

Green Literacy Reading Suggestions for the Middle Grades

- Carson, Rachel L. (1998). *The Sense of Wonder*. New York, NY: HarperCollins.
The author urged parents to take their children to wild places in order to introduce them to the astonishing variety of life that exists all around us: to study birds, listen to the winds, and observe the stars.
- Collard III, Sneed B. (2006). *Flash Point*. Atlanta, GA: Peachtree.
After school Luther works part-time with a vet who rescues and retrains birds of prey but when he questions many of the community's beliefs about land use, he risks alienation from his friends and family.
- DeFelice, Cynthia. (1994). *Lostman's River*. New York, NY: Maxwell Macmillan International.
In the early 1900s, thirteen-year-old Tyler encounters vicious hunters whose actions threaten to destroy the Everglades ecosystem, and as a result joins the battle to protect that fragile environment.
- Fleischman, Paul. Judy Pedersen, Ill. (1997). *Seedfolks*. New York, NY: HarperCollins.
One by one, a number of people of varying ages and backgrounds transform a trash-filled inner-city lot into a productive and beautiful garden, and in doing so, the gardeners are themselves transformed.
- French, S. Terrell. (2009). *Operation Redwood*. New York, NY: Amulet Books.
In northern California, Julian Carter-Li and his friends, old and new, fight to save a grove of redwoods from an investment company that plans to cut them down.
- Friedman, Laurie. Jennifer Kalis, Ill. (2010). *Mallory Goes Green*. Minneapolis : Carolrhoda Books.
When Mallory is appointed to the Fern Falls Elementary School Environmental Committee, which is deciding on class projects for the upcoming Green Fair, she rapidly succeeds in alienating her classmates, friends, and family by her overzealous efforts to save the planet.
- George, Jean Craighead. (1991). *Who Really Killed Cock Robin? An Ecological Mystery*. New York, NY: HarperTrophy.
Eighth-grader Tony Isidoro follows a trail of environmental clues to try and figure out what ecological imbalances might have caused the death of the town's best-known robin.
- George, Jean Craighead. (1992). *The Missing 'Gator of Gumbo Limbo: An Ecological Mystery*. New York, NY: HarperCollins.
Sixth-grader Liza K., one of five homeless people living in an unspoiled forest in southern Florida, searches for a missing alligator destined for official extermination and studies the delicate ecological balance keeping her outdoor home beautiful.

George, Jean Craighead. (1999). *Frightful's Mountain*. New York, NY: Dutton Children's Books.

As she grows through the first years of her life in the Catskill Mountains of New York, a peregrine falcon called Frightful interacts with various humans, including the boy who raised her, a falconer who rescues her, and several unscrupulous poachers, as well as with many animals that are part of the area's ecological balance.

Holling, Holling C. (1980). *Paddle to the Sea*. New York, NY: Sandpiper.

A young Indian boy from Nipigon country in the Canadian wilderness carves an Indian figure in a 12-inch canoe that he names Paddle-to-the-Sea. Wishing that he could undertake a journey to the Atlantic Ocean, the boy sends the toy carving instead.

Hiaasen, Carl. (2002). *Hoot*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf.

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

Hiaasen, Carl. (2009). *Scat*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf.

Nick and his friend Marta decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts near a Florida wildlife preserve and an unpopular teacher goes missing.

Morton, Alexandra. (1993). *In the Company of Whales*. Custer, WA: Orca Book Publishers.

In the Company of Whales brings a greater understanding of wild animals to young people.

Paulsen, Gary. (1987). *Hatchet*. New York, NY: Bradbury Press.

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

Paulsen, Gary. (1988). *The Island*. New York, NY: Orchard Books.

Fifteen-year-old Wil discovers himself and the wonders of nature when he leaves home to live on an island in northern Wisconsin.

Paulsen, Gary. (1991). *The River*. New York, NY: Delacorte Press.

Because of his success surviving alone in the wilderness for fifty-four days, fifteen-year-old Brian, profoundly changed by his time in the wild, is asked to undergo a similar experience to help scientists learn more about the psychology of survival. Sequel to "Hatchet."

Paulsen, Gary. (1996). *Brian's Winter*. New York, NY: Delacorte Press.

Instead of being rescued from a plane crash, as in the author's book *Hatchet*, this story portrays what would have happened to Brian had he been forced to survive a winter in the wilderness with only his survival pack and hatchet.

- Paulsen, Gary. (1999). *Brian's Return*. New York, NY: Delacorte Press.
After having survived alone in the wilderness, Brian finds that he can no longer live in the city but must return to the place where he really belongs.
- Paulsen, Gary. (2003). *Brian's Hunt*. New York, NY: Wendy Lamb Books.
Two years after having survived a plane crash into the Canadian wilderness, a sixteen-year-old returns to the wild to befriend a wounded dog and hunt a rogue bear.
- Rawlings, Marjorie K. (2001). *The Yearling*. New York, NY: Aladdin Classics.
A young boy living in the Florida backwoods is forced to decide the fate of a fawn he has lovingly raised as a pet.
- Revkin, Andrew. (2006). *The North Pole Was Here*. Boston, MA: Kingfisher.
Discover the North Pole and the arctic ice that covers the ocean water there. Learn about historical expeditions, and the recent one the author joined and where these chapters were written.
- Rohmer, Harriet. Julie McLaughlin, Ill. (2009). *Heroes of the Environment: True Stories of People Who Are Helping to Protect Our Planet*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books.
This book profiles the accomplishments of twelve environmentalists from United States, Canada, and Mexico.
- Sleator, William. (1997). *The Beasties*. New York, NY: Puffin Books.
When fifteen-year-old Doug and his younger sister Colette move with their parents to a forested wilderness area, they encounter some weird creatures whose lives are endangered.
- Thomas, Rob. (1999). *Green Thumb*. New York, NY : Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.
While spending the summer in the Amazon rain forest of Brazil doing botanical research, thirteen-year-old Grady discovers a secret language used by the trees to communicate with each other and falls afoul of the dictatorial Dr. Carter, whose motives seem questionable.
- Todd, Pamela. (2008). *Blind Faith Hotel*. New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books.
When her parents separate and she and her siblings move with their mother from the northwest coast to a Midwest prairie farmhouse, fourteen-year-old Zoe, miserably unhappy to be away from the ocean and her father, begins to develop a deep attachment to her new surroundings, when, after a shoplifting episode, she is assigned to work at a nature preserve. (This is a young adult novel, characters are not middle graders, but we see it as “too good to miss!”)
- Welles, Lee. (2007). *Gaia Girls Enter the Earth*. Corning, NY: Daisyworld Press.

Elizabeth Angier was happy to be at the end of the school year. She thought her summer on the family farm would be full of work and play with her best friend, Rachel, and her other best friend, her dog, Maizey. However, Elizabeth didn't anticipate the Harmony Farms Corporation moving to her town. Her world starts to crumble as her best friend moves away and her parents whisper of farmers selling their land and the effects this factory farm operation could have on them.

Weyn, Suzanne. (2010). *Empty*. New York, NY: Scholastic Press.

When, just ten years in the future, oil supplies run out and global warming leads to devastating storms, senior high school classmates Tom, Niki, Gwen, Hector, and Brock realize that the world as they know it is ending and lead the way to a more environmentally-friendly society.

Wolfson, Julie. (2006). *Home, and Other Big, Fat Lies*. New York, NY: Henry Holt.

Eleven-year-old Termite, a foster child with an eye for the beauty of nature and a talent for getting into trouble, takes on the loggers in her new home town when she tries to save the biggest tree in the forest.