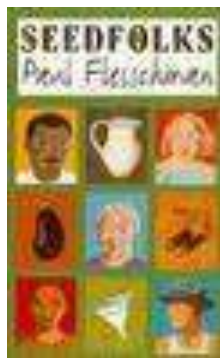


SHCPS Summer



Reading 2011

This spring, SHCPS staff, families and community members all pitched in to clear the land across the street from the school on Eastern Avenue. Over the summer, the work will continue (Contact Christopher Young at cyoung3@worchester.edu to help out!) so, upon our return to school in August, we can proudly unveil our Community Garden!

In the spirit of this event, all classes will partake in a series of garden related projects that span across all content areas.

To prepare, all Junior Academy students should read Seedfolks by Paul Fleischman.

This beautiful book, which has won the Buckeye Children's Book Award and has been named a "Best Book" by the Young Adults Library, School Library Journal and Publishers Weekly, tells the stories of twelve characters who come together through the founding of a neighborhood garden in Cleveland, IL. It is a "hymn to a sense of community."

Please be aware that some of the characters in the book explore some sensitive topics. Parents, if you are uncomfortable with any of the issues this book touches upon, please allow your child to choose an alternative book from the list below, or another book of substance that focuses on gardens or other environmental endeavors. Better yet, read the book alongside your child so that you can serve as a mature sounding board as your child ponders the messages of the story.

Enjoy!

Students in all other grades should choose at least three books from the bibliography below. Try out some of the projects listed in the activity books too! Have fun!

*An Annotated Bibliography of
Children's Literature with Environmental Themes*

Adapted from a bibliography compiled by Nancy Andersen, Librarian OLCS, Erie, PA and Susan Miceli, Children's Services Manager, ECPL, Erie, PA

Albert, Richard E. [*Alejandro's Gift*](#). Chronicle Books; ISBN: 0811813428

A Reading Rainbow Selection - Alejandro, who lives along a desert road with a burro as his only companion, decides to plant a garden to help pass his lonely hours. What the garden leads to is more than the old man could have imagined. An uplifting story with a powerful environmental lesson.

Allsburg, Chris Van. [*Just a Dream*](#). Houghton Mifflin Co (Juv); ISBN: 0395533082

A surrealistic masterpiece about the environment. Young Walter couldn't care less about the environment until a terrifying nightmare about the future--with landfills buying neighborhoods--drastically changes his perspective.

Baker, Jeannie. [**Window*](#). New York: Greenwillow Books, 1991. ISBN 0688089186

This wordless picture book chronicles events and changes in a young boy's habitat as seen through the window of his room. A peaceful rural neighborhood evolves slowly into a crowded and dirty city. Australian author and illustrator Baker uses collage construction to indicate the passage of time and to describe the effect of growth and development on the child's environment. At the end of the story, the boy is grown, and is seen moving his own child to a new house in another rural area. And the cycle begins again.

Baker, Jeannie. [*Where the Forest Meets the Sea*](#). William Morrow & Company; ISBN:

0688063632 On a camping trip in an Australian rain forest with his father, a young boy thinks about the history of the plant and animal life around him and wonders about their future.

Bang, Molly. [*Common ground: The Water, Earth and Air We Share*](#). New York: Blue Sky Press, 1997. ISBN 0590100564 How do our individual actions affect the world? This modern parable invites discussion of this question. It is a simple parable of sheep that reveals a disturbing paradox about our relationships with the environment that sustains us. With older children, it can be used as an illustration of short-term solutions vs. long term consequences.

Behn, Harry. [**Trees*](#). New York: Henry Holt and Co, 1992. ISBN 0805035508

The rhythmic text highlights the importance of observation skills in nature. The melodic words

complement the detailed drawings of trees and the creatures that depend upon them. It is one of the few current picture books printed on recycled paper.

Bjork, Christina. [*Linnea in Monet's Garden*](#). Stockholm: R&S Books, 1985. ISBN 9129583144 The author uses a mix of fiction, fact and fantasy to describe a young girl's visit to Monet's garden in France. Actual photographs of Monet's garden are combined with watercolor drawings and reproductions of Monet's paintings.

Bowden, Marcia. [*Nature for the Very Young A handbook of indoor and outdoor activities*](#). New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc, 1989. ISBN 047162084X These preschool activities highlight the value of listening and observing during nature walks. The author stresses the importance of using all the senses to truly experience nature. Since early childhood is the best time to introduce environmental education, the book gives ideas, stories, and patterns to use with toddlers and preschoolers.

Brenner, Barbara. [*The Earth Is Painted Green : A Garden of Poems About Our Planet*](#). Scholastic Trade; ISBN: 0590451340 A collection of nearly one hundred poems, from authors including Carl Sandburg, Shel Silverstein, John Ciardi, and Margaret Wise Brown, offers an evocation and celebration of the miracle of nature and the wonders of Earth.

Brown, Ruth. [*Toad*](#). New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1997. ISBN 0525457577 A slimy, grimy toad has a close call with a monster in the swamp. *Toad* is fun to read to adults, or an engaging introduction to wetlands for children. Gruesome, yucky pictures highlight the rhythmic text. It is a wonderful story to use as an introduction to wetland habitats.

Bunting, Eve. [*Secret Place*](#). New York: Clarion Books, 1996. ISBN 0395643678 This book is one of the infrequent stories about experiencing nature in the city. A young boy finds a patch of wilderness in the middle of the urban landscape. Expressive language makes the hidden nature preserve come alive with sound and color. Green -winged mallards cackle, coots quack, teals rah-rah, possums and coyotes slink.

Burningham, John. [*Hey! Get Off Our Train*](#). New York: Crown Publishing, 1989. ISBN 0517882043 A boy dreams about rescuing endangered species as he takes a train ride. Each animal boards the train and explains why the survival of their species is threatened by habitat destruction. A catchy repeating refrain encourages kids to join in the reading of this book.

Carlstrom, Nancy. [**Wild Wild Sunflower Child Anna*](#). New York: Macmillan Publishers, 1987. ISBN 0689714459 An African-American child experiences a sense of wonder while exploring the outdoors. Bright pictures illustrate the joys of sun, sky, grass, flowers, berries, frogs, ants and beetles.

Carlson, Nancy White. [**How Does the Wind Walk?*](#) New York: Macmillan, 1993. ISBN 0027172759 A little boy watches the wind through the four seasons. The illustrations celebrate the changing moods of nature throughout the year.

Carson, Rachel. [*The Sense of Wonder*](#) Harpercollins; ISBN: 006757520X

Featuring stunning new photographs, many in color, and an updated design, this special reissue of Rachel Carson's award-winning classic--originally published by Harper & Row in 1965--encourages sharing the miracle of nature with children.

Cherry, Lynn. [*The Great Kapok Tree*](#). San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1990. ISBN 015200520X A man in the rainforest has a dream that the rainforest animals beg him not to destroy their homes. This book proclaims a conservation message about the most widely studied endangered habitat, the South American rainforest. Endpapers show a map of historical and current areas of rainforest, layers of animals, and pictures of the animals, birds and insects mentioned in the story.

Durell, Ann, George, Jean Craighead, and Paterson, Katherine, eds. [**The Big Book for the Planet*](#). New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1993. ISBN 0525451196 Noted children's authors demonstrate environmental problems, such as overpopulation, tampering with nature, litter, pollution and waste disposal. A variety of reading levels encourages teachers to use this book at different grade levels. Poems, stories and articles written and illustrated by authors and artists who think the Earth needs more clean water, fresh air, trees, bats, whales and mushrooms, and less garbage, traffic, pollution. The message is that we can work with our planet, not against it; humans must live in harmony with the environment.

Fleming, Denise. [*In the Tall Tall Grass*](#). New York: Henry Holt, 1991. ISBN 080501635X A backyard tour starts at high noon and progresses towards evening. Using rhymed text, e.g. crunch munch, caterpillar lunch, this book presents a toddler's views of creatures found in the grass from lunchtime till nightfall, such as bees, ants, and moles.

Fleming, Denise. [*Where Once There Was a Wood*](#). New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1996. ISBN 0805037616 Using torn paper and collage, the author examines the many forms of wildlife that can be displaced if their environment is destroyed by development. Fleming discusses how communities and schools can provide spaces for wildlife to live. She includes instructions on how welcome wildlife to your backyard by providing the essentials of space, shelter, water, and food.

Fife, Dale H. [*The Empty Lot*](#). San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1991. ISBN 0606088873 While inspecting an empty, partially wooded lot before selling it, Harry finds it occupied by birds, insects, and other small animals. He decides not to sell the lot, since it is not so empty after all. A wonderful book to use with an urban nature unit.

Foster, Leila M. [**The Story of Rachel Carson and the Environmental Movement*](#). Chicago: Children's Press, 1990. ISBN 0516047531 A selection from the Cornerstones of Freedom series, this elementary level biography describes the life of Rachel Carson and the effect of her writing on the environmental movement.

Fowler, Susi. [**When Summer Ends*](#). New York: Greenwillow Books, 1989. ISBN 068807605X A young girl is sorry to see summer end until she remembers the joy of the other seasons.

Friedman, Pamela. [*Earth Day Activities*](#). Teacher Created Materials

This activity book, designed for grades K to 4, contains projects and ideas for increasing environmental awareness in students during Earth Day. Learning opportunities include a literature based unit based on the book [*Just A Dream*](#), which tells the story of a boy who travels to a future world full of pollution and environmental problems. The unit also includes related poetry and songs, and connecting activities such as completing a word web using the word pollution or environment and discussing the different types of pollution that exist in the world.

Gallivan, Marion. F. [*Fun for Kids II An Index to Children's Craft Books*](#). Metuchen, NJ: The Scarecrow Press, 1992. ISBN 0810825465 An essential reference book for environmental educators who work with children and need to plan crafts activities. Fun for Kids II gives a listing of books and magazines indexed by subject and crafts by type of material. It includes crafts based on subjects such as seasons, shells, bats, seeds, greenhouses, owls and leaves. It also indexes crafts by types of material such as pinecones, paper, rocks, shells, feathers, leaves and found objects.

Gibbons, Whit and Gibbons, Anne R. [*Ecoviews - Snakes, Snails and Environmental Tales*](#). Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1998 ISBN 0817309195 This fun-to-read, lively book offers a fascinating and thought-provoking look at the ecology of animals, plants, and their habitats while promoting awareness of today's pressing environmental issues.

Glaser, Linda. [*Wonderful Worms*](#). Brookfield CT: Millbrook Press, 1992. ISBN 1562940627 A non-fiction book illustrated in the style of a picture book. The pictures of the boy and the worm are centered to show both the underground and above ground worlds. The physical characteristics and behavior and life cycle of common earthworm are described A question and answer page gives accurate information about worms.

Glaser, Linda. [*Compost! Growing Gardens from your Garbage*](#). Brookfield CT: Millbrook Press, 1996. ISBN 1562946595 In this new kind of non-fiction story for children, the borders tell the story of seasons as a family practices composting and recycling. Beautiful warm illustrations indicate the value of these natural activities. Information on composting is provided in the back of book.

Goldberg, Jake. [*Rachel Carson \(Junior World Biographies\)*](#). Chicago: Chelsea Juniors, 1992. ISBN 0791015661 A good biography for young readers about the pioneer scientist and author.

Hall, Zoe. [*The Apple Pie Tree*](#). New York: Blue Sky Press, an imprint of Scholastic, 1996. ISBN 0590623826 A colorful collage shows the seasons and the cycle of nature through the life of an apple tree. An apple tree is seen as it grows leaves and flowers and then produces its fruit, while in its branches robins make a nest, lay eggs, and raise a family. Last page shows importance of bees to pollination and a recipe for apple pie.

Johnson, Cait. [*Celebrating the Great Mother : A Handbook of Earth-Honoring Activities for Parents and Children*](#). Inner Traditions Intl Ltd; ISBN: 0892815507

The ideas, suggestions, and activities collected here bring children into rituals that celebrate seasonal cycles and help reclaim the spiritual roots of today's modern holidays.

Luenn, Nancy. *[Mother Earth](#)*. New York: Atheneum, 1992. ISBN 0689316682

This is a joyful celebration of earth as our mother, the provider of all we need. With simple, poetic language, Luenn creates a timely picture of the earth and all her elements.

Martin, Bill Jr. & Archambault, John. *[Listen to the Rain](#)*. New York: Henry Holt and Co, 1988. ISBN 0805006826 Although deceptively simple, this book evokes the beauty and mystery, the sounds and silences of rain. Watery, misty, abstract paintings describe the changing sounds of rain, the "slow soft sprinkle, the drip drop tinkle, the sounding pounding roaring rain".

Muller, Gerda. *[*Around the Oak](#)*. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1991. ISBN 0525452397 Cousins come from the city and discover that each season brings special delights near a 300-year-old oak tree. The children enjoy outdoor activities such as watching birds and animals, collecting leaves and pinecones, hiking and picnicking. The author stresses the importance of listening and observation skills. The back of the book gives a glossary with pictures of animals, birds, leaves, plants mushrooms and insects found near the oak tree.

Muller, Gerda. *[*The Garden in the City](#)*. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1988 ISBN 0525446974 Ben and Caroline design their own garden in the backyard of a city townhouse. The seasonal joys of gardening are explained as the children watch the garden grow and change over the course of a year. Their friend, Luke, who uses a wheelchair, watches their garden and grows his own on a balcony next door.

O'Callahan, Jay. *[Herman and Marguerite: An Earth Story](#)*. Atlanta: Peachtree Publishing, 1996. ISBN 1561451037 An earthworm and a caterpillar become friends and work together to bring a neglected orchard back to life. The absence of eyes on the earthworm shows a more accurate invertebrate than most books on worms. Friendship and working together is a key theme of the story. The back pages of the book explain about worms and how they help the earth, along with the bees and butterflies. Also included are plans to make a worm bin.

Parker, Philip. *[Your Wild Neighborhood Project Eco-City](#)*. New York: Thompson Learning, 1995. ISBN 1568472471 This book is a useful and creative guide to investigating the ecology of our towns and cities. It includes instructions on mapping a neighborhood habitat in an urban area.

Peet, Bill. *[The Wump World](#)*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1970. ISBN 0395198410 The Wumps are classic heroes of this parable of environmental destruction. The Wumps are simple grass-eating imaginary animals with no enemies. Without warning, the greedy Pollutians arrive from planet Pollutious when their own planet becomes uninhabitable because of pollution. The Wump World is almost completely destroyed by the wasteful habits of the Pollutians. The Wumps regain their land when the Pollutians depart, " but the Wump World would never be quite the same."

Pfeffer, Wendy. *[A Logs' Life](#)*. New York: Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1997. ISBN 0689806361 An introduction to the life cycle of a tree and forest ecology, this book is a wonderful companion to Project Learning Tree. The illustrations feature collage construction

using cutting, painting sculpting, and gluing pieces of watercolor paper together. The author notes that no found objects or preserved specimens were used in the three dimensional artwork.

Polacco, Patricia. [*I Can Hear the Sun. A Modern Myth.*](#) New York: Philomel Books, 1996. ISBN 039922520X In an Oakland, California city park, the animal keeper and the park's homeless residents help Fondo, a lonely child living in foster care. Fondo finds friendship and acceptance with the help of the park's resident geese. This is a modern myth of faith and hope empowering all of earth's creatures, both animal and human.

Showers, Paul. [*Where Does the Garbage Go?*](#) Harpercollins Juvenile Books; ISBN: 0064451143 Trash doesn't just disappear after the garbage truck takes it away. In this book young readers follow the garbage truck to the landfill and the incinerator and then visit the recycling center to see how glass, metal, paper and plastic are recycled.

Silverstein, Shel. [*The Giving Tree.*](#) Harpercollins Juvenile Books; ISBN: 0060256656 This story of a boy who grows to manhood, and of a tree that gives him her bounty through the years, is a moving parable about the gift of giving and the capacity to love.

Seuss, Dr. [*The Lorax.*](#) New York: Random House, 1971. ISBN 0394823370 The Lorax is an imaginary character who speaks for the trees in this early example of environmental children's fiction. Dr. Seuss' insightful rhyming text and colorful illustrations still have relevance today.

Tamar, Erika. [*The Garden of Happiness.*](#) Harcourt Brace; ISBN: 0152305823 Set in multiracial neighborhood in New York, the neighbors get together to clean up an empty lot and plant a community garden. Marisol plants an unknown seed that turns out to be a sunflower. When the sunflower dies in the fall, she collects the seed to start again in the spring. The message here is that beauty can be found anywhere.

Yolen, Jane. [*Owl Moon.*](#) New York: Philomel Books, 1987. ISBN 0399214577 Caldecott Award winner John Schoenherr's illustrations enrich the gentle poetic story of man's close relationship with natural world. At bedtime, a father and daughter take a nighttime walk to see a horned owl, following Rachel Carson's advice to visit the outdoors at all times of the day in all seasons.

Zoehfeld, Kathleen. [*Ladybug at Orchard Avenue.*](#) Norwalk CT: Sound Prints, 1996 ISBN 1568992572 Follow a ladybug through a typical day at Orchard Avenue. The text combines with full-page illustrations to provide information about this beetle's life and habitat. It is a good introduction to environmental studies in a picture book format. The goal of the series is to foster an appreciation and understanding of wildlife and habitats at an early age.

Zolotow, Charlotte. [**Summer Is...*](#) New York: Crowell, 1967. ISBN 0690043031 Poetic text and rich illustrations capture the joys and beauties of each season.

Zolotow, Charlotte. [*When the Wind Stops.*](#) Harpercollins Juvenile Books; ISBN: 0060254254 A celebration of the continuity of life.