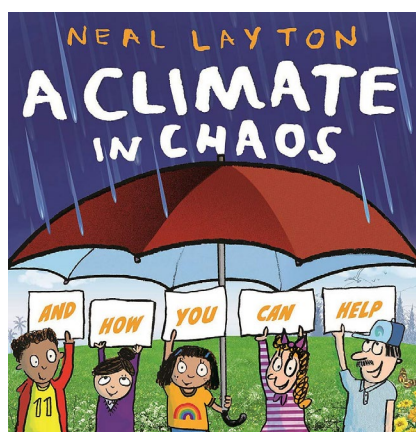
George Saves the World by Lunchtime by Jo Readman and Ley Honor Roberts
Eden Project 9781903919507

George's Grandpa shows him how he can be a real superhero and save the world by putting into practice the four Rs – reduce, re-use, repair, recycle. The collage pictures incorporating photos show them having fun sorting out clothes for the charity shop, smashing bottles at the recycling centre and visiting a farmers' market.



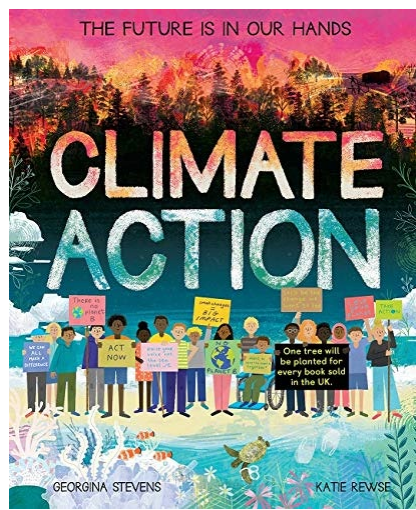
A Planet Full of Plastic by Neal Layton
Wren & Rook 9781526361769

Neal Layton provides a guide for children in an accessible and lively format about the environmental impact of plastic and what they can do to help. He begins by inviting them to look at how many things around them are made of plastic and showing clearly why the fact that it's not biodegradable makes it a problem. He goes on to show the effect it is having on the wildlife in the planet's oceans. The book ends on a more positive note by describing ways it can be reused and recycled and introducing ideas being developed by scientists and engineers to combat the problems of plastic.



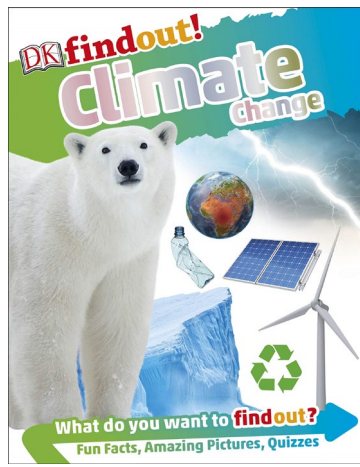
A Climate in Chaos by Neal Layton
Wren & Rook 9781526362308/9781526362315

Neal Layton speaks directly to young readers using an illustration style that blends cartoons and collage combined with explanatory and accessible language that also uses imagery to enable them to understand sophisticated scientific concepts. He shows how the current situation with climate change on Planet Earth has been reached and what humans need to do to tackle this, at individual, organisational and global levels, describing some initiatives that are already taking place along the way.



Climate Action by Georgina Stevens, illustrated by Katie Rewse
360 Degrees 9781838911614

In terms of its language and presentation this large format book is more accessible to younger readers than many others on climate change, incorporating clearly labelled illustrations that truly aid understanding. The first two sections look at the causes and effects of climate change while the remainder of the book focuses on activism on a small and large scale, detailing what can be done to effect change. Throughout the book there is information about creative young people who are changemakers with more groundbreaking activists introduced in a later section on 'Inspiration' along with ideas about green jobs to which children could aspire.



Find Out! Climate Change by Maryam Sharif-Draper
Dorling Kindersley 9780241413852

Beginning with a quick quiz about facts connected to climate change, this is followed by a timeline to contextualise the increase in greenhouse gas emissions since the Industrial Revolution. Subsequent spreads show how our planet got to where it is now in terms of the environmental crisis and demonstrate a variety of ways people are now trying to combat this, taking individual and collective action, adopting renewable energy, researching how trees relate to climate change.



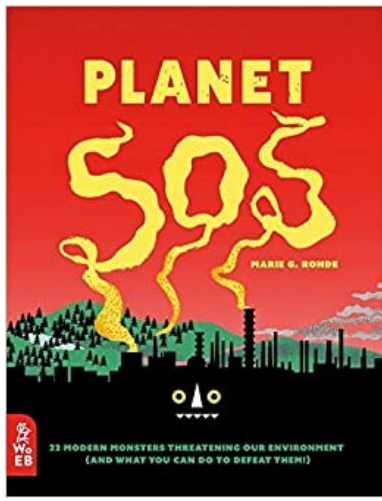
The Great Big Green Book by Mary Hoffman and Ros Asquith
Frances Lincoln 9781786030955

This book takes an accessible and good humoured look at the environmental concerns facing our planet and what humans need to do to address these on an individual and collective basis. Ros Asquith's cartoon style illustrations add a more personal dimension and depict a diverse range of people.



What a Waste by Jess French
Dorling Kindersley 9780241366912

This book covers a range of interlinked environmental issues, the main emphasis being on the causes of waste and how these can be diminished or eliminated. Information and ideas about reducing, recycling and reusing are presented in a lively way in well-illustrated spreads incorporating facts on each topic, photographs, diagrams and relevant mathematical information such as percentages which really bring home the points being made.



Planet SOS by Marie G. Rohde

What on Earth Publishing 9781912920211

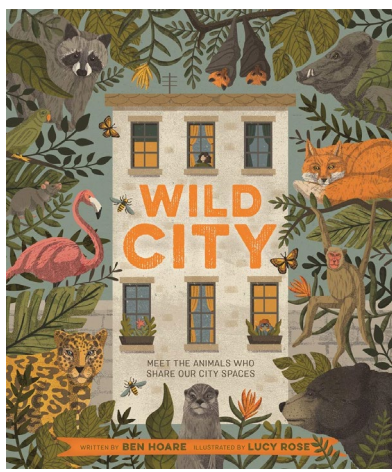
In this highly imaginative approach to the subject, 22 monsters introduce themselves. Each of them is a threat to the environment. They include the Urban Sprawlosaurus, the Grease Behemoth, the E-Waste Golem, the Atmosdragon and its twin, the Acid Sea Dragon. In an ingenious device, each monster is allocated a card with symbols that can be interpreted by a key on a foldout page as to what actions humans can take to shrink them or feed them and make them grow. There are also brief notes linking the monsters to creatures from myths and legends that could relate to them.



I Ate Sunshine for Breakfast by Michael Holland, illustrated by Philip Giordano

Flying Eye 9781911171188

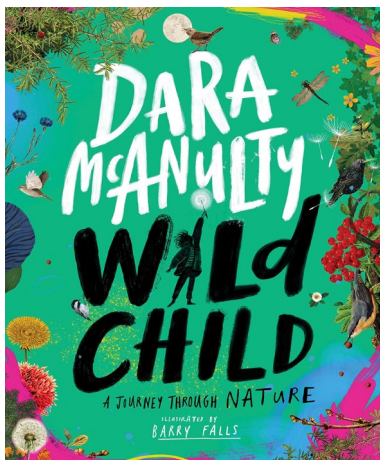
This botanical feast is subtitled 'A Celebration of Plants Around the World' and is a cornucopia of information about plants and how integral they are to all life on Earth. The text includes a range of activities and experiments that will enable children to find out more about plants for themselves. Included is the Shelf Life Project, an idea developed by the author who is a former Head of Education at Chelsea Physic Garden. In the cheerful collage illustrations bright colours and geometric shapes are used to give form to the world of plants.



Wild City by Ben Hoare, illustrated by Lucy Rose

Macmillan 978073446102

An attractive alert to the variety of wildlife that can be encountered in cities around the world. Some spreads focus on specific cities, for example in London the ring-necked parakeet, red fox, rat, grey seal, heron and eel are singled out for attention. Others are thematic, focuses on topics such as city birds, scavengers, wildlife heroes and making wildlife welcome.



Wild Child: A Journey through Nature by Dara McAnulty, illustrated by Barry Falls
Macmillan 9781529045321 (July 2021)

Dara McAnulty, the author of *Diary of a Young Naturalist*, speaks very directly to child readers, taking them on a personal journey, introducing them to facts and phenomena that fascinate him and encouraging exploration. His love of lore and language as well as his respect for nature shine through in the poetic text which is carefully integrated with the illustrations. The steps on the journey alternate with practical projects but the emotional connection with nature is always present.



Old Enough to Save the Planet by Loll Kirby, illustrated by Adelina Lirius
Magic Cat Publishing 9781916180529

Attention is drawn to the work of children from around the world who are engaged in environmental activism in a variety of ways. In Indonesia Adeline formed a community group to reintroduce native plant species to help prevent flooding. Lila set up an organisation to campaign for a vegan option on every school menu in her district in Los Angeles. In Kenya, Eunita is educating local people about the preservation of bees and pollination while, in France, Vincent promotes small scale organic gardening as a means of food production. At the end of the book there are lists of political actions that can be taken to try and effect change as well as those that are more individual everyday commitments.



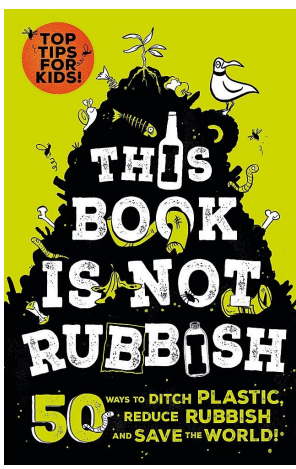
Activists Assemble: Save Your Planet by Ben Hoare, illustrated by Jade Orlando
Macmillan 9780753446201

Environmental issues are set out straightforwardly here with indications of what can be done, mainly at an individual or local level to ameliorate the problems. The actions of several environmental activists are highlighted including William Kamkwamba who designed wind turbines as a schoolboy in Malawi and Bella Lack, a young British woman who campaigns about the destruction of the rainforest and the illegal ivory trade. The final pages suggest questions for discussion and a range of practical activities.



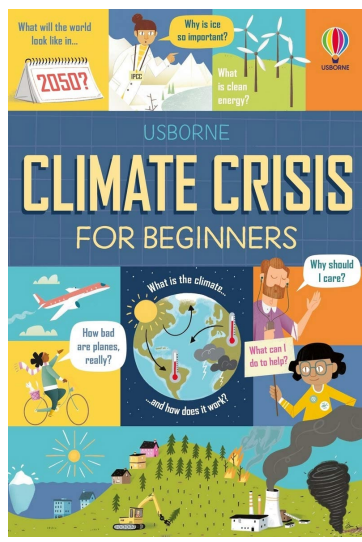
Kids Fight Plastic by Martin Dorey, illustrated by Tim Wesson
Walker 9781406390650

In this interactive book the founder of the #2minutebeachclean campaign sets children a series of missions based around their everyday lives so that they can become superheroes in fighting the use of plastic, particularly single use plastic, in their homes and local communities. Ideas for achievable actions are combined with bite sized chunks of information much of which is linked to cartoon style illustrations. By the same author: *Kids Fight Climate Change* Walker 9781406393262



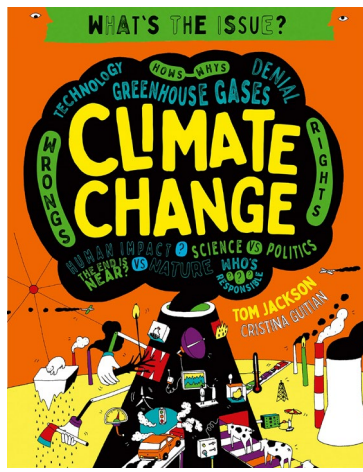
This Book Is Not Rubbish by Isabel Thomas, illustrated by Alex Paterson
Wren & Rook 9781526361530

A compendium of ideas and information about helping to save the planet, giving practical ideas about eco-friendly things young people can do individually or collectively. The emphasis is on making changes involving ditching plastic, recycling and reducing rubbish rather than on taking political action. Also by this author: *This Book Will (Help) Cool the Climate* Wren & Rook 9781526362414



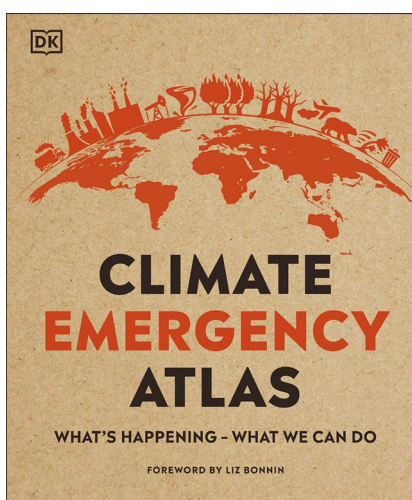
Climate Crisis for Beginners by Andy Prentice and Eddie Reynolds, illustrated by El Primo Ramón
Usborne 9781474979863

The science linked to climate change is explained in an accessible way in this volume, making good use of diagrams, charts and tables as well as its overall design. Significantly, the political and economic background is also covered, indicating the responsibility of individuals, communities, businesses and governments at local and global levels to work together to combat climate change. A feature of the book is the encouragement of critical thinking and the questioning of facts and opinions with which people may be presented. While the seriousness of the climate crisis is not minimised, care is taken to provide ideas to help young readers approach it 'healthily, compassionately and proactively' and not feel overwhelmed.



What's the Issue? Climate Change by Tom Jackson, illustrated by Cristina Guitian
QED 9780711250284

This book goes into some detail about the science, geography and history associated with climate change, organised into manageable chunks of information to digest on each spread. At the end of each short section, pertinent and challenging questions are asked which often bring into play moral and political as well as practical issues about how humans might proceed and which could provide material for debate and discussion.



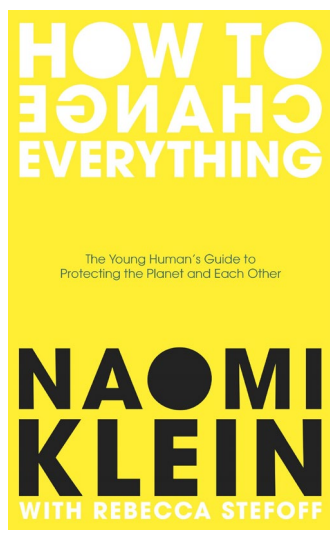
Climate Emergency Atlas by Dan Hooke
Dorling Kindersley 9780241446430

Using maps and graphics as the main means of conveying information is a very effective way of demonstrating what is contributing to climate change. Examples include: a diagram displaying the journey of a pair of jeans from cotton growing to garment disposal set against the background of a global map that looks as though it's printed on denim shows the effects of fast fashion; a 'radical rainfall' spread that shows how precipitation patterns have altered over the two most recent 20 year periods. A concluding section describing action being taken on climate change includes a map that clearly shows which continents contribute the most to rising greenhouse gas levels.



How You Can Save the Planet by Hendrikus Van Hensbergen
Puffin 9780241453049

An extremely encouraging practical guide written by the founder of the charity Action for Conservation which gives step by step detailed directions for realisable projects from the hyperlocal to those that can involve a wider community. They range from building and planting a vertical wild flower meadow to help pollinating insects to how to put together an environmental campaign. Interspersed throughout are the stories of young people, most of them UK based, who have achieved real change.



How to Change Everything. The Young Human's Guide to Protecting the Planet and Each Other by Naomi Klein with Rebecca Steffoff
Penguin 9780241492918

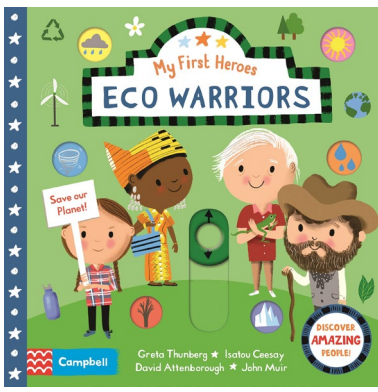
This inspirational book provides young people with the background and information they need to understand the climate crisis from scientific, economic and political viewpoints and explain it to others. Examples are given of actions that young people across the world are already taking. The urgency for humans to act locally and globally to achieve change is demonstrated clearly. As the authors say: 'kids are often taught about environmentalism not in terms of how whole industries and economic systems cause climate change but in terms of things individuals can do, such as recycling and riding a bike instead of driving a car. These actions are important, and we all need to do our part. But unless they are combined with bigger changes, they won't really rock business's boat – and therefore they won't make a significant impact on climate change.'



Challenge Everything by Blue Sandford
Pavilion 9781843654643

A guide written by one of the co-ordinators for Extinction Rebellion Youth London. She explains the principles behind this movement for non-violent action to protest against the climate crisis and her personal approach engages as well as awakens the reader to the issues. The book is arranged in three broad sections: Challenge Big Business, Challenge Government, Challenge Yourself, each culminating in a set of questions to help young people collect their own thoughts about action they can consider taking.

Biographies



Eco Warriors (My First Heroes) illustrated by Nila Aye
Macmillan 9781529036046

This board book introduces four people who are trying to save our planet to very young children. They are Greta Thunberg, David Attenborough, Isatou Cessay and John Muir. There is an interactive element on each spread – this works particularly well for Isatou Cessay where pulling a tab demonstrates that her business involves turning plastic rubbish into colourful bags.



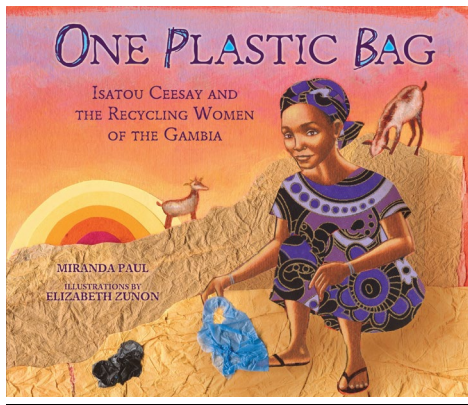
Earth Heroes by Lily Dyu, illustrated by Jackie Lay
Nosy Crow 9781788008525

This book of brief biographies tells twenty inspiring stories of people who have made a contribution towards tackling climate change. They range around the world and include campaigners, inventors, ethical business people and responsible manufacturers and designers. The book begins with Greta Thunberg and ends with David Attenborough, both people who readers are likely to be aware of. In between those they will meet include Mohammed Rezwan, architect of floating schools in Bangladesh, Isabel Soares who ensures that ‘ugly’ fruit is not wasted in Portugal, Yin Yuzhen who successfully planted trees in the desert in northern China and sisters Melati and Isabel Wijzen who campaigned to ban plastic bags in Bali. Each chapter draws the reader in by describing an incident from the person’s life and, while the focus is on individuals thereby providing human interest, there is continual acknowledgement of the collective action needed to combat climate change and destruction of the planet.



Fantastically Great Women Who Saved the Planet by Kate Pankhurst
Bloomsbury 9781408899298

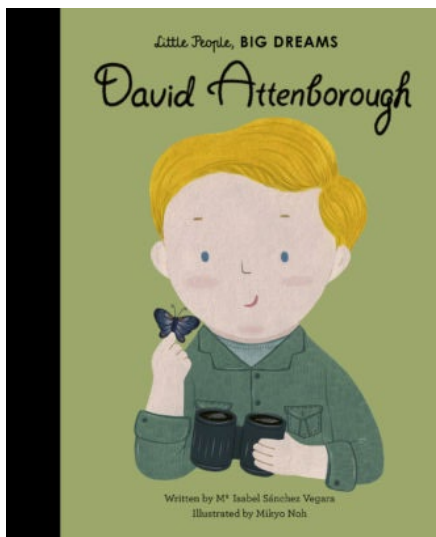
The fourth of Kate Pankhurst’s stimulating and entertaining books illuminating the lives of inspirational women. She uses facts alongside illustrations with cartoon style speech balloons which has the effect of personalising the women rather than them appearing to be remote figures. Isatou Ceesay, Jane Goodall, Anita Roddick and Wangari Maathai are perhaps the best known names included with others waiting to be discovered by young readers such as Ingeborg Beling, Maria Telkes and the women of the Chipko Movement.



One Plastic Bag by Miranda Paul, illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon
Millbrook Press, USA 9781467716086

The true story of Isatou Ceesay who saw the problem that the proliferation of plastic bags was causing in her country, the Gambia, contaminating the environment and killing the goats that swallowed them. She collaborated with other local women to crochet thread made from the plastic bags to create purses resulting in a thriving trade and reducing pollution. The illustrator grew up in West Africa and has used colourful papers and leftover shopping bags in the creation of her pictures.

A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/one-plastic-bag>
A teaching sequence for this book is available to Power of Reading subscribers.



David Attenborough (Little People, Big Dreams) by Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara, illustrated by Mikyo Noh
Frances Lincoln 9780711245631

Children can connect with David Attenborough by reading about his childhood and how he first became fascinated by the natural world. They can then go on to learn how his career developed as a broadcaster and a maker of the famous documentaries he continues to produce in his belief that humans have the power to preserve this planet and that ‘there are always new things to discover if you take the time to look for them’.

Also in this series: *Jane Goodall* by Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara, illustrated by Beatrice Cerochi. Frances Lincoln 9781786032942.



Greta Thunberg (Little People, Big Dreams) by Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara, illustrated by Anke Weckmann. Frances Lincoln 9780711256439

The Extraordinary Life of Greta Thunberg by Devika Jina, illustrated by Petra Braun
Puffin 9780241443897

Greta's Story by Valentina Camerini, illustrated by Veronica Carratello, translated from Italian by Moreno Giovannoni
Simon & Schuster 9781471190650

Since she initiated the first School Strike for Climate in 2018, Greta Thunberg has become the most well-known climate activist on the planet, inspiring many people of all ages. Her own book of speeches **No One is Too Small to Make a Difference** (Penguin

9780141992716) is widely read. There is also an illustrated edition (Allen Lane 9780241453445). Greta's story has already been told in several books for children including those listed above.

The volume in the Little People, Big Dreams series is an excellent introduction – the text is brief but still manages to convey a lot including the fact that Greta kept to her principles by travelling in a wind and solar-powered boat to cross the ocean to speak to world leaders and that she sees Asperger's syndrome as a superpower. The illustrations and endpapers with banners in a variety of languages show the global reach and importance of the climate change campaign. Devika Jina's biography intersperses the narrative of Greta's life with significant quotes and boxes with related information. Valentina Camerini's account gives more detail about the life of Greta and her family before she began the School Strikes and includes an appendix about explaining global warming to children.

Mama Miti by Donna Jo Napoli, illustrated by Kadir Nelson
 Simon and Schuster, USA 9781416935056

Wangari's Trees of Peace by Jeanette Winter
 Harcourt, USA 9780152065454

Planting the Trees of Kenya by Claire A. Nivola
 Farrar, Straus and Giroux, USA 9780374399184

Wangari Maathai. The Woman Who Planted Millions of Trees
 by Franck Prévot, illustrated by Aurélia Fronty, translated from
 French by Dominique Clément
 Charlesbridge, USA 9781580896269
 Available from the Willesden Bookshop



These four picture books all describe the life of Wangari Maathai who was the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize for her work in encouraging the planting of forests in Kenya and creating the Green Belt movement, contributing to sustainable development and democracy. The illustrator of each book uses different styles and materials to create their pictures. The way Wangari Maathai's life story is told also varies in approach and emphasis. Donna Jo Napoli brings out the healing and useful properties of different kinds of trees, incorporating their Kikuyu names. Franck Prévot gives more information about the political situation pertaining in Kenya at the time. Claire A. Nivola talks about how the planting of the seeds took place. Jeanette Winter's text is the simplest of the four but does not shy away from the difficulties Wangari encountered.

Mama Miti is a CLPE Core Book

<https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/mama-miti-wangari-maathai-and-trees-kenya> A teaching sequence for this book is available to Power of Reading subscribers.

Related CLPE booklists:

<https://clpe.org.uk/library/booklists/trees-booklist> <https://clpe.org.uk/clpe/library/booklists/nicola-davies-booklist>

See also:

Ann Lazim: *Ten of the Best Books Connecting Children with Nature*. Books for Keeps no. 247 March 2021

<http://booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/247/childrens-books/articles/ten-of-the-best/ten-of-the-best-books-connecting-children-with-na>

Federation of Children's Book Groups: *The Planet We Share*. August 2020

<http://fcbg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/NNFN-list-2020-final.pdf>

Patrick Barkham: *Tears at bedtime: are children's books on environment causing climate anxiety?*

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/feb/27/tears-at-bedtime-greta-thunberg-effect-behind-boom-in-childrens-climate-crisis-books>