

PROTECT OUR PLANET

BOOKLIST FOR LEARNERS



About Protect Our Planet

The air, land, and water around us are changing — and young people are noticing. They're asking questions, making observations, and trying to understand what these changes mean for their world. But knowing what to do with that awareness can be harder. Protect Our Planet, this year's Students Rebuild project, invites young people ages 5–25 to explore the air, land, and water around them and use creativity to share their stories and ideas for a healthier planet.

Through art, writing, performance, photography, digital media, or STEM, students will explore, create, and share. Together, their creativity supports organizations worldwide caring for the air, land, and water we all depend on.

About This Resource

These books were selected as excellent starting points for learners ages 5-11 to explore their own relationships to the air, land, and water around them. Whether it's through stories of adventure, community or caring for nature, these titles inspire curiosity, hope, and the desire to protect the planet that we share. Each book is tagged with at least one element: air, land, or water, to facilitate learners' exploration.



1

Three-Eyed Frog by Olga De Dios

Ages 3-5 | Air, Land, Water

Three-Eyed Frog grew up in a polluted place and discovers she wants to change things, but can she manage on her own? A story about working together, raising awareness about environmental protection and cooperation.

2

The Lorax by Dr. Seuss

Ages 3-6 | Air, Land, Water

A young boy discovers the story of the Lorax, who spoke up for the trees when their forest was threatened. The book encourages readers to think about caring for nature.

3

How The Crayons Saved The Earth by Monica Sweeney

Ages 3-6 | Air, Land, Water | Illustrated by Wendy Leach

A group of crayons works together to find creative ways to help the planet. The story introduces simple environmental actions through colorful characters.

4

The Wump World by Bill Peet

Ages 4-7 | Air, Land, Water

Gentle creatures called Wumps live peacefully on their green planet until an invading species, the Pollutians, crash-land and pave over the meadows with concrete, smoke, and machinery. A quiet, hopeful classic about environmental destruction and resilience.

5

Our Air by G. Brian Karas

Ages 3-7 | Air

A picture book introducing young readers to the concept of air as an invisible, life-sustaining resource that makes up the atmosphere protecting our planet. Through vivid illustrations and simple text, it emphasizes that because everyone on Earth shares this air, taking care of it is a shared responsibility.

6

The Air We Share by Dee Romito

Ages 6-9 | Air

This nonfiction picture book explores how air connects every person, animal, and place on the planet, then traces where air pollution comes from and how it affects our health and environment.

7

On Our Nature Walk by Jillian Roberts

Ages 3-6 | Land

A child and adult explore nature together while observing plants, animals, and the changing environment. The story encourages curiosity and appreciation for the natural world.

8

Thank You, Garden by Liz Garton Scanlon

Illustrated by Simone Shin | Ages 4-8 | Land

A family plants, cares for, and enjoys a garden together. The story highlights gratitude for nature and where our food comes from.

9

Wangari's Trees Of Peace by Jeanette Winter

Ages 5-9 | Land

This true story of Wangari Maathai, environmentalist and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, is a shining example of how one woman's passion, vision, and determination inspired great change.

10

The Mess That We Made by Michelle Lord

Illustrated by Julia Blattman | Ages 5-7 | Water

This rhyming picture book paints a vivid picture of how trash and plastic have overwhelmed the ocean and the creatures living in it. The vibrant illustrations capture the scale of the problem and then pivot towards hope through cleanup and action. Includes real facts about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

11

Ocean Soup by Meeg Pincus

Ages 6-9 | Water | Illustrated by Lucy Semple

Readers learn how plastic pollution affects oceans and marine animals. The book explains how people can help keep waterways clean.

12

Blue Planet: Life In Our Oceans And Rivers by Moira Butterfield

Ages 6-9 | Water | Illustrated by Jonathan Woodward

This book introduces children to the animals that live in the world's oceans, rivers, lakes, and ponds. It also presents fascinating facts about the water cycle, different modes of transportation in water, and how water is prepared for drinking.

