



The Booklist Project

**Focus: Earth Day and Environment
Literature**

Developed by: Patricia Maia

SU | 2013

Earth Day and the Environment Literature Grades K-12

1. Cherry, L. (1990). *The great Kapok tree*. New York, NY: Harcourt Brace & Company.



[ISBN 978-0-15-202614-1]

Formats available: Hardcover, paperback, Spanish Edition

Book Summary: This children's book sends a message of protecting our environment by telling a story about a man sent into the Amazon Rain Forest to cut down a great Kapok tree. While he is taking a nap, different exotic creatures of the forest whisper their pleas to the man to save the tree for many. The creatures' different reasons for saving the tree remind us of the interdependence of our ecosystem and the importance of all the connections to the environment. The book has great vibrant illustrations of the creatures, the forest and the man sleeping. This is a great book for ELL's because of the great pictures that support the written story, and the words take-up less than 25% of the two pages. The story is culturally sensitive to South Americans and can be appreciated by the similar conservation issues in Africa's rain forests. Awards: ABA's Pick of the Lists, Charlotte Award [New York], IRA Teachers' Choice, NSTA-CBC Outstanding Science Trade Book for Children, Reading Rainbow Review Book.

Interest Level: K-3

Reading Level: 3.8, Lexile: 670, GRL: R

WIDA Level: Developing

Lesson Resources:

Author's authentic site

<http://www.lynncherry.com/index.htm>

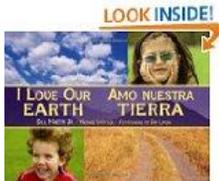
Mrs. Thomas reads The Great Kapok Tree

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H-j9RRSWS1U>

The Great Kapok Tree Extension Activities

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/great-kapok-tree-extension-activities>

2. Martin Jr., B.; Sampson, M. (2013). *I love our earth / Amo nuestra tierra*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge Publishing



[ISBN-13: 978-1580895576]

Format: Hardcover, paperback, e-books

Book Summary: The authentic multicultural environmental pictures and multicultural people draw you into the story of respecting and loving the special characteristics of our earth through the different seasons around the world. This book is a rare bilingual book on the environment. A Spanish bilingual class would enjoy the poem in English and in Spanish while appreciating different cultures through the different landscapes and people pictured in the book.

Reading level 2.0, Lexile: 620, GRL F

Grade level P-2

WIDA: Emerging and up

Lesson Resources:

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Early childhood lesson ideas

<http://kindernature.storycounty.com/display.aspx?DocID=20083271024>

Bilingual children's programming blog that offers links for crafts and printables for Earth Day

<http://bilingualchildrensprogramming.blogspot.com/>

Carnegie Library offers activities and other books (scroll down)

<http://www.carnegielibrary.org/research/parentseducators/educators/blast/earlylearning/programs/Earth.html>

3. Mora, P. (1996). *Confetti: Poems for children*. New York, NY: Lee & Low Books



[ISBN 13: 978-1-88000-085-4]

Formats: Hardcover, paperback, Spanish edition

Book Summary: Pat Mora, an award winning author, puts a collection of poems together using a central theme of the sounds and features of the southwest. Pat Mora is a Latino author that captures the environment through her poetry. She weaves Spanish words and culture throughout her book.

Each poem is accompanied by beautiful artwork by Enrique O. Sanchez. ELLs will struggle reading and making sense of the poems in literal translation, but this book can aid ELLs in exploring figurative language with Mexican-American nature themes.

Reading Level: 3.7, Lexile: NP, GRL: N

Interest Level: 1-4

WIDA: Developing and up; depending on the poem

Lesson Resources:

The publisher's suggestion for active learning

http://www.leeandlow.com/p/confetti_tg.mhtml

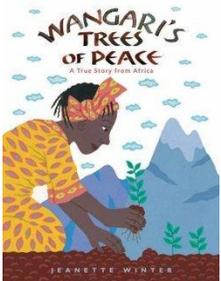
Grade 4: Reading and writing poetry

http://curriculum.dpsk12.org/lang_literacy_cultural/literacy/elem_lit/curric_instruc_assess/planning_guides/4/4_4_reading_writing_poetry_reading_lessons.pdf

A collection of lessons

<http://www.mybookezz.com/imagery-poems-for-children-lesson-plan/>

4. Winter, J. (2008). *Wangari's trees of peace: A true story from Africa*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt



[ISBN 13: 978-0-15-206545-4]

Format: Kindle, Hardcover

Book summary: Wangari Maathai's story is creatively captured in simple language and supportive pictures through Winter's children's picture book. The story documents Wangari's dedication, determination, and desire to return the trees to Africa. She starts small planting trees in her back

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yard in Kenya and soon inspires other women to plant the “seeds of hope”(Winters, 2008). Despite the opposition from the men and the government, the story shows her perseverance which leads to the successful planting of millions of trees. Wangari won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for her inspirational tree planting throughout Africa. This book is a great book to expose ELLs to other cultures and other ways of protecting the environment. There are 2-3 sentences on each page with supporting pictures to help Developing ELLs make sense of the story and inspire them to make a difference.

Reading Level: 3.7, Lexile: 730, GRL:NR

WIDA: Developing and up

Lesson Resources:

4th graders develop questioning techniques

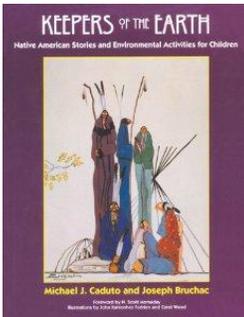
<http://wwweb.uta.edu/faculty/peggy/wangari.htm>

Middle School: Connecting communities

<http://www.peacesites.org/educators/resources/book-reviews/wangari%E2%80%99streesofpeaceatruestoryfromafrica>

5.

Caduto, M. J.; Bruchac, J.(1997). *Keepers of the earth: Native American stories and environmental activities for children*. Golden, CO.: Fulcrum Publishing



[ISBN: *Publisher:* 1-555-91385-7]

Format: Hardcover, paperback, audio cassette

Book Summary: These stories inspire children to respect and protect the Earth. The unique book combines 25 legends from 20 different Indian cultures with scientific information and hands-on activities. There is an accompanying book of lesson plans. ELLs can relate to the 20 different

Indian cultures relating the many different cultures represented in Hispanic culture. ELLs will struggle with the use of metaphors and would need some support in creating connections to concepts. The print is dense and needs scaffolding to support understanding. The illustrations are black and white nature scenes or pencil drawings. There are many other books referenced in the text to build on protecting the earth concepts with a hands on exploration approach.

Interest level: Grades K-6

Reading level: 6.2, Lexile: 880, GRL: NR

WIDA Level: Bridging and up

Lesson Resources:

Indian Education for all

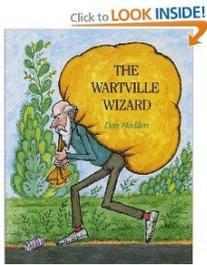
http://opi.mt.gov/PDF/IndianEd/Search/Science/G_K-8_All_Units.pdf

Indian Philosophy lesson plan

<http://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?tid=24191>

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6. Madden, D. (1986). *The wartville wizard*. New York, NY: Aladdin Paperbacks



[ISBN 9780689716676]

Format: Hardcover, paperback

Reading summary: The wizard in the story is sick of cleaning up all the trash in the town and decides it is time to take action. The wizard casts a spell, so that anyone who improperly disposes of trash will literally be stuck with it. The trash becomes attached to them. Finally the town's people had learned their lesson on littering and promises to clean-up after themselves. This book will create an awareness of protecting the earth and being responsible for your actions. ELLs can relate to their own experiences with trash. The pictures are not culturally diverse enough. Only 20% of the town's people are ethnically diverse. The reading is challenging which includes multiple paragraphs per page and dialogue. The pictures do help in telling the story.

Reading level: 4.1, Lexile: 790, F-K: 4.4

Grade level: K-5

WIDA : Expanding and up

Lesson Resources:

Movie based on the book

<http://thewartvillewizard.com/>

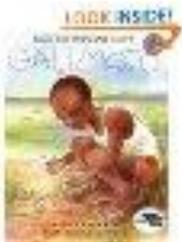
Litter is waste out of place trash collection and analysis lesson

http://www.kidsarus.org/Youth_Education/Litter_lessons/default.htm

K-2 lesson on caring for the earth

<http://learningtogive.dev.vudat.msu.edu/lessons/unit367/lesson2.html>

7. Williams, K. L.(1991). *Galimoto*. New York, NY: A Mulberry Paperback Book



[ISBN: 978-0-688-10991-2]

Format: Hardcover, paperback, Reading Rainbow DVD volume 74, Audio CD

Book summary: Galimoto means car in Chichewa a language spoken in Malawi. The story traces a boy's imagination and determination to build a galimoto from repurposed, recycled, and reused items. Kondi, the main character, finds treasure in other people's trash. Even in the face of doubt and difficulty, Kondi perseveres and finishes his galimoto in time to play at night with his friends. ELLs will develop an awareness of other cultural traditions and relate to their own traditions. The sentence structures are in the form subject-verb-object with some prepositional phrases to add details. There is also simple dialogue. The Pictures help support the story and take-up about 80% of the page.

Interest Level: K-3

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Reading level: 3.0, Lexile: 520, GRL: M

WIDA level: Developing and up

Lesson Resource:

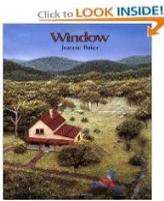
Early Elementary being resourceful-reuse-repurpose-recycle to create a galimoto.

<http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlresources/units/byrnes-africa/susbuc/index.html>

Motor car and galimoto: An intercultural lesson in pragmatism, creativity, and perseverance

<http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/4945>

8. Baker, J. (1991). *Window*. New York, NY: Greenwillow Books



[ISBN-13: 978-0688089184]

Format: library binding, paperback

Book summary: *The Window* is a picture book that depicts the changes in the environment from a child's window. Although the English born author who currently lives in Australia depicts a white family experiencing the change from a peaceful, country setting to a loud, dirty city setting, children can find the differences from page to page. Baker uses the descriptive changes from page to page instead of words to get the message of the need for change and personal responsibility in protecting our environment. ELLs may be able to relate to similar changes in their own experiences depending on their native environment verses their current environment.

Interest level: grade 1-6

Reading level: wordless picture book

WIDA level: Entering and up

Lesson Resource:

6-traits of writing lesson and more

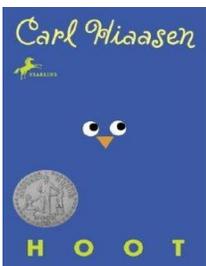
<http://www.lessonplanet.com/search?keywords=window+jeannie+baker>

Lesson 8: What's The Message?-Center for Science

<http://www.gobookee.net/window-jeannie-baker-lesson-ideas/>

http://wupcenter.mtu.edu/education/land_use/Land_use_Looks_Count/Looks_Count_lesson8.pdf

9. Hiaasen, C. (2002). *Hoot*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf



[ISBN 13: *Publisher:* 978-0-440-41939-6]

Formats: hardcover, paperback, e-book, CD, Audible.com, Spanish edition

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Book summary: Middle school students can relate to this multiple themes in this short novel. Roy is the new kid in town and struggles with many of the traditional struggles of young teens such as fitting in, new friends, and bullies. As Roy is adjusting to his new situation, he becomes intrigued by another boy that seems to have a purpose. The teens join forces against the adults to save the owl burrows from being destroyed by new construction. The characters are not quite culturally diverse, but ELLs can probably relate to being the new kid and the struggles Roy faces as well as develop a sense of environmental protection advocacy for the owls. This book has a lot of supports for ELLs in the form of CD, audible, and Spanish edition. This book won the Newbery Honor.

Reading Level: 5.2, Lexile:760, GRL:W

Interest Level: 5-9

WIDA Level: Expanding and up

Lesson Resources:

A variety of reading, writing and thinking activities

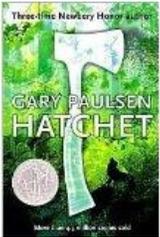
<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/hoot-teachers-guide>

Free lesson plans and tests for chapters 1-7

<http://www.sandtpublications.com/hootlessonplans.html>

10.

Paulsen, G. (2007). *Hatchet*. New York, NY: Simon and Schulster



[ISBN 13: *Publisher:* 978-1-416-93646-6]

Format: Hardcover, paperback, Kindle, mass market paperback, CD, Audible.com, e-books, Spanish Edition

Book summary: *Hatchet* is a man verse nature survival novel. Brian sets out on a long plane ride to visit his dad, but the plane crashes and Brian has to learn how to survive including food, shelter, and protection. He uses the environment, a hatchet, and items from the plane to survive. Brian's character development from weak and helpless to sensible and aware helps him build a respect for nature and life. ELLs have many supports including audible, CD, and Spanish editions. Culturally ELLs can relate to the struggle of survival, but the main character is not culturally diverse. This book won the Newbery Honor.

Reading Level: 5.7, Lexile:1020, GRL: R

Interest Level: 5-9

WIDA Level: Bridging and up

Lesson Resources:

Lessons on previewing, comprehension, sequencing, and cause and effect with the theme of survival

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/hatchet-lesson-plan>

Fun activities, quizzes, essays, and test to help gain an understanding of the text

<http://www.bookrags.com/lessonplan/hatchet/>

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11.



Voces Verdes: The voice of Latino leaders for the environment.(2013). Retrieved June 23, 2013 from: <http://vocesverdes.org/>

Format: on-line website and articles

Summary: This on-line website encourages Latino people to take action in clean air, clean energy, and fighting climate change. There are informational texts on each of the three topics, blogs, and other related articles. The articles can be reworded to make them more accessible to ELLs. The structure of the web-site, articles, and blog would not be familiar and would need scaffolding to support ELLs.

WIDA Level: Reaching

Reading level: Average 13.0 Flesch-Kincaid

Related resources:

EARTHKEEPER HERO: LATINO ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS

by Gillian Flaccus of the Associated Press (FK-14.9)

http://www.myhero.com/go/hero.asp?hero=LEA_2010

Race, Poverty & the environment (FK-13.4)

<http://www.urbanhabitat.org/node/952>

Latinos take lead on environmental issues

VOTING SHOWS EMPHASIS SHIFTING TO INNER-CITY NEEDS

By Paul Rogers Mercury News (FK-11.0)

<http://www.ejrc.cau.edu/latinoesj.html>

REACH. INSPIRE. CONNECT.



The Booklist Project

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