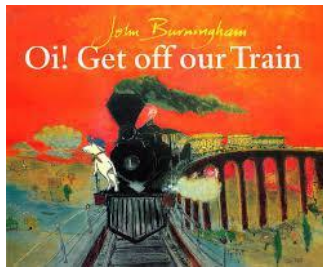




The Earth our Home

Books and stories recommended from the Centre For Literacy in Primary Education



Oi! Get Off Our Train by John Burningham
Red Fox 9780099853404

A boy and his pyjama-case dog take a dreamtime train and on the way pick up several animal passengers. Each animal is initially greeted with the refrain 'Oi! Get Off Our Train' but each has an environmentally sound reason for getting on board. The reader can revel in the lines and colours of Burningham's distinctive illustrations.

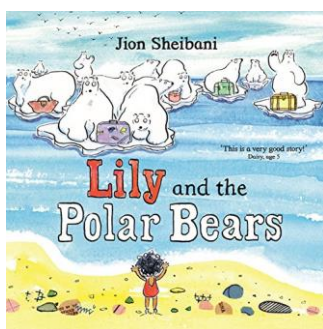
A CLPE Core Book <http://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/oi-get-our-train>



The Journey Home by Frann Preston-Gannon
Pavilion 9781843652090

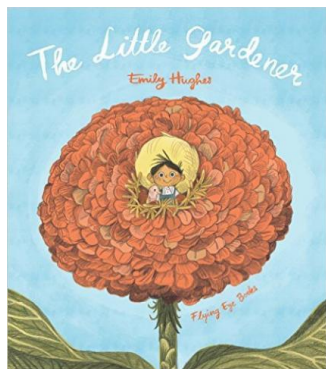
A polar bear realises that he needs to leave his Arctic home as the ice melts and his food supply dwindles. So he climbs into a little boat and sets sail. Along the way he is joined by other animals whose habitat is threatened. The story ends on a note that combines a mixture of hope and uncertainty about whether they will ever be able to return to their original home.

A CLPE Core Book <http://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/journey-home>



Lily and the Polar Bears by Jion Sheibani
Faber & Faber 9780571337767

This picture book combines themes around migration due to climate change with understanding and acceptance of refugees integrating into a new society in ways that are thought-provoking at the same time as being humorous. While at the seaside, Lily spots a crowd of polar bears floating in to shore on ice floes with their suitcases. She invites them home and they quickly become involved in the community to the delight of children but to the initial consternation of adults.

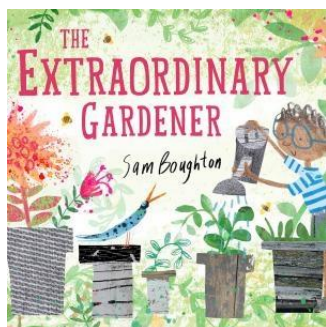


The Little Gardener by Emily Hughes
Flying Eye 9781911171249

Emily Hughes depicts a garden in shades of green and brown, and inside it she places a tiny gardener who makes strenuous efforts to nurture the plants and make them grow. The garden provides him with shelter and nourishment and 'It was his joy.' Sometimes he despairs of coping with it all. However, hope is at hand as one flower blossoms and is noticed by someone who can help him.

Emily Hughes uses an earthy palette redolent of loam for her illustrations which are accompanied by an uncomplicated and repetitive text, supportive for young readers who can keep returning to more appreciate its message more deeply.

A CLPE Core Book <http://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/little-gardener>

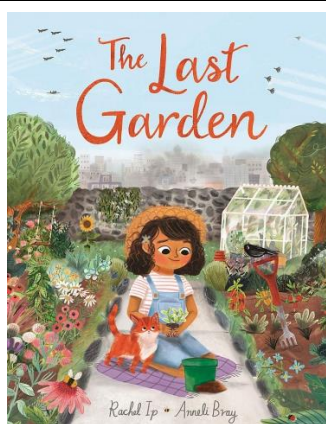


The Extraordinary Gardener by Sam Boughton
Tate Publishing 9781849766890

A small boy with a vivid imagination is motivated to bring life and colour to his dull and grey urban environment. Inspired by an idea in his favourite book, Joe finds and plants an apple seed and waits for nature's magic to begin. As his garden grows and expands to include many other plants, his neighbours are captivated by it and he finds ways to share it with them and people throughout his city.

The illustrations which are of mixed media, including collage and crayon, have a childlike charm and the way they are placed in tandem with the text within the overall design of the book perfectly matches the pace of the story. Joe is a child who intuitively understands that learning comes from a variety of sources – including books and observation of and interaction with nature. While this book has a freshness all of its own, it's also possible to make links to other texts about growth, sharing and caring for the environment.

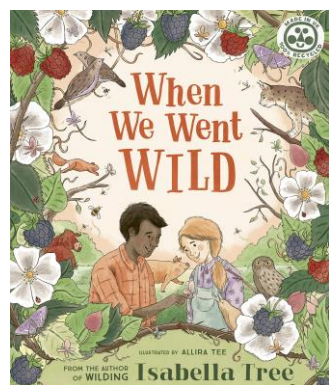
A CLPE Core Book <http://clpe.org.uk/extraordinary-gardener-sam-boughton>



The Last Garden by Rachel Ip and Anneli Bray
Hodder 9781444946345/9781444946352

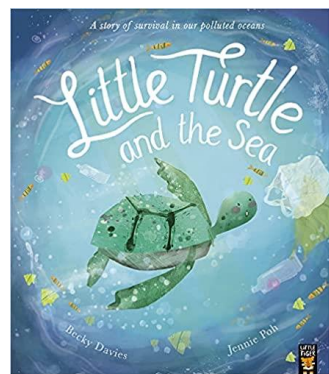
In a war-torn city, Zara tends the last garden left, growing and sharing fruit and vegetables and providing a place for peaceful play. When it becomes too dangerous for people to stay they leave for a time but when they return some months later they find that the plants have kept on growing 'tall and strong and wild and free.'

A story with a message of hope told in simple, straightforward language with detailed pictures to pore over.



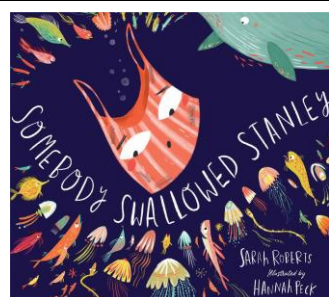
When We Went Wild by Isabella Tree illustrated by Allira Tee
Ivy Kids 978071126850

Drawing on the author's own experience, described in her adult book Wilding (Picador 9781509805105) this tells the story of how a couple go about rewilding the land on their farm, returning it to a more natural environment without chemicals and milking machines. Their neighbours are not happy until they discover the benefits for themselves.



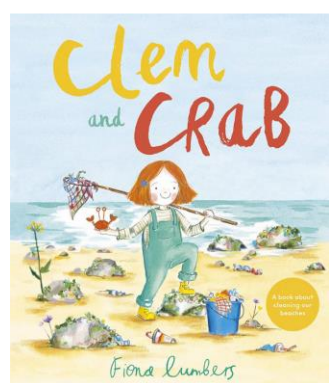
Little Turtle and the Sea by Becky Davies and Jennie Poh
Little Tiger Press 9781788815819

The life of a baby turtle is followed from the moment she launches herself into the ocean through her journey to the other side of the world until her encounter with some strange creatures. Readers can see that these are plastic bags and there are anxious moments until the turtle is freed by divers and swims off again through her beautiful ocean. Appendices explain more about the dangers of plastic to marine life.



Somebody Swallowed Stanley by Sarah Roberts and Hannah Peck
Scholastic 9781407195100

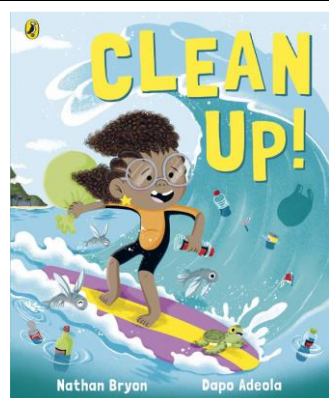
Stanley seems to resemble a jellyfish but 'his stripes were too straight and his tentacles too few'. As he floats around the sea he is ingested and ejected from a number of creatures. Finally he finds his true vocation when a boy on the beach turns him into a kite. Readers can see that Stanley is a plastic bag although this is never stated in the text.



Clem and Crab by Fiona Lumbers
Andersen Press 9781783449149

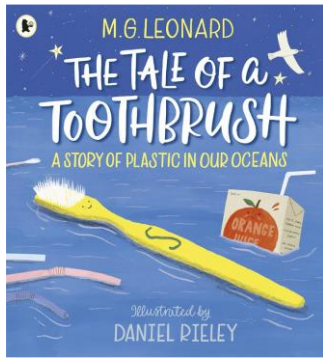
Clem's encounter with a crab whose claw is caught in twisted plastic leads to the realisation for her and her classmates that everyone can play a part in protecting sea and shore and the wildlife that inhabits them. 'Lots of small actions added together can make a big difference.' This picture book's clear environmental message is reflected in the detail of the illustrations which also incorporate some gentle humour.

A CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/clem-and-crab>



Clean Up! by Nathan Bryon and Dapo Adeola
Puffin 9780241345894

In this second picture book about young activist Rocket, she and her mum and her mobile phone toting brother Jamal travel to the small Caribbean island where her grandparents run an animal sanctuary. When she realises the damage plastic is doing to wildlife, she makes sure everyone on the beach knows about it and organises a Clean-Up Crew to do something about it.



The Tale of a Toothbrush by M. G. Leonard and Daniel Rieley
Walker 9781406391817

Subtitled 'A Story of Plastic in Our Oceans' this picture book shows what happens when the bristles on Sofia's toothbrush, which she has affectionately named Sammy, wear out and her mother consigns him to the rubbish bin. We see his travels from there on and his eventual return home where new uses for him are found. An appendix shows the wider problems of plastic in the oceans.

Teaching notes for this book can be found here:

<https://clpe.org.uk/teaching-notes-tale-toothbrush-m-g-leonard-and-daniel-rieley>



Run Wild by Gill Lewis
Barrington Stoke 9781781128282

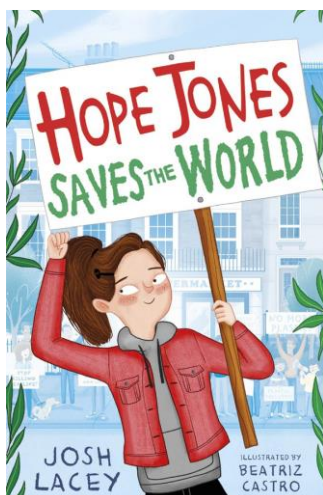
The old gasworks is a place where Izzy and her friends can feel free and run wild, a haven for wildlife such as the Streaked bombardier beetle that her brother Connor draws carefully in his notebook. Their discovery of an injured wolf leads to encounters that appear to threaten the future of this special space and their access to it but is everything what it seems?

Also: Eagle Warrior Barrington Stoke 9781781128749
Swan Song Barrington Stoke 9781781129548



How to Save the World with a Chicken and an Egg by Emma Shevah
Chicken House 9781910655474

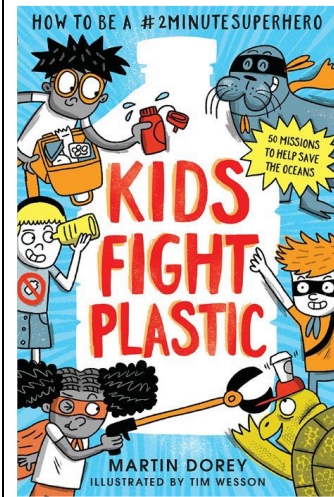
Ivy and Nathaniel tells their stories in alternate chapters as they bond over their love of animals and concern for the environment in the seaside town of Southwold. Ivy is genuinely able to communicate with animals, including a hen to whom she reads stories. Nathaniel has tremendous recollection of facts which he is inclined to recount at stressful moments. Friendships develop, family mysteries unravel and animals are rescued in a novel that is warm and humorous.



Hope Jones Saves the World by Josh Lacey, illustrated by Beatriz Castro
Andersen Press 9781783449279

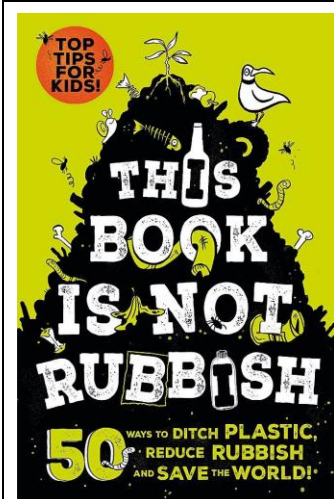
Hope Jones has a New Year's resolution – to start saving the world by giving up plastic and persuading others to do the same. She documents her progress and her interactions with her family and local community on her blog which forms the text of this campaigning book. Hope's protest outside the local supermarket, part of a national chain, attracts considerable attention and while it becomes clear that she cannot save the world alone, she provides plenty of ideas for how we can all 'think global, act local'.

There is an associated website <https://www.hopejonessavestheworld.com>
Sequel: Hope Jones Will Not Eat Meat Andersen Press 9781783449392



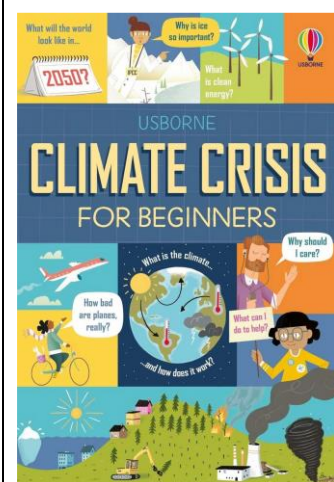
Kids Fight Plastic by Martin Dorey, illustrated by Tim Wesson
Walker 9781406390650

In this interactive book the founder of the #2minutebeachclean campaign sets children a series of missions based around their everyday lives so that they can become superheroes in fighting the use of plastic, particularly single use plastic, in their homes and local communities. Ideas for achievable actions are combined with bite sized chunks of information much of which is linked to cartoon style illustrations. By the same author: Kids Fight Climate Change Walker 9781406393262



This Book Is Not Rubbish by Isabel Thomas, illustrated by Alex Paterson
Wren & Rook 9781526361530

A compendium of ideas and information about helping to save the planet, giving practical ideas about eco-friendly things young people can do individually or collectively. The emphasis is on making changes involving ditching plastic, recycling and reducing rubbish rather than on taking political action. Also by this author: This Book Will (Help) Cool the Climate Wren & Rook 9781526362414



Climate Crisis for Beginners by Andy Prentice and Eddie Reynolds, illustrated by El Primo Ramón
Usborne 9781474979863

The science linked to climate change is explained in an accessible way in this volume, making good use of diagrams, charts and tables as well as its overall design. Significantly, the political and economic background is also covered, indicating the responsibility of individuals, communities, businesses and governments at local and global levels to work together to combat climate change. A feature of the book is the encouragement of critical thinking and the questioning of facts and opinions with which people may be presented. While the seriousness of the climate crisis is not minimised, care is taken to provide ideas to help young readers approach it 'healthily, compassionately and proactively' and not feel overwhelmed.