
2024

blueberry awards





ABOUT US

The Blueberry Awards honor children's literature that strengthens kids' connections with nature and fosters action for the planet. The Blueberry List, which features books primarily for children ages three to ten, is divided into *1 Blueberry Award Winner*, *30 Blueberry Honor books*, and *4 Blueberry Changemaker books* recognized for their outstanding achievement in rallying kids to climate action. The Evanston Public Library created the Blueberry Award in 2021 to celebrate the best nature books that promote climate stewardship for kids.

2024 BLUEBERRY COMMITTEE:

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AND QUESTIONS?
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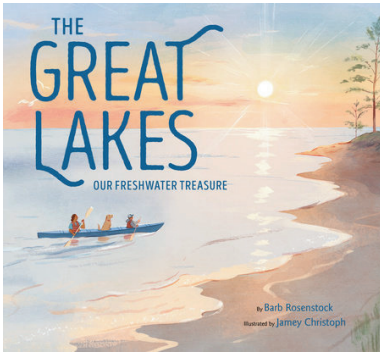
2024 blueberry award winner:

THE GREAT LAKES

OUR FRESHWATER TREASURE

BY BARB ROSENSTOCK

ILLUSTRATED BY JAMEY CHRISTOPH



A deep dive (literally!) into the Great Lakes, their history, present, and future. Learn everything you ever wanted to know about their six quadrillion gallons of freshwater and how vital they are to the world.

CALL NUMBER: J 977 ROSEN.B

Best for ages 4 -8 years.



BOARD BOOKS



J BOARD

SONGS OF THE BIRDS

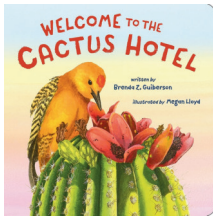
A GUIDE TO NORTH AMERICAN BIRD CALLS AND SONGS

BY ISABEL OTTER

ILLUSTRATED BY CLOVER ROBIN

Love birdsong but can't identify the birds? Let this clever little board book name each birdie and play its song for you. Informative and deeply fun!

Best for ages 3 - 7 years.



J BOARD

WELCOME TO THE CACTUS HOTEL

BY BRENDA Z. GUIBERSON

ILLUSTRATED BY MEGAN LLOYD

What's the most hopping spot in all the desert? Welcome to the cactus hotel! Watch as birds, beasts, and insects all rely on a single cactus and everything it provides.

Best for ages 1 - 4 years.



J BOARD

WHO LAID THESE EGGS?

BY LAURA GEHL ILLUSTRATED BY LORIS LORA

Do you know what alligator eggs look like? What about robin eggs? Lift the flaps to learn fun facts about eight different animals and their nests!

Best for ages 2 - 4 years.

PICTURE BOOKS



JPICTURE HARMO.C

A FLICKER OF HOPE

A STORY OF MIGRATION
BY CYNTHIA HARMONY ILLUSTRATED BY DEVON HOLZWARTH

As Lucía watches the butterflies migrate away to the north, so too does her papa. He tells her he'll be back when the monarchs are, but can she wait that long?

Best for ages 4 - 8 years.



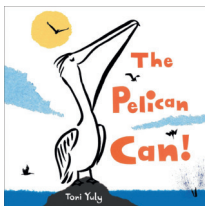
JPICTURE KRISH.U

LOOK! LOOK!

BY UMA KRISHNASWAMI ILLUSTRATED BY UMA KRISHNASWAMI

A girl in India discovers a slab of stone, revealing an ancient well that helps the surrounding fields spring to life. This book reveals the power of stopping to "Look!"

Best for ages 3 - 6 years.



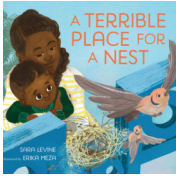
JPICTURE YULY.T

THE PELICAN CAN!

BY TONI YULY

When a young pelican wakes up hungry, pelican parents know just what to do! Take a trip to the seaside and cheer for a marvelous bird. The pelican does what a pelican can do. Now, how about you? | Winner of the Blueberry Votes Award by Evanston K-1st graders.

Best for ages 4 - 8 years.



JPICTURE LEVIN.S

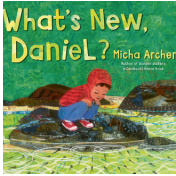
A TERRIBLE PLACE FOR A NEST

BY SARA LEVINE

ILLUSTRATED BY ERIKA MEZA

Having lost their home, Juno and his mom find a new place to live alongside a mourning dove nest. But when the birds lose their eggs in an accident, Juno has to determine if this really is a “terrible” place to live.

Best for ages 4 – 8 years.



JPICTURE ARCHE.M

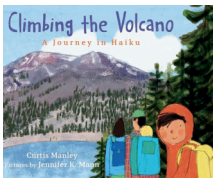
WHAT'S NEW, DANIEL?

BY MICHA ARCHER

When Daniel’s grandpa asks him “What’s new?”, Daniel’s determined to really find out! And there are so many new things to report on, since their local park is brimming with spring life.

Best for ages 3 – 6 years.

POETRY



JPICTURE MANLE.C

CLIMBING THE VOLCANO

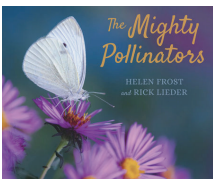
A JOURNEY IN HAIKU

BY CURTIS MANLEY

ILLUSTRATED BY JENNIFER K. MANN

“how do you / climb a mountain? / one step at a time.”
Told entirely in haikus, a boy and his family climb Oregon’s South Sister volcano and experience nature along the way.

Best for ages 4 – 8 years.



X571.8642 FROST.H

THE MIGHTY POLLINATORS

BY HELEN FROST

PHOTOGRAPHED BY RICK LIEDER

What is pollen, and why does it matter? Using fresh, whimsical poems and dazzling close-up photographs, The Mighty Pollinators explores this nearly invisible grain and the vital role of the pollinators who carry it.

Best for ages 2 – 5 years.

FICTION



J PARK.L

GRACIE UNDER THE WAVES

BY LINDA SUE PARK

Gracie loves snorkeling! So when she learns the coral reef is in serious danger, she knows she has to help. What can she do to make a difference?

Best for ages 8 - 12 years.



J NESBE.A

THE LONG WAY AROUND

BY ANNE NESBET

In an exciting wilderness adventure, three cousins are cut off from their parents by a huge earthquake and must hike mountain trails back to safety, with only each other to rely on.

Best for ages 8 - 12 years.



J LIM.R

THE MAILBOX TREE

BY REBECCA LIM

When Nyx's father wants their family to move from Tasmania, she seeks solace in a pine tree near her home. Bea, too, finds solace in the tree, and the two trade letters wedged into a hole in the trunk. But Nyx and Bea don't realize how special their tree truly is.

Best for ages 8 - 12 years.



J KELLY.L

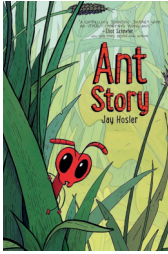
THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF BIRDS

BY LYNNE KELLY

While trying to fit in at camp, Nina discovers two nesting whooping cranes, but they haven't nested in Texas for over a hundred years. With some help, Nina sets out to discover who the mystery bird really is. As she gets closer to the truth, will she find a flock of her own?

Best for ages 8 - 12 years.

GRAPHICS



JGRAPHIC HOSLE.J

ANT STORY

BY JAY HOSLER

Rubi's always been a lonely little ant in a colony of leafcutters, but that's before she meets Miranda. Now the question is, can your greatest enemy also be your greatest friend?

Best for ages 8 - 12 years.

NONFICTION PICTURE BOOKS



X595.799 HUSON.B

THE BEE MOTHER

BY BRETT D. HUSON ILLUSTRATED BY NATASHA DONOVAN

It's spring once again and Nox Ap, the bee mother, emerges to become nature's gardener. The bumblebee, the honeybee, and the yellow jacket all get their time in the sun in these stirring tales of insects in the Xsan ecosystem.

Best for ages 9 - 12 years.



**XBIOG HOYT.M
ALEXA.L**

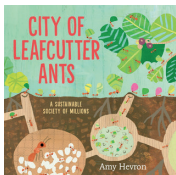
CACTUS QUEEN

MINERVA HOYT ESTABLISHES JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK

BY CURTIS MANLEY ILLUSTRATED BY JENN ELY

After falling in love with the Mojave Desert, Minerva Hoyt was determined to help make the Mojave a National Park. Could she do it? An inspiring, amazing story of a trailblazing woman.

Best for ages 7 - 10 years.



J595.796 HEVRON.A

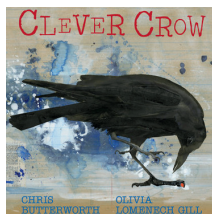
CITY OF LEAFCUTTER ANTS

A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY OF MILLIONS

BY AMY HEVRON

Take a deep dive into the fascinating world of leafcutter ants! Whether they're farmers, nannies, cleaners or even pharmacists, these little creatures have a lot to teach us humans!

Best for ages 4 - 8 years.



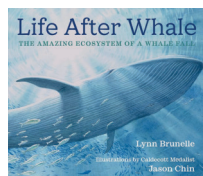
J 598.864 BUTTE.C

CLEVER CROW

BY CHRISTINE BUTTERWORTH ILLUSTRATED BY OLIVIA LOMENECH GILL

"Wherever you are right now, there's sure to be a crow or two nearby." Meet these clever, crafty birds and learn all about their incredible intelligence.

Best for ages 3 - 7 years.



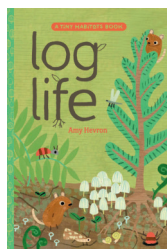
J 577.79 BRUNE.L

LIFE AFTER WHALE THE AMAZING ECOSYSTEM OF A WHALE FALL

BY LYNN BRUNELLE ILLUSTRATED BY JASON CHIN

Death for one whale means life for an entire ecosystem of creatures. Take a deep dive into the fascinating science behind a single whale's contribution to ocean life. | 2025 Siebert Award Winner

Best for ages 4 - 8 years.



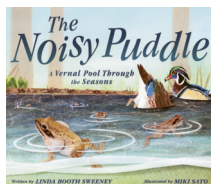
J 577.3 HEVRO.A

LOG LIFE

BY AMY HEVRON

A deep dive into a nurse-log habitat. When one of the oldest evergreen on the planet falls, it becomes food, a home, and more to an entire ecosystem. Informative (and adorable!).

Best for ages 4 - 8 years.



JPICTURE SWEEN.L

THE NOISY PUDDLE A VERNAL POOL THROUGH THE SEASONS

BY LINDA BOOTH SWEENEY ILLUSTRATED BY MIKI SATO

In this vibrant picture book, two siblings observe the hidden world of a vernal pool. Young naturalists will be encouraged to listen, wait, and witness the seasonal changes of the puddle and its inhabitants.

Best for ages 4 - 8 years.



**XBIOG SALGA.S
HOELZ.P**

PLANTING HOPE

BY PHILIP HOELZEL ILLUSTRATED BY RENATO ALARCAO

The story of the boy who grew up in the forests of Brazil, who went on to photograph the lives and destruction of his fellow humans, shows how his art and his passion for environmentalism came together at last. A gorgeous telling of a life.

Best for ages 6 – 9 years.



XBIOG TABEL.J YASUDA

UP, UP, EVER UP! JUNKO TABEL, A LIFE IN THE MOUNTAINS

BY ANITA YASUDA ILLUSTRATED BY YUKO SHIMIZU

The incredible true story of a woman who never stopped moving. Whether she was scaling mountains or trying to save the environment, Junko Tabei is a hero for our times. | 2025 Caldecott Honor Award

Best for ages 4 – 8 years.

NONFICTION FOR OLDER READERS



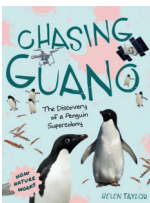
J 577 STEVE.A

ANIMAL CLIMATE HEROES!

BY ALISON PEARCE STEVENS ILLUSTRATED BY JASON FORD

Four amazing animal heroes take on the meanest villain ever: climate change! Get ready to learn all about these four legged (or two-flipped) creatures and how YOU can be a climate hero too!

Best for ages 8 – 12 years.



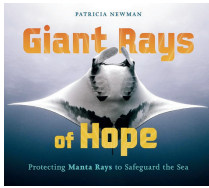
J 598.47 TAYLO.H

CHASING GUANO THE DISCOVERY OF A PENGUIN SUPERCOLONY

BY HELEN TAYLOR

How do you find a massive, previously undiscovered colony of penguins? Satellite photography of their poop, of course! A fun tale of scientists in the field.

Best for ages 6 – 12 years.

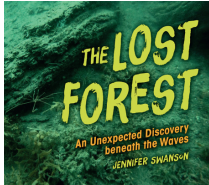


J 597.35 NEWMA.P

GIANT RAYS OF HOPE **PROTECTING MANTA RAYS TO SAFEGUARD THE SEA** **BY PATRICIA NEWMAN**

Off the coast of Peru, giant manta rays swim beneath the waves. When Kerstin decides to help these gentle giants, she seeks the opinions of locals and launches a project to identify and protect manta rays to make the ocean a better place for all creatures.

Best for ages 9 - 14 years.

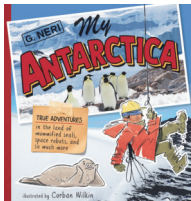


J 577.7 SWANS.J

THE LOST FOREST **AN UNEXPECTED DISCOVERY BENEATH THE WAVES** **BY JENNIFER SWANSON**

In the Gulf of Mexico, divers find a thriving ecosystem, full of unusual organisms feasting on the remains of an ancient cypress forest. But how did this forest come to be underwater, and what other treasures might be discovered there? Follow along as a group of scientists explores the wonders of the lost forest.

Best for ages 9 - 14 years.

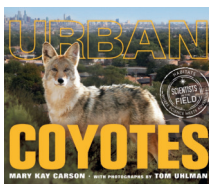


J 998 NERI.G

MY ANTARCTICA **TRUE ADVENTURES IN THE LAND OF MUMMIFIED SEALS,** **SPACE ROBOTS, AND SO MUCH MORE** **BY G. NERI** **ILLUSTRATED BY CORBAN WILKIN**

Antarctica is a land of extremes, but it's also a place of stark beauty, history, and endless scientific research. Join beloved author G. Neri on his long-dreamed-of voyage to the ice, where he taps into his inner child and encounters sea angels, mummified seals, space robots, inquisitive penguins, and so much more.

Best for ages 7 - 10 years.



J 599.7725 CARSO.M

URBAN COYOTES **BY MARY KAY CARSON**

The wily coyotes of Chicago are the subject of this latest entry in the Scientists in the Field series. Find out why they're here, what they eat, and how scientists in Chicago are studying them.

Best for ages 8 - 12 years.

CHANGEMAKERS

The Blueberry Committee chose these 4 books for their outstanding achievement in rallying kids to climate action.



JPICTURE SCHAUB.M

A PLACE FOR RAIN

BY MICHELLE SCHAUB ILLUSTRATED BY BLANCA GÓMEZ

What can you do with a raindrop? Well, you can let it get away, or you can collect it and use it for all sorts of good things. A sweet little look into rain gardens and collections.

Best for ages 4 – 8 years.



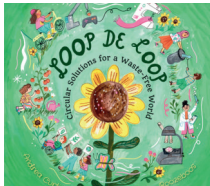
JGRAPHIC DASNE.N

SAVE OUR FOREST!

BY NORA DÅSNES TRANSLATED BY LISE LAERDAL BRYN

What do you do when you're just a kid and the adults around you aren't serious about ecological sustainability? When her school's backwoods is slated for demolition to build a parking lot, Bao and her friends band together to make good trouble.

Best for ages 10 – 12 years.



X363.728 CURTI.A

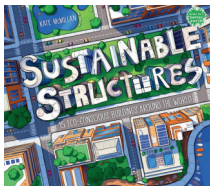
LOOP DE LOOP

CIRCULAR SOLUTIONS FOR A WASTE-FREE WORLD

BY ANDREA CURTIS ILLUSTRATED BY ROOZEBOOS

Our planet needs loopier thinking! If nature works on a cycle, why not people? Learn more about repurposing, repairing, and designing waste out of the system!| Winner of the Changemaker Award

Best for ages 9 – 14 years.



J 720.47 MCMIL.K

SUSTAINABLE STRUCTURES

15 ECO-CONSCIOUS BUILDINGS AROUND THE WORLD

BY KATE MCMILLAN

From a waste collection site built from recycled materials to a school that floats, this dazzling book highlights innovative and sustainably built structures around the world. Readers of all ages will love poring over the precise, colorful illustrations and informative close ups. Perfect for budding architects and engineers!

Best for ages 8 – 12 years.

2024 BLUEBERRY AWARD WINNERS



For a digital list of the books listed in this booklet, scan the QR code!

2024 BLUEBERRY ADULT BOOKS



Take a look at the best nature and climate change books for adults from 2024.

2024 BLUEBERRY EDUCATOR RESOURCES



Check out some nature and climate change books from 2024 for educators to use with children.

2024 BEST NATURE BOARD BOOKS

"BABY BLUEBERRY"



These board books support children ages 0-5 young, natural love of the outdoors.



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