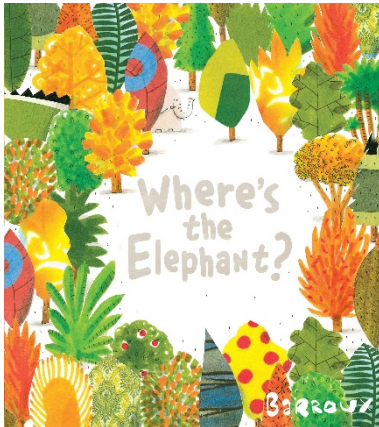


Environment Booklist

A selection of Picture books, Poetry, Fiction and Information Books with a variety of environmental themes.

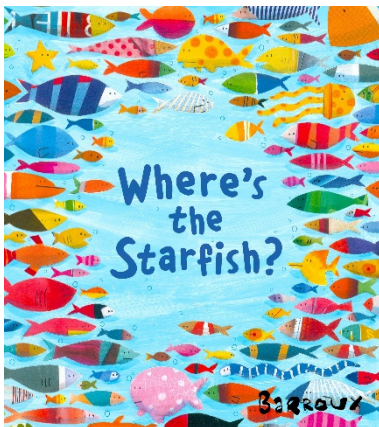
Picture Books



Where's the Elephant? by Barroux

Egmont 9781405271387

A beautiful forest stands by the edge of the sea with trees strikingly illustrated using collage techniques in green, orange and yellow hues. Who lives in the forest? If we look carefully we can find an elephant, a snake and a parrot hidden amongst the foliage. But, almost imperceptibly at first, change is coming. How will the animals cope with the erosion of their environment? Barroux was inspired by the format of the *Where's Wally?* books to create this thoughtful wordless picture book about deforestation in the Amazon which, despite its serious message, has comical and hopeful elements. For more wordless books see <https://clpe.org.uk/library-and-resources/booklists/wordless-picture-books>



Where's the Starfish? by Barroux

Egmont 9781405271394

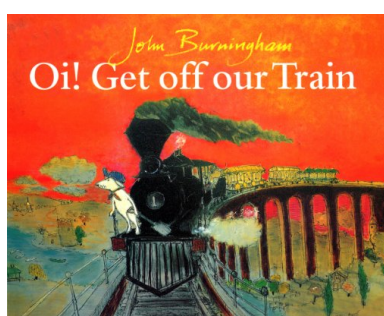
Having highlighted the threat to forests, Barroux turns to the pollution of the oceans. A shoal of multi-coloured fish of many shapes and sizes are intrigued by a pile of debris at the bottom of the ocean. The pile becomes a mountain of items discarded by human beings, destroying the underwater environment. 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.

A CLPE booklist



Alba the Hundred Year Old Fish by Lara Hawthorne
Big Picture Press 9781787412927

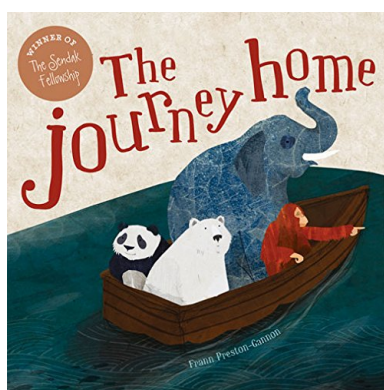
Alba is a very old fish who lives on a coral reef and has seen many changes in the ocean in her long life. However, she is not prepared for getting trapped inside a plastic bottle when she goes in search of a beautiful pearl. A story which encourages consideration about the dangers of plastics in the 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.



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.

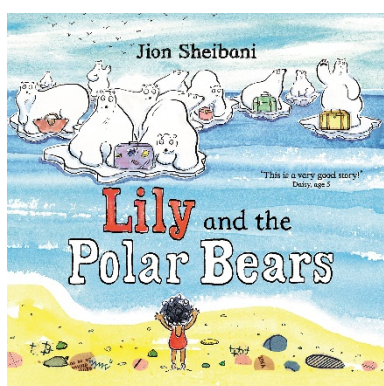
A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/oi-get-our-train>



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.

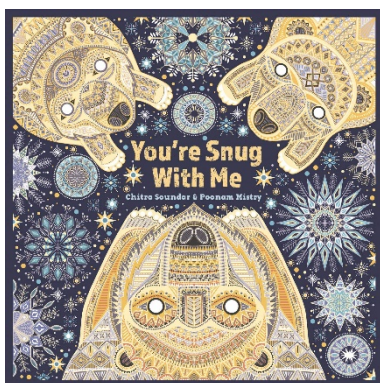
A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/journey-home>



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.

A CLPE booklist



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

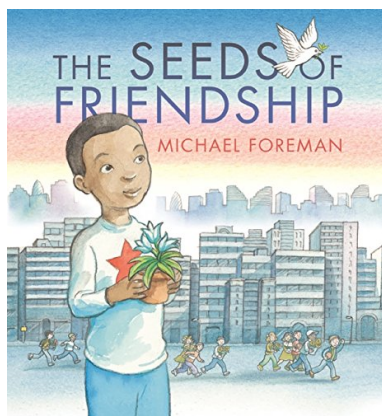
A polar bear gives birth to two cubs in a den where she 'waited for the falling snow to seal it shut.' She prepares them for the wonders and the dangers of the world they will face outside, reassuring them with the comforting refrain of the title. The stunning illustrations use beautifully designed patterns 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 9781406356502

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.

See our booklist for more books by Michael Foreman

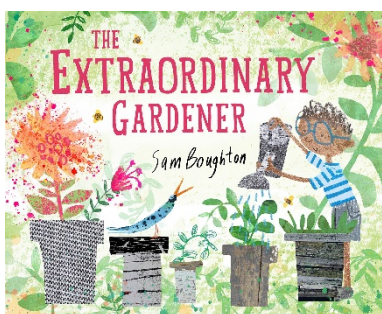
<https://clpe.org.uk/clpe/library/booklists/michael-foreman-booklist>

A CLPE 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 9781849765664

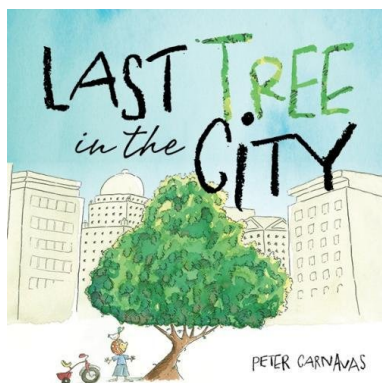
A small boy with a vivid imagination is motivated to bring life and colour to his dull and grey urban environment. Inspired by an idea in his favourite book, Joe finds and plants an apple seed and waits for nature's magic to begin. As his garden grows and expands to include many other plants, his neighbours 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

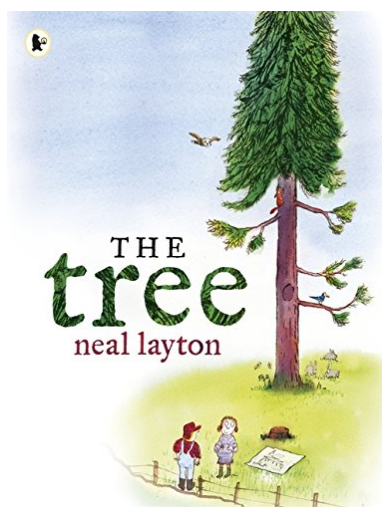
Funni loves hearing the planes and watching the sights from the abandoned airport car park, but she feels that something is missing. Over the course of the book, she transforms the abandoned area into a beautiful garden and with it, discovers a new friend. A wonderful story sharing the impact small actions 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 Staff Pick 2018 <https://clpe.org.uk/library/booklists/clpe-staff-picks-2018>

A CLPE booklist



Last Tree in the City by Peter Carnavas
New Frontier Publishing 9781912076550

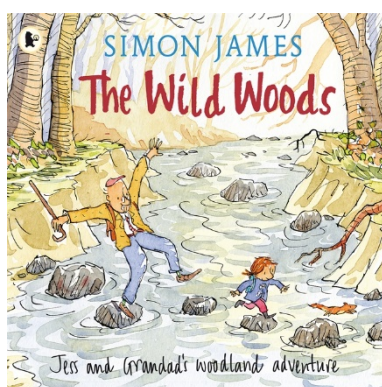
Edward lives in a colourless city where the only thing that makes him forget the concrete and the cars is the last remaining tree. When he discovers that this has gone, can he find a way to make his local environment green again for everyone to enjoy?



The Tree by Neal Layton
Walker 9781406373202

The importance of inference in reading a picture book is superbly demonstrated here. The written text is minimal. It begins with a lone tree and then drills down to the names of animal homes within it, while the pictures portray their occupants. Then come some new arrivals – what changes might they bring and will they be for good or ill? There's a wonderful wordless central moment when the protagonists realise what they have done and before they are galvanised into affirmative action.

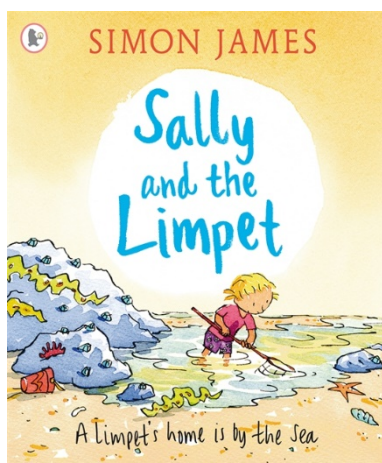
A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/tree>



The Wild Woods by Simon James
Walker 9781406308457

Jess sees a red squirrel whilst walking in the woods with her grandfather, chases it over the gate and across the stream – because she wants to take it home. Grandad follows – protesting and suffering mishaps only observable in the witty pictures. Grandad's wisdom prevails and Jess acknowledges that the squirrel belongs in the wild.

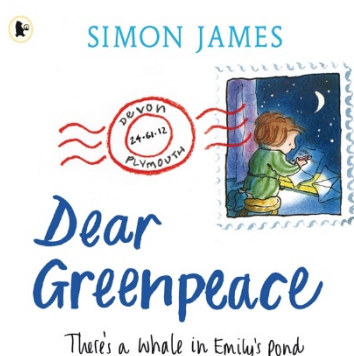
A CLPE booklist



Sally and the Limpet by Simon James

Walker 9781406308464

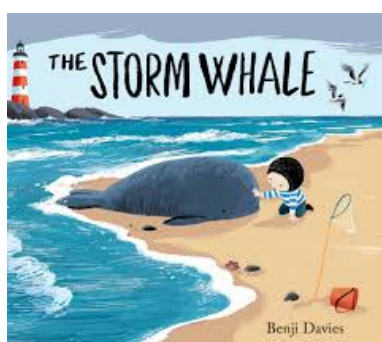
Like Jess in *The Wild Woods* Sally also learns that most creatures need to remain in a suitable environment in order to survive when a limpet transfers from a seaside rock to the end of her finger. The story that unfolds is a gentle comedy humorously highlighted in the expressions on Sally's face.



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

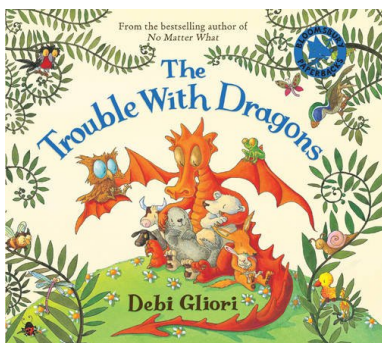
Simon & Schuster 9781471115684

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. Benji Davies' colour palette, with its emphasis on blue and yellow, is used to pleasing effect whether he is portraying the vistas of the sea and the shore or the detail of the home environment shared with affectionate co-operation between Noi and his dad. Also: *The Storm Whale in Winter* Simon & Schuster 9781471119989 and *Grandma Bird* Simon & Schuster 9781471171802

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

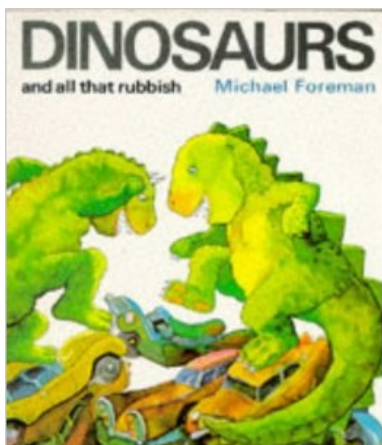


A CLPE booklist



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.



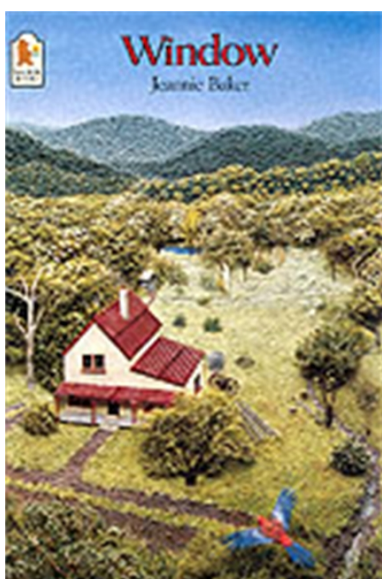
Dinosaurs & All That Rubbish by Michael Foreman
Puffin 9780140552607

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>

See our booklist for more books by Michael Foreman

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



Window by Jeannie Baker
Walker 9780744594867

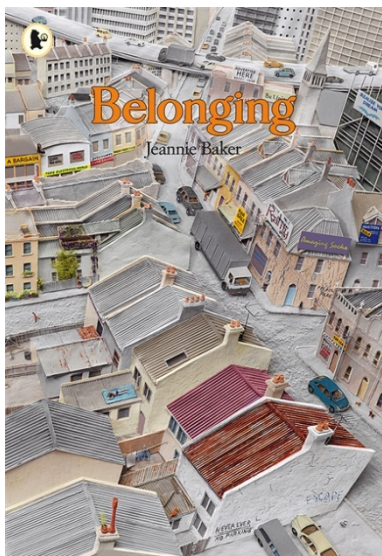
A wordless picture book which could provoke much discussion about the effects of humanity on the environment. A view from the same window is seen over a period of twenty years to show the changes that take place as a newborn child grows to adulthood. The collage illustrations are almost tactile.

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>



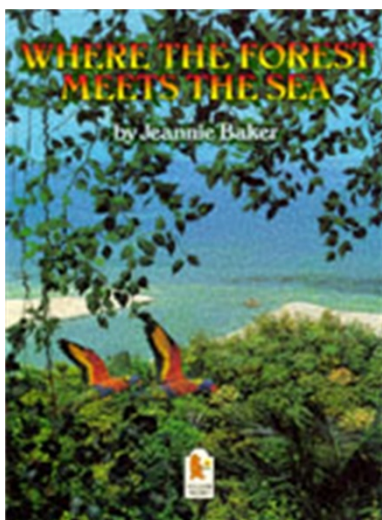
A CLPE booklist



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 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

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>

Counting Lions

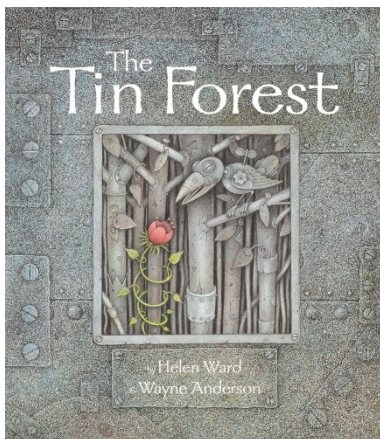


Counting Lions by Katie Cotton and Stephen Walton
Lincoln Children's Books 9781847807212

An exquisitely drawn lion, pictured with the distinctiveness of a black and white photograph, looks out challengingly from the cover of this large format book. Other animals are poetically described and illustrated in increasing numbers until we reach ten zebras lined up drinking at a waterhole. However, the point is that the global numbers of each of these animals is decreasing. At the end of the book information is provided about the endangered status of each of them.

A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/counting-lions>

A CLPE booklist



The Tin Forest by Helen Ward & Wayne Anderson

Templar 9781848776678

A tale of transformation. An old man lives in a grey and forsaken place 'that looked out on other people's rubbish and bad weather'. He dreams of a wild and colourful place and uses the resources around him in such a creative way that change comes about and a natural forest becomes entwined with one of metal.

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



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.



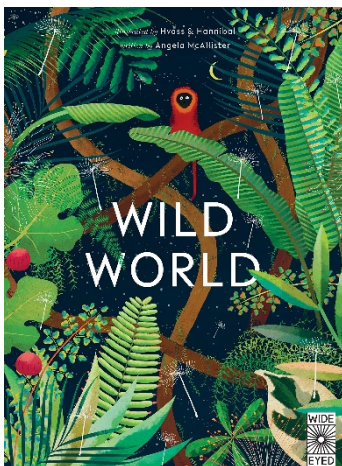
Poetry



All the Wild Wonders. Poems of our Earth edited Wendy Cooling,
illustrated by Piet Grobler

Lincoln Children's Books 9781847809940

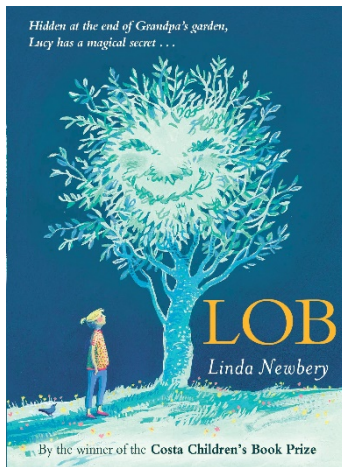
A worldwide tour of wonders, including poems from Australia, China, Greenland and Russia as well as several old and new from England, ranging through work by John Milton, Thomas Hardy, Grace Nichols and Benjamin Zephaniah. Themes flow throughout the book with poems about wind, whales, trees or birds nestling together amongst Piet Grobler's illustrations which surround and complement them.



Wild World by Angela McAllister, illustrated by Hvass&Hannibal
Wide Eyed Editions 9781847809650

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.

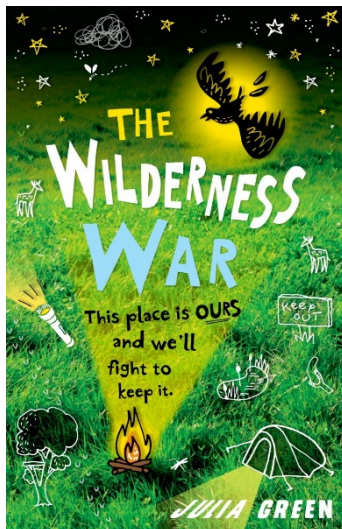
Fiction



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 & rebirth. The strong environmental theme of the book makes it ideal for cross curricular work.

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?

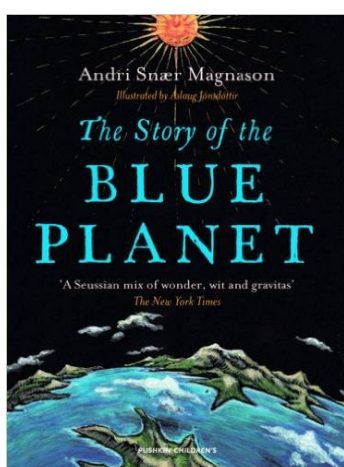
A CLPE booklist



Run Wild by Gill Lewis

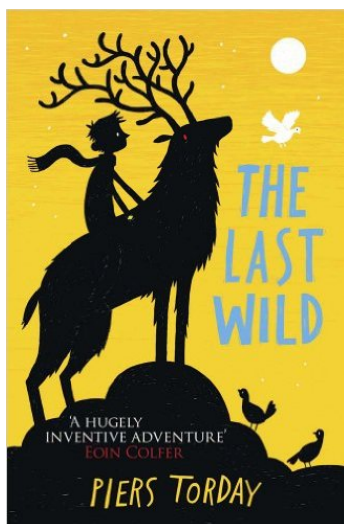
Barrington Stoke 9781781128282

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?



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.



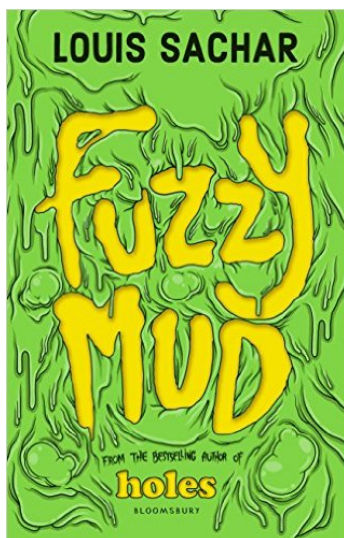
The Last Wild by Piers Torday

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

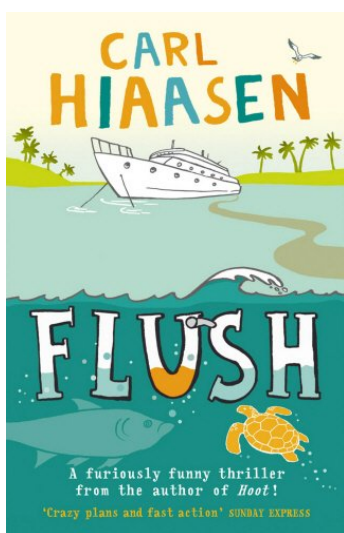
A CLPE booklist



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.

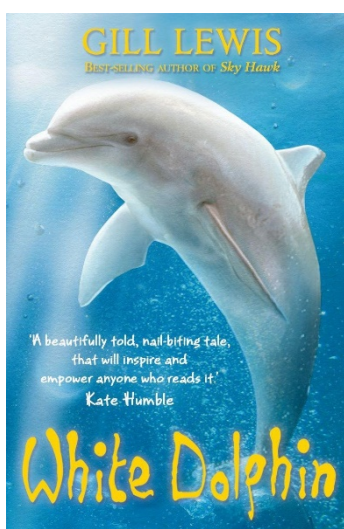
A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/fuzzy-mud-1>



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.

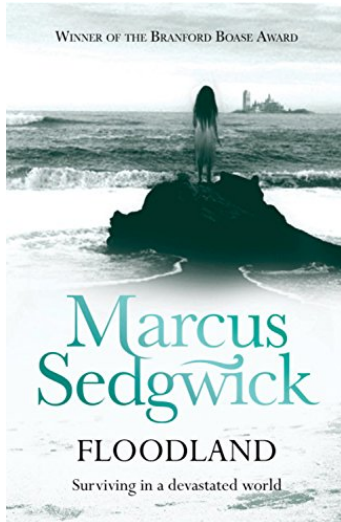
A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/flush>



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.

A CLPE booklist

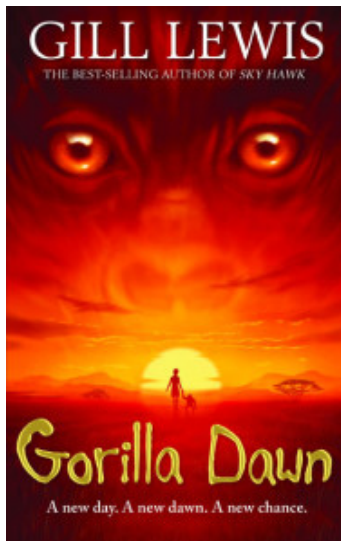


Floodland by Marcus Sedgwick

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

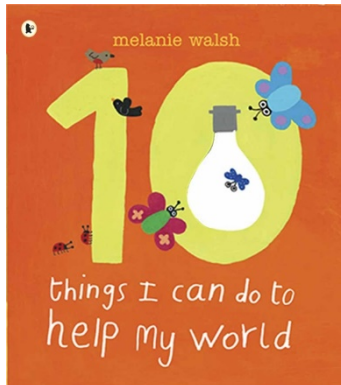
Oxford University Press 9780192739179

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. Also by Melanie Walsh: *My Green Day* Walker 9781406377149

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.

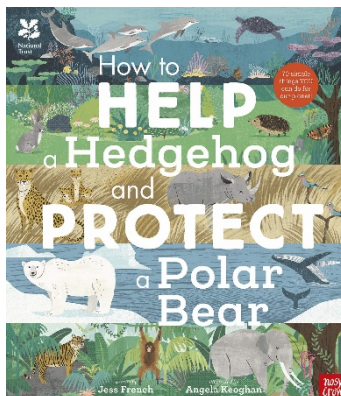


Trees by Lemniscates

Walker 9781406376746

A brief poetic text gradually builds information about trees, beginning with seasonal changes and progressing to their important role in our world. The mixed media collage illustrations show how birds and people interact with them emphasising their essential nature. Also by Lemniscates: *Birds* Walker 9781406387339

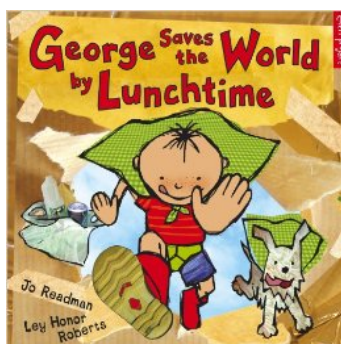
A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/trees-0>



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 savannas. 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 CLPE booklist

Counting Lions



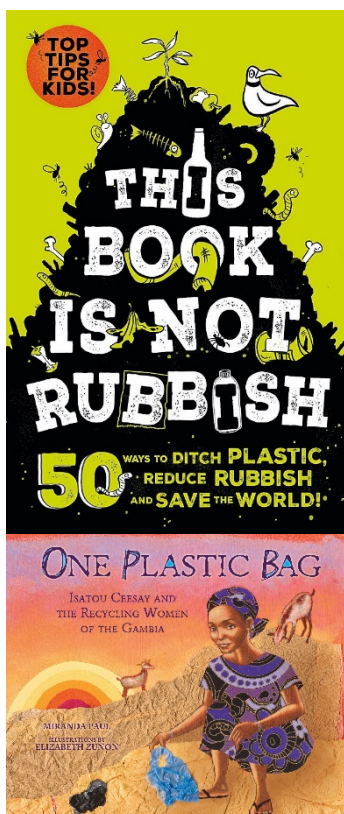
Counting Lions by Katie Cotton and Stephen Walton
Lincoln Children's Books 9781847807212

An exquisitely drawn lion, pictured with the distinctiveness of a black and white photograph, looks out challengingly from the cover of this large format book. Other animals are poetically described and illustrated in increasing numbers until we reach ten zebras lined up drinking at a waterhole. However, the point is that the global numbers of each of these animals is decreasing. At the end of the book information is provided about the endangered status of each of them. A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/counting-lions>



The Great Big Green Book by Mary Hoffman and Ros Asquith
Lincoln Children's Books 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.



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

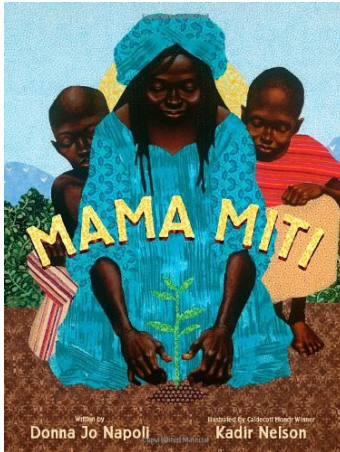
A compendium of ideas and information about helping to save the planet, giving practical ideas about eco-friendly things young people can do individually or collectively. The emphasis is on making changes involving ditching plastic, recycling and reducing rubbish rather than on taking political action.

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->



A CLPE booklist



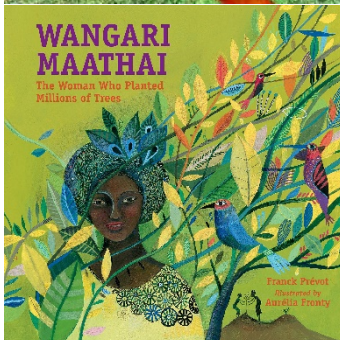
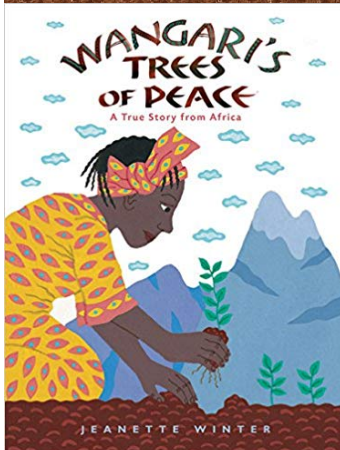
[bag](#) A teaching sequence for this book is available to Power of Reading subscribers.

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.