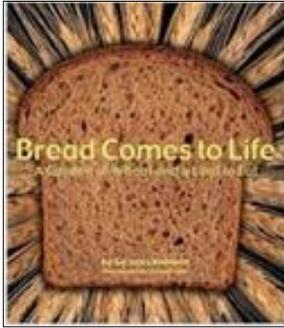


In Search of Wonder: Common Core and More
Earth Science, Geology, and Plant Life
Book Recommendations

This list of book recommendations was created by specialists in literature for young people to supplement *In Search of Wonder: Common Core and More*, a professional development day presented by The National Children’s Book and Literacy Alliance, in conjunction with the Perry Ohio School District. We invite you to print and share this list as needed. Books are listed by age range. This document is formatted so you can print it double sided on 3-hole punch paper and store in a binder. Lists of book recommendations for many other categories are available at: thencbla.org



Bread Comes to Life: A Garden of Wheat and Life to Eat
Written by George Levenson with photography by Shmuel Thaler.

Published by Tricycle Press.

For ages 3-7.

Nonfiction: With poetic text and vivid photographs, this book shows how a thresher, a grinder, and finally a doughy combination of flour, water, yeast, and oil combine to make a fresh loaf of whole wheat bread—showing kids that there's a lot more to this kitchen staple than

they might expect.

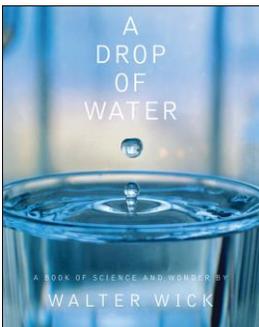
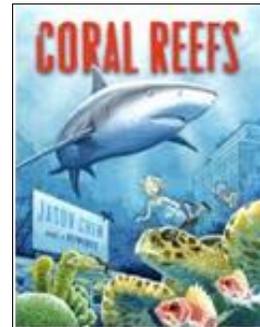
Coral Reefs

Written and illustrated by Jason Chin.

Published by Roaring Book Press.

For ages 4-5.

Fiction: During an ordinary visit to the library, a girl pulls a not-so-ordinary book from the shelves. She opens the book and the city around her slips away. She is surrounded by coral cities in a sea filled with mysterious plants and animals.



A Drop of Water: A Book of Science and Wonder

Written and illustrated by Walter Wick.

Published by Scholastic.

For ages 4-8.

Nonfiction: The most spectacular photographs ever created on the subject of water appear in this unique science book by Walter Wick.

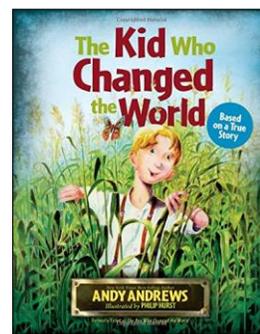
The Kid Who Changed the World

Written by Andy Andrews and illustrated by Phillip Hurst and Thomas Neslon.

Published by Thomas Nelson.

For ages 4-8.

Nonfiction: Opening: a young Norman Borlaug playing in his family’s cornfields with his sisters. One day, Norman would grow up and use his knowledge of agriculture to save the lives of two billion people. Based on *The Butterfly Effect*, this book shows children that even the smallest of our actions can affect all of humanity.



Rain

Written by Linda Ashman, illustrated by Christian Robinson.

Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

For ages 4-8.

Fiction: One rainy day in the city, an eager little boy exclaims, “Rain!” Across town a grumpy man grumbles, “Rain.” In this endearing picture book, a rainy-day cityscape comes to life in vibrant, cut-paper-style artwork. The boy in his green frog hat splashes in puddles—“Hoppy, hoppy, hoppy!”—while the old man curses the “dang puddles.” Can the boy’s natural exuberance (and perhaps a cookie) cheer up the grouchy gentleman and turn the day around?

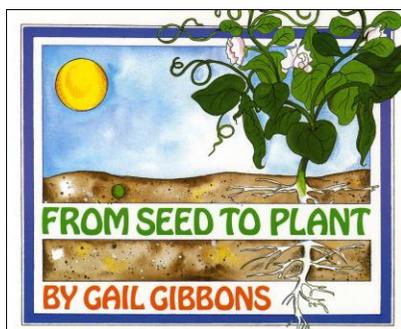
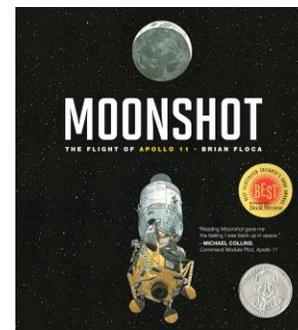
Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11

Written and illustrated by Brian Floca.

Published by Atheneum/Richard Jackson Books.

For ages 4-10.

Nonfiction: Simply told, grandly shown, here is the flight of Apollo 11. Here for a new generation of readers and explorers are the steady astronauts, clicking themselves into gloves and helmets, strapping themselves into sideways seats. Here are their great machines in all their detail and monumentality, the ROAR of rockets, and the silence of the Moon. Here is a story of adventure and discovery—a story of leaving and returning during the summer of 1969, and a story of home, seen whole, from far away.



From Seed to Plant

Written and illustrated by Gail Gibbons.

Published by Holiday House.

For ages 5 and up.

Nonfiction: Do you know how a seed begins? What pollination is? How flowers, fruits, and vegetables get to be the way they are? The mystery of how seeds are formed and grow into plants is revealed for young readers in this informative book. Included in Appendix B of the Common Core State Standards.

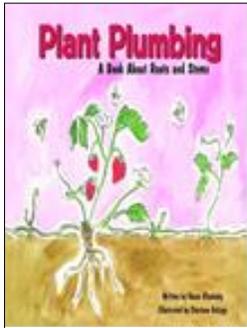
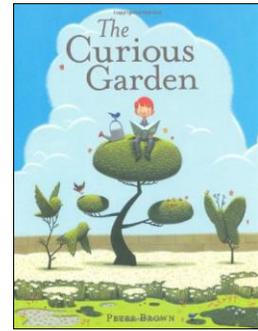
The Curious Garden

Written and illustrated by Peter Brown.

Published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

For ages 5-7.

Fiction: In this beautifully illustrated environmental story by Peter Brown, a young boy tends to a meager garden which blossoms and spreads across the city.



Plant Plumbing: A Book About Roots and Stems

Written by Susan Blackaby, illustrated by Charlene Delage.

Published by Nonfiction Picture Books.

For ages 5-7.

Nonfiction: Learn how plants store food during the winter and carry water up through the leaves to roots and stems.

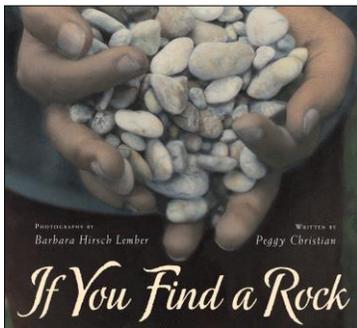
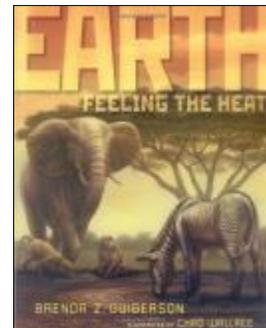
Earth: Feeling the Heat

Written by Brenda Z. Guiberson, illustrated by Chad Wallace.

Published by Henry Holt, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

For ages 5-8.

Nonfiction: Brenda Guiberson takes a unique look at global warming by focusing on how it affects animal environments and what kids can do to help.



If You Find A Rock

Written by Peggy Christian, illustrated by Barbara Hirsch Lember.

Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

For ages 6-9.

Nonfiction: Think of all the rocks there are: skipping rocks, splashing rocks, climbing rocks, and wishing rocks. Children can't help collecting them. With joyful, poetic text and luminous photographs, *If You Find a Rock* celebrates rocks everywhere—as well as the mysterious and wonderful places they are found.

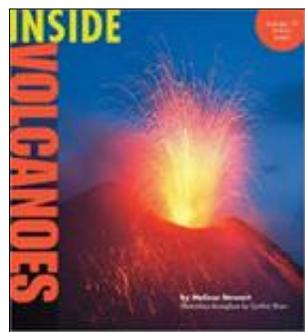
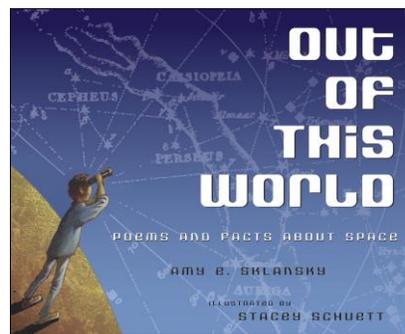
Out of This World Poems and Facts About Space

Written by Amy Sklansky, illustrated by Stacey Schuett.

Published by Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers.

For ages 8-10.

Poetry: This book captures both the science and wonder of space. Amy Sklansky and Stacey Schuett give young explorers the moon and stars and beyond! The mysteries of the universe and the science of space exploration are perennially popular subjects, and *Out of This World* is a wonderful introduction. Amy Sklansky has written evocative poems about planets, stars, rockets, moon landings, and satellites. Each poem is supported by additional facts and explanations in the margins. Stacey Schuett brings it all to life with color-soaked skies and beautiful perspectives in her fabulous paintings.



Inside Volcanoes

Written by Melissa Stewart.

Published by Sterling.

For ages 8-12.

Nonfiction: What causes scorching hot lava to spike through Earth's crust? What make a volcano blow its top? What do brave volcanologists learn by climbing right into a volcano's mouth? Spectacular photos, maps, diagrams, and first-person stories.

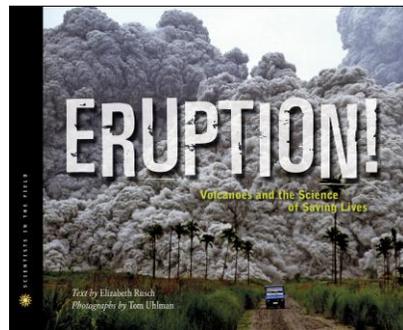
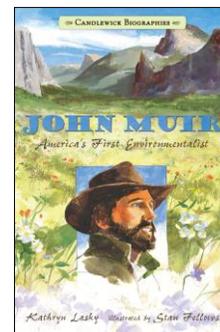
John Muir: America's First Environmentalist

Written by Kathryn Lasky, illustrated by Stan Fellows.

Published by Candlewick Press.

For ages 8-12.

Biography: *John Muir: America's First Environmentalist* is the life story of John Muir who, moved by a commitment to wilderness everywhere, founded the Sierra Club in 1892, a conservation group that carries on his crucial work to this day.



Eruption: Volcanoes and the Science of Saving Lives

Written by Elizabeth Rusch, illustrated by Tom Uhlman.

Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

For ages 9 and up.

Nonfiction: A stunning account of volcanologists Andy Lockhart, John Pallister, and their group of scientists who risk their lives, investigating deadly volcanoes that remain constant threats to people around the world.

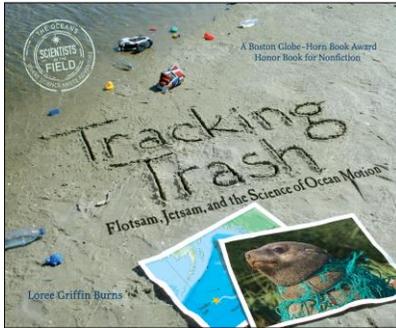
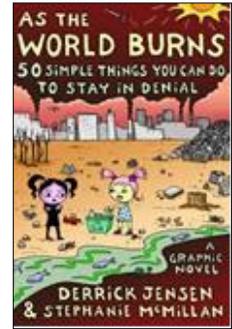
As the World Burns: 50 Simple Things You Can Do to Stay in Denial

Written by Derrick Jensen and Stephanie McMillan.

Published by Seven Stories Press.

For ages 9-14.

Fiction: A bold, hilarious satire of modern environmental policy: a fully illustrated graphic novel. The U.S. government gives robot machines from space permission to eat the earth. A one-eyed bunny rescues his friends from a corporate animal-testing laboratory. And two little girls figure out the secret to saving the world from both of its enemies.



Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion

Written by Loree Griffin Burns.

Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

For ages 10-16.

Nonfiction: Aided by an army of beachcombers, oceanographer Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer tracks trash in the name of science. From sneakers to hockey gloves, Curt monitors the watery fate of human-made cargo that has spilled into the ocean. The information he collects is much more than casual news; it is important scientific data. And with careful analysis, Curt, along with a community of scientists, friends, and beachcombers alike, is using his data to understand and protect our ocean. In engaging text and unforgettable images, readers meet the woman who started it all (Curt's mother!), the computer program that makes sense of his data (nicknamed OSCURS), and several scientists, both on land and on the sea, who are using Curt's discoveries to preserve delicate marine habitats and protect the creatures who live in them. A Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Honor Book for Nonfiction.

Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith

Written by Deborah Heiligman.

Published by Square Fish, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group in paperback and by Henry Holt, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group in hardcover.

For ages 12 and up.

Biography: Deborah Heiligman's biography of Charles Darwin is a thought-provoking account of the man behind evolutionary theory: how his personal life affected his work and vice versa. The end result is an engaging exploration of history, science, and religion for young readers.

