

PROTECT OUR PLANET

BOOKLIST FOR LEARNERS



Booklist For Learners Ages 14+

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 14+ 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

Onward by Nora Shalaway Carpenter

Ages 12+ | Air, Land, Water

A collection of inspiring short stories for teens centered on the climate crisis, highlighting how small actions can make Earth sustainable against climate change.

2

Diary Of A Young Naturalist by Dara Mcanulty

Ages 13+ | Air, Land, Water

In this galvanizing love letter to nature, the author chronicles one year of nature observation across the seasons in Northern Ireland while navigating autism, bullying, and his emergence as a young climate activist.

3

A Bigger Picture by Vanessa Nakate

Ages 14+ | Air, Land, Water | Illustrated by Wendy Leach

The story of a college student's journey to global climate leadership, in an honest and inspiring narrative that's both memoir and vision for a better future.

4

The Carbon Diaries by Staci Lloyd

Ages 14+ | Air

In the year 2015, as global warming began to take a large toll on the environment, the UK became the first country to incorporate carbon rationing. Sixteen-year-old Laura Brown attempts to maintain her teenage lifestyle as her world goes up in flames, socially and literally.

5

The Story Of More by Hope Jahren

Ages 12+ | Air, Land

Author Jahren explains the current and projected consequences of global warming, from superstorms to rising sea levels, and the actions that the population must take to fight back.

6

Wings In The Wild by Margarita Engle

Ages 12-17 | Land

When a hurricane exposes Soleida's hidden family sculpture garden in Cuba, they are arrested for its political message, leaving her to escape to Central America, where she meets Dariel, a Cuban American boy, and together they work to protect the environment and bring attention to the imprisoned artists in Cuba.

7

The Words In My Hands by Asphyxia

Ages 13-16 | Land

In a time of food scarcity, environmental collapse, and political corruption, Piper, a deaf teenager, is more focused on her own survival. But she finds that a new world opens up, one where Deafness is something to celebrate, and where resilience means taking action, building a community, and believing in something better.

8

Braiding Sweetgrass For Young Adults by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Ages 13-17 | Land, Water

When Nandu's world is thrown into turmoil, so, too, is the world of Hira Prasad, the Center's powerful bull elephant. Author Dinerstein explores the complex bond between mankind and animals in the face of a natural disaster, resource scarcity, and self-serving intent.

9

The Last Whale by Chris Vick

Ages 12+ | Water

From killers to conservationists, the story of three generations of the Petersen family, their history as whale hunters, and later their mission to save the great whales and our planet. Vick presents a strong focus on never giving up on one's morals or passion, even beyond a single lifetime.