



## Environmental Fiction

### A selection for readers in Years 5-9

Topics include animal conservation, tree conservation, Australian landscape, ecosystems, mangroves & wetlands, overfishing, reefs, seasons, trees, forests & rainforests and non-fiction

#### Environment & Conservation

**Waterworld** by Max Allan Collins

In the future, a polluted warmth will consume our planet. The icecaps will melt. The Earth will drown. The scattered survivors have abandoned all hope. A stranger on a magnificent sailing vessel offers something for trade that none of them have ever seen before, but of which all of them have heard: a sack full of rich, fertile earth.

**Green Boy** by Susan Cooper

Long Pond Cay, in the Bahamas, is a magical white-sand island. The magic becomes a nightmare for Trey and Lou when they are thrown into another world - a world that is threatening, polluted and overcrowded.

**Valley of Bones** by Gary Crew and Mark Wilson

What do you do when you discover the fossil of a pterodactyl that's over a hundred million years old? Contact a palaeontologist. What do you do when the site where you found the fossil is about to be strip-mined for coal?

**Make Like a Tree and Leave** by Paula Danziger

The school's old friend, Mrs Nichols, has an accident and it looks like the developers will buy up her farm. Matthew, his friends and family decide the land must be saved for the town recreational area. Time for the fundraising to begin.

**Deep Secret** by Berlie Doherty

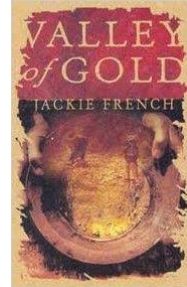
A cast of powerful characters uncover disturbing secrets when the building of a mighty dam drowns a beautiful village. This is a story of love, death, attempted murder, grief and happiness.

### **Antarctica's Frozen Chosen** by Hazel Edwards

When Kyle gets a job for the Antarctic summer as an intern marine biologist, his girlfriend, Jade, emails daily. Jade, an eco-activist, is involved with an online protest group fighting against the vessels that cross into restricted waters endangering wildlife.

### **Valley of Gold** by Jackie French

It's 1863 and gold mining has stripped the valley of its trees, its animals, and much of its soil. The riches of the gold rush are long gone, and all that's left is a place of mud and mines, bare hills and grog shops. Despite all this, the people will survive and the land will continue to evolve and regenerate.



### **In the Jaws of the Sea** by Simon Higgins

The year is 2013. The planet's food chain is collapsing after decades of harsh marine exploitation. Only one man can save our dying oceans: rogue genius Myles Roundtree, now secretly called upon to prevent the extinction of the human race. Myles is trapped aboard a crippled submarine, deep below the ocean, teetering on the edge of a hull-crushing abyss.

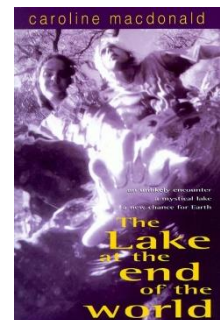
### **The Raiders** by Garry Kilworth

Has Luke discovered a Viking long boat? Does Svyen, a Viking warrior ghost, haunt the Essex marshes? The Essex salt marshes are under threat from developers. Can Luke save them - before every living creature is killed?

### **The Lake at the End of the World** by Caroline MacDonald

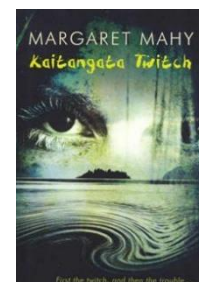
'They told me there was nothing left outside. They said the world was empty, finished.'

When Hector ventures out from the underground community which is all he has ever known, he realises how much they didn't tell him. For a start, there is Diana Redfern and the mystical lake where she lives with her parents. When the Redferns are joined by many from underground, there's hope for humanity's survival and the earth's renewal.



### **Kaitangata Twitch** by Margaret Mahy

Kaitangata is an island with a rocky fist punching skywards. Kaitangata seems to have a will of its own, and a voice, though only Meredith can hear it. Can Meredith save the island from an unscrupulous developer?



### **The Penguin Expedition** by Jed Mercurio

Antarctica, once the coldest place on earth, is getting hotter. While some of the penguin colony, like Dude the lifeguard and the beautiful Amelia, are enjoying the sun and surf, Scott and his genius friend Humboldt discover that Penguinville is melting into the sea. Their only hope is for Scott to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather, the legendary explorer Shackleton Flipper, and lead an expedition to the South Pole to find a new and colder place to live.

**My Sister Sif** by Ruth Park

In their Pacific paradise the din of the encroaching world is beginning to drown out the singing of the whales, and Erika finds that it is her gentle sister, Sif, who is destined to show her, as well as Henry, the beginnings of an answer.

**Maximum Ride: The Final Warning** by James Patterson

In one of the world's most extreme environments – the freezing South Pole – Max and the flock are in serious trouble. The flock is on a special government mission to save the Earth. In a brutal environment like the South Pole, being able to fly isn't always an option for escaping from your worst nightmares.

**Global Warming** by Stefan Petrucha

Famed billionaire environmentalist, Cheri Goale, has constructed high-tech Bio-Domes in River heights, to help save the planet. What happens when creatures such as Sasquatch, Okala Kane, and the Abominable Snowman are found lurking about after a gross green substance destroys one of the domes? Nancy Drew attempts to uncover the truth without dooming the project - or the world!

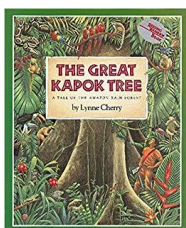
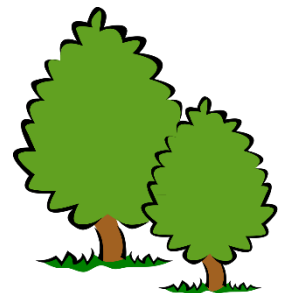
**Antarctica** by Kim Stanley Robinson

The Antarctic Treaty is dissolving. The world's last unstripped asset, Antarctica, is becoming a free-for-all for oil companies intent on mass extraction. Add to that the adventure travellers who are trailing waste across the tundra and the many countries who are covertly vying for influence for their strategic interests. A new radical environmentalist group is determined to show humanity that Antarctica cannot be plundered like the rest of the world.

## Tree Conservation

**Salt Rain** by Sarah Armstrong

Allie watches her aunt, who is determined to return the valley she lives in to its natural order, replanting the trees of the forest that her grandfather cleared for grazing. As the heat of the wet season builds, Allie tries to decipher the truth and lies that her mother has told her and must come to grips with the many secrets held close in the valley. Set within Australia's lush rain forest at the height of the rainy season, *Salt Rain* is an absorbing novel about sifting through the complicated stories that shape us.

**The Great Kapok Tree** by Lynne Cherry **Picture Book**

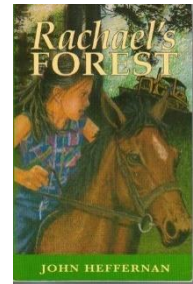
The Great Kapok Tree is an American children's picture book about rainforest conservation. It was written and illustrated by Lynne Cherry. The book is dedicated to Chico Mendes, a Brazilian environmental activist who was murdered in 1988.

### **Valley of Gold** by Jackie French

It's 1863 and gold mining has stripped the valley of its trees, its animals, and much of its soil. The riches of the gold rush are long gone, and all that's left is a place of mud and mines, bare hills and grog shops. Despite all this, the people will survive and the land will continue to evolve and regenerate.

### **Rachael's Forest** by John Heffernan

Rachael Richards loves the forest in an undeveloped area on her family's property. When her parents are forced to sell part of their land, Rachael's forest is threatened. Can a teenage girl really make a difference?



### **The Vanishing Rainforest** by Richard Platt

This story, seen through the eyes of a child called Remaema, describes how the Yanomami tribe are battling against potential developers. Can a solution be found that will protect the forest and allow the tribe to continue living as they have always done, while benefiting from limited development?



### **The Last Tree** by Mark Wilson **Picture Book**

A story about a beautiful old eucalyptus tree that grew tall and strong over many years. It was the centre of life in the forest and provided food and shelter for many forest dwellers. But what happens when the tree is threatened as the surrounding forest slowly disappears?

## Animal Conservation

### **The Last Whales** by Lloyd Abbey

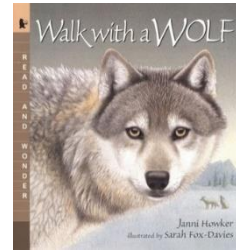
Gradually their life together for the blue whales becomes threatened by the bull's instinctual terror of the foreign southern seas. Their descendants are destined never to know the freedom of the oceans, but rather to experience a world of tragedy and destruction in oceans poisoned by radiation and warmed by the greenhouse effect.

### **Under No Flag** by Simon Higgins

The intrepid crew of the rogue submarine, Thunderfish, face a terrible responsibility. Cornered by the navy after a campaign against illegal whalers, Captain Kira Beaumont has been forced to accept a dangerous secret mission, turning her military-trained crew and hi-tech sub into pawns in a volatile international drama.

### **Walk with a Wolf** by Janni Howker

Once wolves roamed nearly all the lands of the northern hemisphere, but they have been hunted and killed by humans for centuries, and today they are extinct or very rare in places where lots of people live.



### **A Matter of Cats** by Elizabeth Hutchins

The rescue of Grunt, an injured koala, changes Kate's boring old routine. Kristie's friendship and her father's wildlife sanctuary throw a new light on cats. She meets the media and saves her pet from deadly peril.

### **Papio** by Victor Kelleher

It seems simple enough to David and Jem to release the two baboons from the experimental research station where they are doomed to die. When they discover the baboons are no longer capable of looking after themselves in the African bush, David and Jem are forced to stay and protect them.

### **Rhino Fire** by Elizabeth Laird

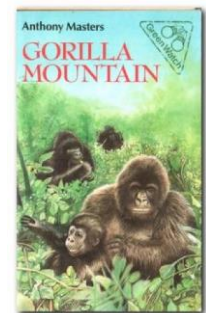
As the animal charges away from the speeding helicopter, Titus leans perilously out to take aim with his long dart gun. If only the rare black rhino can be relocated to a new reserve, Afra and Joseph know it might join the few others of its kind. At Nakuru the rhino faces a far greater danger. Men armed with powerful rifles, who will kill it for its valuable horn and who are ready to shoot anyone that tries to stop them.

### **Battle for the Badgers** by Anthony Masters

Tim's been sent to stay with his weird Uncle Seb and his two kids, Flower and Brian, who run Green Watch - a pressure group that supports green issues. At first Tim thinks they're a bunch of cranks - but soon he finds himself entangled in a fervent battle to save badgers from needless extermination.

### **Gorilla Mountain** by Anthony Masters

Green Watch flies out to Africa to meet Alison Best, and her husband John, who are studying a family of gorillas. The Bests are trying to protect the gorillas from poachers. On route to meet John in the mountains Green Watch is ambushed and Alison is kidnapped. Left to fend for themselves in the bush, the Green Watch team have to find Alison and save the gorillas.



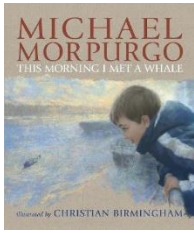
### **Sad Song of the Whale** by Anthony Masters

Tim leaps at the chance to join Green Watch on an anti-whaling expedition in the Falklands; however, events don't turn out quite as he expected.

### **Dolphin's Revenge** by Anthony Masters

The members of Green Watch are convinced that Sam Jefferson is mistreating the dolphins in his dolphinarium - but they need proof. Frustrated by their failure to uncover any incriminating evidence, Tim decides to take action, and finds himself on the wrong side of the law!





**This Morning I Met a Whale** by Michael Morpurgo

One boy's special relationship with the whale that swam up the Thames provides a powerful plea to save the environment. The creature brings a message for him - humans must mend the damage they are doing to the planet before it is too late.

**Animal Healer series** by Lauren St John

**White Giraffe**

When a sinister stranger threatens Martine's home at Sawubona Game Reserve and her beloved white giraffe, Jemmy, she is determined to try everything in her power to save them. Travelling to the Namibian desert, Martine stumbles across a secret so terrible it threatens the existence of every person and animal in the land...also *Dolphin Song*, *The Elephant's Tale*, *Last Leopard*, *Operation Rhino*

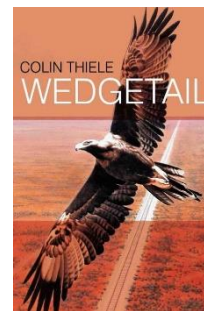


**Storm Boy** by Colin Thiele

It's a heart-warming tale of a bond between a young boy and a pelican, Mr. Percival, whom the boy saves from a group of thugs that threatened their sanctuary, killing off wildlife for their own amusement.

**Wedgetail** by Colin Thiele

Andy is fascinated by wedgetail eagles. He lies on the shed roof of his family's farm and watches them cruising about on their huge wings, high above him in the sunlit air. They are like skaters skimming on ice, gliding in vast arcs and circles. One day a ranger brings him an orphaned eaglet so tiny that it seems unlikely to survive. Wedgetail is the story of Andy's struggle to save it, to nurse it and feed it - and to protect it from danger, human and otherwise.



**Turtle's Song** by Alan Brown and Kim Michelle Toft

Award winning illustrator Kim Toft's magnificent silk paintings perfectly capture the precarious life of the Green Turtle, while author Alan Brown's poignant, mythical story sounds a hymn to this ancient but now endangered creature.

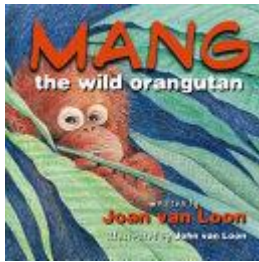
**Escape to Kalimantan** by Steve Tolbert

Jack and his dad escape to the wilds of Kalimantan, but this is no holiday. Someone is killing the orang-utans. Jack finds out it's not just his own survival he has to worry about.

**Always Sebastian** by Jean Ure

Maggie's life is still very much influenced by tall, dark, intense Sebastian who drops in and out of her family life at will - usually with a stray cat or a dog that he rescued. Sebastian has always had strong feelings for animals and the environment, and Maggie and the girls have,

on the whole, supported and agreed with his beliefs. When a bomb goes off outside a laboratory, all fingers suddenly seem to be pointing in his direction...



**Mang the Wild Orangutan** by Joan Van Loon **Picture Book**

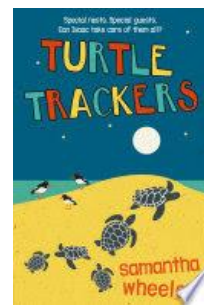
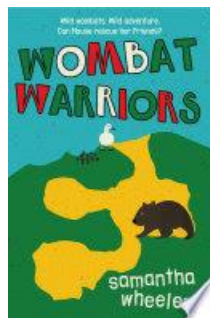
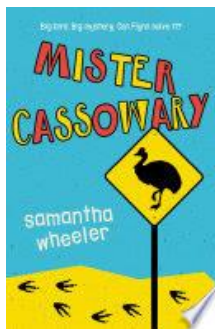
The story of Mang the Orangutan, taken from the great rainforests of Borneo and now kept in a zoo. A long time ago in Borneo Mang clung tightly to his mother's back, swinging from vines, collecting ripe fruit, honey and insects, and was happy, a master of the trees. Then one day humans come and shoot Mang's mother and capture Mang.

**Turtle trackers** by Samantha Wheeler

Ten-year-old Isaac is helping his mum run a caravan park on the Queensland coast. When he finds a sea turtle nesting on the beach, he's disappointed that he can't volunteer as a turtle tracker to watch over her eggs and hatchlings. To make matters worse, famous travel blogger Eddie Eastwood and his mischievous digging dog come to stay. Isaac must pull out all the stops because a zero-star review from Eddie would spell disaster for his mum and the park. How can Isaac find the time to protect the turtles and make a difference?

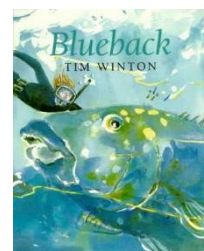
**Wombat Warriors** by Samantha Wheeler

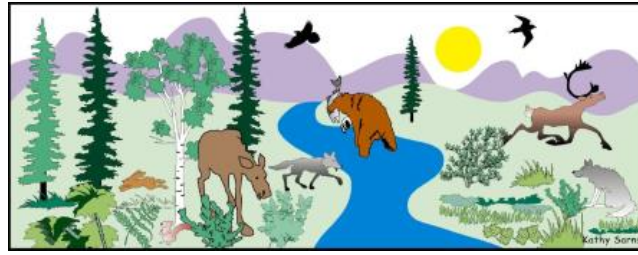
Mouse is not prepared for her last-minute stay at Aunt Evie's. How will she cope at a new school without her parents around? But before Mouse has even unpacked her suitcase, she makes a new friend - a wombat called Miss Pearl! Suddenly, being in a strange cottage doesn't seem so bad, especially when she can snuggle up with a wombat. Mouse soon learns that not everyone in the area loves wombats, including Aunt Evie's landlord, a sheep farmer who destroys them on sight. Can Mouse find her voice in time to keep her furry friends safe? .....and also **Mister Cassowary, Smooch and Rose, Spud and Charli**



**Blueback: A Fable for All Ages** by Tim Winton

Life is tough out at Longboat Bay. Every day Abel helps his mother earn their living from the sea and the land. It's hard work but Abel has the bush and the sky and the bay to himself. Until the day he meets Blueback, the grouper that changes his life.



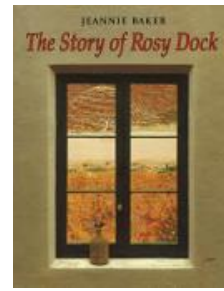


## Environment in Picture Books

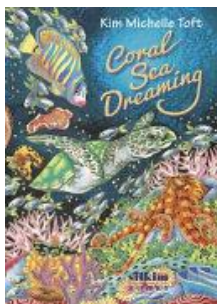
### Australian Landscape

**The Story of Rosy Dock** by Jeannie Baker

The Australian desert: for thousands of years the only changes here were made by the wind, the willy-willies and sometimes the rain. Then a hundred years ago people from Europe settled in the desert and planted seeds from the other side of the world. The Story of Rosy Dock is the story of one of the settlers who followed them, and her garden in the wilderness, a garden that is beautiful - but with an unexpected flowering. An introduction to environmental awareness describes how a single rosy dock garden in Australia was spread throughout the country threatening the native plants and animals in the southern, central, and western regions.



### Ecosystems



**Coral Sea Dreaming** by Kim Michelle Toft

Written in classic rhyme and illustrated with Kim Michelle Toft's unique hand-painted silks, this book will motivate the reader to learn more about this extraordinary but fragile underwater ecosystem.

**I Can Swim a Rainbow** by Kim Michelle Toft

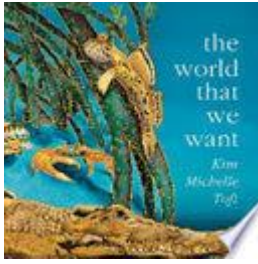
This book is an introduction to understanding colour theory with brilliant images of a coral reef ecosystem. Both educational and timeless in their environmental message.

**Neptune's Nursery** by Kim Michelle Toft, Allan Sheather

Dolphins, sea snakes, whales, turtles and other creatures of the sea are brought to life in a magical underwater world.





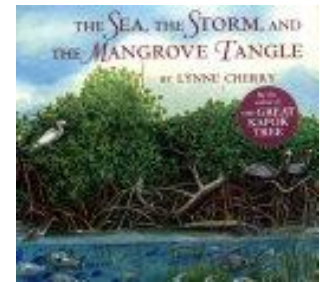
**The World That We Want** by Kim Michelle Toft

Nine different habitats and forty-five fascinating creatures feature in this spectacular portrayal of the rare and fragile beauty of North Queensland. Search through the ecosystems, discover the unique creatures and find out how these environmental worlds interact.

## Mangroves & Wetlands

**The Sea, the Storm, and the Mangrove Tangle** by Lynne Cherry

A seed is jostled from a branch of a mangrove tree and floats to a lagoon in the Caribbean Sea. It takes root, sprouts leaves, and slowly begins to grow. Over many years, the mangrove will provide a home and nourishment for numerous creatures of land and sea. Among its roots come to live fiddler crabs and shrimp; in its branches dwell lizards and hummingbirds. Soon the tree is dropping seeds of its own, and other mangroves are growing, creating a tangle whose benefits extend even to large mammals like dolphins and manatees. Ever threatened by hurricanes and even more by human destruction, the mangroves of our planet are endangered. A look into a unique ecosystem, one that is endangered in many places.

**Mangrove** by Glenda Kane and Lisa Allen

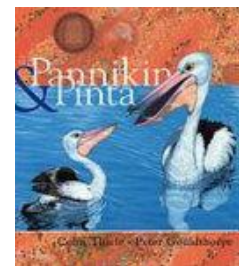
In a secret place where the mangrove tree lives, nothing changes but the tide. Until, one day, a man arrives...This unique and quite exceptional picture book describes the life-cycle of a mangrove with charming rhyming text and beautiful illustrations. The hero of the story is really the mangrove tree. Mangroves show the fragility of our ecosystems.

**Wetlands** by Tricia Oktober

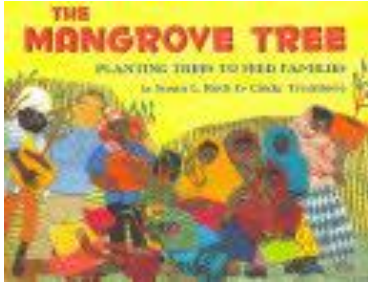
In the tropical north of Australia, magpie geese gather around a billabong. The land is dusty, the rivers have shrunk and the dry months drag on. Then, at last, the clouds begin to spread across the darkening skies and jagged fingers of lightning appear. Thunder cracks and booms, and the much-needed rains begin. Now the dry creeks have become rushing torrents.

**Pannikin and Pinta** by Colin Thiele

At rare intervals great floods fill the desert basin of Lake Eyre in Central Australia, and for a while wildlife teems along the shore. The miracle is short-lived. In the fierce summer heat the lake shrinks, the water turns to brine and the fish die. Birds such as pelicans then face a vast flight across the desert to the southern coast, and many die along the way. *Pannikin and Pinta* is the story of a pelican family that sets out on that heroic journey.



**The Mangrove Tree: Planting Trees to Feed Families** by Cindy Trumbore



For a long time, the people of Hargigo, a village in the tiny African country of Eritrea, were living without enough food for themselves and their animals. Then along came a scientist, Dr Gordon Sato, who helped to change their lives for the better. And it all started by planting some special mangrove trees. This fascinating story of environmental innovation is a celebration of creativity, hard work and the ability of one man to make a positive difference in the lives of many.

## Overfishing

**The Three Fishing Brothers Gruff** by Ben Galbraith

Once upon a time, there lived three mean and greedy brothers called Gruff. They fished and fished until Poverty Bay is empty, and then resolved to find somewhere else to catch their fish. But, Minke Whale, the Guardian of the Ocean, isn't happy and neither are the townspeople of Poverty Bay!

## Reefs



**Hello, Fish!: Visiting the Coral Reef** by Sylvia A. Earle

This wondrous tour of coral reefs has informative text and dazzling close-up photographs which introduce 12 different fish that dwell in the waters surrounding the reefs. Enchanting gobies pop out at the camera, jewel-like damselfish glimmer, a spotted stingray glides through the deep. Meeting these creatures eye to eye as they glide through clumps of coral, students will marvel at the teeming life in these underwater realms

**The Brilliant Deep** by Kate Messner and Matthew Forsythe.

The true story of the coral restoration pioneer in this tribute to the wonders of nature and the power of human hope.

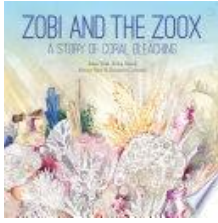


**Reef** by Tricia Oktober

Every year, green sea turtles swim through the deep waters of the Pacific Ocean to lay their eggs on the beaches of a coral reef. Guided by the stars and sea currents, the turtles swim day and night until at last they reach the reef. Their long journey is finally over, but the danger they face has just begun.

**One Less Fish** by Kim Michelle Toft, Allan Sheather

Twelve gracious angelfish thinking they're in heaven amongst the coral reefs.



**Zobi and the Zoox: A Story of Coral Bleaching** by Ailsa Wild, Aviva Reed, Gregory Crochetti

Looks at the destructive force of coral bleaching.

## Seasons

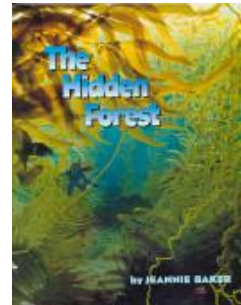
**A Year on Our Farm** by Penny Matthews and Andrew McLean

Every month of the year there are jobs to do on a small Australian farm. Fruit ripens, lambs are born, hay is harvested. A Year on Our Farm shows the passing of the seasons through the eyes of the children for whom the farm and all its animals is home.

## Trees, Forests & Rainforests

**The Hidden Forest** by Jeannie Baker

Ben, who is fishing in some weeds, gets frustrated because he's catching only minnows. He fights with the weeds to free his trap, but he has to call his friend Sophie, who knows how to dive, to untangle it for him. Sophie agrees, if Ben will come below the water with her to see "the world under the waves." The Hidden Forest is about the surreal and disappearing kelp forests in the waters of South East Tasmania.

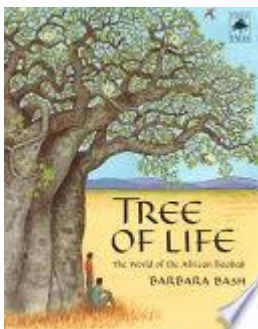


**Where the Forest Meets the Sea** by Jeannie Baker

This fascinating and innovative picture book chronicles the reflections of a young boy, exploring a prehistoric rain forest in North Queensland, Australia. The relief collage illustrations, constructed from a multitude of natural materials, create a stunning three-dimensional effect, bringing together visions of the past, present and future.

**Uno's Garden** by Graeme Base

When Uno arrives in the forest one beautiful day, there are many fascinating and extraordinary animals there to greet him. Uno loves the forest so much, he decides to live there. In time, a little village grows up around his house. Then a town, then a city ... and soon Uno realises that the animals and plants have begun to disappear.

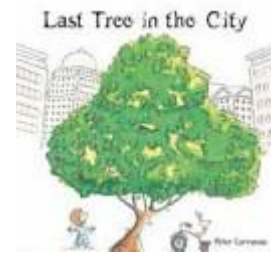


**Tree of Life: The World of the African Baobab** by Barbara Bash

On the hot, dry savannahs of Africa, the baobab stands silent and ancient. The branches of this venerated giant look so much like gnarled roots, legend has it the tree was originally planted upside down! Leafless and bare for most of the year, the baobab might be mistaken for dead. But this fascinating tree, which the African people call "Mother", is very much alive, providing shelter and food for bushbabies, bats, antelope, birds, insects, baboons, elephants and humans.

### **Last Tree in the City** by Peter Carnavas

Edward lives in a city, a place of concrete and cars, a world without colour, so every day he visits the last tree in the city. Here he forgets the dull world around him. Then one day the tree is gone. Edward thinks of a clever way to revive his fallen tree, inspiring the entire city to follow his lead and understand that life is better with trees.



### **The Great Kapok Tree** by Lynne Cherry

The Great Kapok Tree is an American children's picture book about rainforest conservation. It was written and illustrated by Lynne Cherry. The book is dedicated to Chico Mendes, a Brazilian environmental activist who was murdered in 1988.

### **Memorial** by Gary Crew and Shaun Tan

When the soldiers return in 1918, a memorial tree is planted... "Lest we forget". Generations later, what do those who pause in the shadows of the tree's immense branches remember?

### **Rainforest** by Tricia Oktober

In the rainforest a new day is dawning. Suddenly the gentle sounds of the rainforest are shattered! The man-made sounds of heavy machines tearing into the undergrowth, toppling trees and crushing everything in their path, echo into the depths of the forest until the end of the day.

### **The Vanishing Rainforest** by Richard Platt

This story, seen through the eyes of a child called Remaema, describes how the Yanomami tribe are battling against potential developers. Can a solution be found that will protect the forest and allow the tribe to continue living as they have always done, while benefiting from limited development?

### **Secrets of the Rainforest** by Dailan Pugh and Margaret Dunkle

What is so special about a rainforest? What are the secrets hidden in its lush green depths? Kevin, the logger's son, takes a trip through the forest with some 'greenie' children, and the things he sees and feels and hears change his life.

### **The Lorax** by Dr Seuss

This story chronicles the plight of the environment and the Lorax, who speaks for the trees against the greedy Once-ler.

### **The Last Tree** by Mark Wilson

The Last Tree is the story of a beautiful eucalyptus tree that grew in one of the old-growth forests of south-eastern Australia. It was the centre of life in the forest and provided food and shelter for many forest dwellers for hundreds of years. What happens when the old tree is threatened as the surrounding forest slowly disappears?



## Non-Fiction

**The Man Who Planted Trees** by Jean Giono

A touching story of Elzéard Bouffier, who devoted his entire life to reforesting a desolate portion of Provence, in southern France. He single-handedly planted 100 acorns each day before, through, and after two world wars, and transformed a sorrowful place into one full of life and joy'

**Remnants of Green: A Rainforest Journey** by Anne Young and Herbert Heinrich

This book illustrates rainforests typical of New South Wales and southern Queensland. The more obvious inhabitants of these rainforests, from forest flood to leafy canopy, are featured in the journey.



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