

## Children's Fiction and Nonfiction

### Children's Fiction

#### **The Hidden Forest** by Jeannie Baker *Greenwillow Books (2005)*

Looking for his lost fish trap, Ben thinks he sees something dark moving under the water. Is it a creature or only his imagination? Diving into the sea with his friend Sophie, he is amazed to discover a wonderful hidden world - and the rich variety of creatures that live there. (From Amazon)

#### **Oh No! Hannah's Swamp is Changing** by Marilyn Barrett-O'Leary, Illustrated by Catherine Kiffe *Louisiana Sea Grant (2002)*

An illustrated children's book for grades K-4 about basic concepts of exotic species impacts. Concepts include a basic understanding of what nonindigenous species are, the effects that they have on our environment, and what can be done to stem the tide. (From LaMer) *PDF version linked above provided by Louisiana Sea Grant*

#### **Mister Seahorse** by Eric Carle *Philomel (2004)*

When Mrs. Seahorse lays her eggs, she does it on Mr. Seahorse's belly! She knows he will take good care of them. While he swims waiting for the eggs to hatch, he meets some other underwater fathers caring for their babies: Mr. Tilapia, who carries his babies in his mouth; Mr. Kurtus, who keeps his on his head; and Mr. Catfish, who is baby-sitting his young hatchlings. (From Amazon)

#### **A House for Hermit Crab** by Eric Carle *Little Simon (2013)*

Poor Hermit Crab! He's outgrown his snug little shell, so he finds himself a larger one—and many new friends to decorate and protect his new house. But what will happen when he outgrows this shell, and has to say good-bye to all the sea creatures who have made Hermit Crab's house a home? (From Barnes & Noble)

#### **Lu and the Swamp Ghost** by James Carville, Illustrated by David Catrow *Athenum/Anne Schwartz (2004)*

Mama always said, "You're never poor if you have a loving family and one good friend." Well, Lu has a family but no friend -- so maybe she is just a little poor. How all changes one day down on the Louisiana bayou -- when Lu comes face-to-face with a for-real, live swamp ghost -- is at the heart of this flavorful, funny...and compassionate story. Meet a girl with lots of pluck and plenty of courage in this Depression-era tale that's based on an episode in the childhood of James Carville's mother. (From Barnes & Noble)

#### **The Magic School Bus and the Climate Challenge** by Joanna Cole, Illustrated by Bruce Degen *Scholastic (2010)*

Like it or not, global warming is a hot topic, and it will affect the younger generation the most. So why not turn to the teacher kids like the most, Ms. Frizzle! Only the Friz can boil all the hoopla down to the scientific facts in a fun and informative way. (From Scholastic)

*Other relevant Magic School Bus titles:*

*The Magic School Bus Inside a Hurricane*

*The Magic School Bus On the Ocean Floor*  
*The Magic School Bus and the Shark Adventures*  
*The Magic School Bus Takes a Dive: A Book about Coral Reefs*  
*The Magic School Presents: Sea Creatures*

**G is for Gulf by KidsLovetheGulf.org Castlebridge Books (2012)**

An ABC book about the Gulf of Mexico. Explore the underwater world of the Gulf of Mexico and meet a few of the creatures that we share this diverse ecosystem with. You can search the colorful pages for the starfish and learn interesting facts about the largest gulf in the world. (From Amazon)

**Clovis Crawfish and His Friends by Mary Alice Fontenot, Illustrated by Keith Graves  
*Pelican (reissued in 2009)***

The popular Clovis Crawfish series contains many books about various Louisiana wildlife. Friendship is the underlying subject as the beauty and dangers of bayou life are depicted in this, the very first volume in the landmark Clovis Crawfish series, now in full color for the first time. (From Pelican Publishing)

*Other relevant titles in this series:*

*Clovis Crawfish and the Curious Crapau*  
*Clovis Crawfish and Etienne Escargot*

**Good Night Beach by Adam Gamble, Illustrated by Cooper Kelly *Our World of Books*  
(2007)**

The beach, an iconic fixture of many children's summers, is artfully celebrated in this boardbook. Designed to soothe children before bedtime while instilling an early appreciation for the environment's natural wonders, the book features a multicultural group of people experiencing all that the beach has to offer. Rhythmic language guides children through the passage of a single day of fun at the seaside—splashing, playing in the waves, boating, fishing, identifying wildlife, and more. (From Barnes & Noble)

**Good Night Ocean by Adam Gamble, Illustrated by Cooper Kelly *Our World of Books*  
(2009)**

An educational and enriching book set in the diverse environments of the world's oceans, this delightful story will soothe young children before bedtime while fostering an appreciation for the beauty and diversity of the marine world. Celebrating the wonders of the undersea world, this voyage takes place through the passage of both one day and the four seasons of the year while a family greets a wide range of marine life, including whales, clownfish, crabs, shrimp, eels, octopus, penguins, swordfish, seals, and sharks. Traveling by sailboat, fishing boat, battleship, and submarine, children will learn about all of the world's major oceans as well as beaches, islands, reefs, harbors, bays, and icebergs. (From Amazon)

**I Can Save the Ocean by Alison Inches, Illustrated by Viviana Garofoli *Simon & Schuster*  
(2010)**

Max the Little Green Monster is a cute, furry green monster that loves the outdoors, especially the beach! But Max and his friends don't like cleaning up after themselves and after a picnic on the shore, they leave a big mess behind and go scuba diving. While Max is excited to

meet lots of new ocean-swimming friends from crabs to colorful fishes to ink-squirting squids, when he learns how his carelessness and littering may have harmed the beautiful ocean, the Little Green Monster goes on a quest to clean and protect the beach and finds out what it means to be environmentally *green*. (From Amazon)

**[A Million Fish... More or Less](#) by Patricia McKissack *Dragonfly (1992)***

In an original yarn of the Louisiana bayou, McKissack honors the tradition of bragging about the one that got away. Hugh Thomas hears that strange things happen on the Bayou Clapateaux, but he's skeptical--until he invents a fish story of his own. (From Amazon)

**[Roscoe and the Pelican Rescue](#) by Lynn Rowe Reed *Holiday House (2011)***

Two cousins learn about how to care for local animals after the Gulf Coast oil spill. Tony is expecting the best summer ever! He'll even get to visit Cousin Addison, who lives right in Louisiana near the beach. But the cousins find that the local beach is closed and full of brown balls of goo. Worse yet, Roscoe, Addison's retriever, finds an oil-covered pelican. However, Aunt Olivia has been trained to work a rescue operation, and Tony and Addison learn how to help oil-covered animals. Information about the Deepwater Horizon accident and its affect on the Gulf Coast are included, along with information on animal rescue efforts. (From Amazon)

**[Varmints](#) by Helen Ward, Illustrated by Marc Craste *Candlewick Publishing (2008)***

Once, the only sounds to be heard were the buzzing of bees in the grass, the murmuring of moles in the earth, and the song of birds in the sky. These warmed the hearts of those who cared to listen — until the others came to fill the sky with buildings and the air with a cacophony of noise. With dramatically lit artwork and a spare, intriguing text, *Varmints* tells of a pastoral world in need of protection and of the souls who love it enough to ensure its regeneration. Includes vellum pages and French flaps as part of a gorgeous paperback design. (From Barnes & Noble)

## **Children's Nonfiction**

**[And the Tide Comes In...](#) by Meryll Alber, Illustrated by Joyce Mihran Turley *Taylor Trade (2012)***

This book is a narrative told from the point of view of a young girl who is showing her visiting cousin a Georgia coastal salt marsh. The children visit the marsh every day for four days, slowly building their knowledge of the ecosystem. As they make their way through the tall marsh grass, the two children slip and slide on marsh mud, discover clusters of ribbed mussels at the base of the grass, and watch as fiddler crabs skitter from burrow to burrow around the edge of a creek. Representative of intertidal marshes throughout the world, the Georgia coastal salt marsh described in this book is typically shared by both land and marine mammals, presenting a unique ecosystem at the water's edge. (From Goodreads)

**[Commotion in the Ocean](#) by Giles Andreae, Illustrated by David Wojtowycz *Tiger Tales (2002)***

“There's a curious commotion, at the bottom of the ocean; I think we ought to go and take a look. You'll find every sort of creature, that lives beneath the sea; swimming through the

pages of this book.” The sequel to the best-selling “Rumble in the Jungle”, this delightful new collection of poems includes fun rhymes about the creatures who live in and around the ocean. Children will delight in the snappy poems and colorful illustrations about whales, walruses, penguins, polar bears, stingrays and sharks. (From Google Books)

**Marsh Morning** by Marianne Berkes, Illustrated by Robert Noreika *The Millbrook Press (2003)*

Beginning with the first light of dawn, the marsh comes alive with music as different types of birds tune up and perform nature's symphony. (From Google Books)

**Marsh Music** by Marianne Berkes, Illustrated by Robert Noreika *Millbrook Press (2011)*

At night, ten different species of frogs convene in a marsh. Fireflies light up the scene and Maestro bullfrog raises his baton. The music begins, softly at first, but builds to a crescendo as the night goes on. Just before dawn, the frogs depart--but the serenade is not over. . . Although the story is a fantasy, each of the different species of frogs has been carefully portrayed, and described by the author in an Afterword. The musical terms are defined in a glossary. (From Google Books)

**In One Tidepool: Crabs, Snails, and Salty Tails** by A.D. Fredericks *Dawn Publications (2002)*

Go on a field trip between two covers with Tony to a special, brilliant habitat, a tidepool. A whole community of creatures lives there! Humor, a fun rhyme, good science, and brilliant illustrations come together in a clear, easily understood package. Two pages of Field Notes and fun facts at the back of the book offer intriguing glimpses of these creatures, from snails to sponges. (From Barnes & Noble)

**Marshes & Swamps** by Gail Gibbons *Holiday House (1988)*

This descriptive book will give readers a good look at wetlands. After reading, students will be able to tell the difference between swamps and marshes, and will have learned about the differences in their environments. (From Scholastic)

**A Day in the Salt Marsh** by Kevin Kurtz, Illustrated by Consie Powell *Sylvan Dell Publishing (2007)*

Enjoy a day in one of the most dynamic habitats on earth: the salt marsh. Fun-to-read, rhyming verse introduces readers to hourly changes in the marsh as the tide comes and goes. Watch the animals that have adapted to this ever-changing environment as they hunt for food or play in the sun, and learn how the marsh grass survives even when it is covered by salt water twice a day. An activity on adaptations is included in the For Creative Minds section. (From Amazon)

**An Octopus is Amazing** by Patricia Lauber, Illustrated by Holly Keller *Harper Collins (1990)*

[Here is] a charming introduction to the truly amazing octopus [from its intelligence to its ability to change colors to the camouflaging black ink it squirts to escape predators]. Lauber's

chatty, fact-filled text makes the book a good read-aloud, and Keller's amusing and colorful drawings enhance it—a perfect match of text and illustration. (From School Library Journal)

**[Life in the Ocean - The Story of Oceanographer Sylvia Earle](#)** by **Claire A. Nivola** *Farrar Straus Giroux*(2012)

Sylvia Earle first lost her heart to the ocean as a young girl when she discovered the wonders of the Gulf of Mexico in her backyard. As an adult, she dives even deeper. Whether she's designing submersibles, swimming with the whales, or taking deep-water walks, Sylvia Earle has dedicated her life to learning more about what she calls "the blue heart of the planet." With stunningly detailed pictures of the wonders of the sea, *Life in the Ocean* tells the story of Sylvia's growing passion and how her ocean exploration and advocacy have made her known around the world. This picture book biography also includes an informative author's note that will motivate young environmentalists. *Life in the Ocean* is one of *The Washington Post's* Best Kids Books of 2012. (From Amazon)

**[The Earth Book](#)** by **Todd Parr** *Little, Brown Books for Young Readers* (2010)

*"I take care of the earth because I know I can do little things every day to make a BIG difference..."*

With his signature blend of playfulness and sensitivity, Todd Parr explores the important, timely subject of environmental protection and conservation in this eco-friendly picture book. Featuring a circular die-cut Earth on the cover, and printed entirely with recycled materials and nontoxic soy inks, this book includes lots of easy, smart ideas on how we can all work together to make the Earth feel good - from planting a tree and using both sides of the paper, to saving energy and reusing old things in new ways. (From Google Books)

**[P is for Pelican](#)** by **Anita Preto**, **Illustrated by Laura Knorr** *Sleeping Bear* (2004)

From its festive Mardi Gras parades to its wildlife-filled swamps, Louisiana is a state of great diversity. P is for Pelican: A Louisiana Alphabet is an alphabet book that introduces readers young and old to the culture, history, and wonders of this Gulf state. Author Anita C. Prieto's fun-filled rhymes and informative text are highlighted by artist Laura Knorr's vivid and descriptive artwork. (From Barnes & Noble)

**[Sharkabet: A Sea of Sharks from A to Z](#)** by **Ray Troll** *WestWinds Press* (2002)

"Sharkabet: A Sea of Sharks from A to Z" is a thrilling, chilling book for children of all ages. Featuring Ray Troll's spectacular fishy art, this book portrays sharks both living and extinct. (From Amazon)

**[Before the Saltwater Came](#)** by **Wendy Wilson Billiot**, **Illustrated by William DePauw** *Wendy Wilson Billiot Publishing* (2004)

The author lives in the marsh of South Louisiana. The book tells the story of the beauty and charm of the wetland and how its gradual disappearance affects the wildlife. (From Amazon)

**[G is for Gulf: An ABC Book About the Gulf of Mexico](#)** by **kidslovethegulf.org** *Castlebridge Books* (2012)

An ABC book about the Gulf of Mexico. Explore the underwater world of the Gulf of Mexico and meet a few of the creatures that we share this diverse ecosystem with. You can

search the colorful pages for the starfish and learn interesting facts about the largest gulf in the world.

**[Sea Slime: It's Eeuwy, Gooey, and Under the Sea](#)** by **Ellen Prager**, **Illustrated by Shennen Bersani** *Sylvan Dell Publishing (2014)*

Snails and sea slugs use Sea Slime. But, did you know that coral and clownfish need slime too? Marine scientist Ellen Prager takes us deep into the sea to introduce us to fascinating and bizarre animals that use slime to capture their food, protect themselves from harm, or even move from place to place in their underwater environment.