

Green Reads and Views Lists for Chapters 5-7

CHAPTER 5: HOW LANDSCAPES SHAPE US—GREEN READS AND VIEWS

Title	Summary	Theme
Archer, M. (2021). <i>Wonder walkers</i> . Nancy Paulsen Books.	Two curious kids embark on a “wonder walk,” asking thought-provoking questions about the world around them.	Immersion in nature
Nelson, S. (2022). <i>A park connects us</i> . Owlkids Books.	A picture book showcasing the communal space of a city park and how it brings people together, emphasizing the importance of shared green spaces in urban environments.	Wonder of nature, importance of communal natural spaces
Harjo, J. (2023). <i>Remember</i> . Random House.	A poetic invitation to reflect on the wonder of the world and our place in it, encouraging readers to connect with nature and remember its significance.	Wonder and importance of the natural environment
DiSalvo-Ryan, D. (1994). <i>City green</i> . Morrow Junior Books.	Marcy transforms a vacant lot into a green space for her community, illustrating the power of people coming together to re-naturalize urban areas.	Importance of community involvement in re-naturalizing spaces
Brown, M. (2007). <i>Butterflies on Carmen Street</i> . Piñata Books.	Julianita learns about monarch butterflies and their migration, highlighting how natural phenomena connect geographical areas and people.	Connection between geographical areas through natural phenomena
Cole, H. (2007). <i>On Meadowview Street</i> . Greenwillow Books.	Caroline transforms her suburban yard into a meadow, demonstrating how introducing natural elements can enhance an environment and foster biodiversity.	Enhancing environments through natural elements
Borovoy, A. E. (2012, April 6). <i>5-minute film festival: School gardens</i> [Blog post]. Edutopia. Accessed at www.edutopia.org/blog/film-festival-school-gardens on March 20, 2025.	Video playlist showcasing school gardens and their lessons on cooperation, sustainability, and earth stewardship.	Lessons from school gardens
Mangal, M. (2021). <i>Jayden's impossible garden</i> . Free Spirit.	Jayden creates a community garden, highlighting the beauty of intergenerational relationships and the transformative power of imagination and perseverance.	Community gardening, intergenerational relationships
DeMunn, M. (1997). <i>Places of power</i> . Dawn Publications.	Explores the Earth's places of power and their significance in connecting individuals with nature.	Connecting with nature
Cole, K. (2001). <i>No bad news</i> . Whitman.	Marcus learns to see the positive aspects of his urban environment, showcasing how people can come together to create pleasant natural spaces in their neighborhoods.	Creating pleasant natural environments in urban areas

Fleming, D. (1996). <i>Where once there was a wood</i> . Holt.	Illustrates the impact of commercial development on animal habitat, urging readers to consider the consequences of urbanization on natural environments.	Impact of commercial development on natural habitats
Silverstein, S. (1964). <i>The giving tree</i> . Harper & Row.	A parable about the generosity of nature and its gifts to humans, encouraging readers to appreciate the benefits of natural phenomena.	Benefits of nature
Yolen, J. (1992). <i>Letting Swift River go</i> . Little, Brown.	A girl witnesses her town being flooded to supply water to the city, exploring themes of sacrifice and letting go for the greater good.	Sacrifice for the greater good
Tornio, S., & Keffer, K. (2013). <i>The kids' outdoor adventure book: 448 great things to do in nature before you grow up</i> . Falcon Guides.	Provides 448 nature activities for kids, promoting outdoor exploration and environmental stewardship.	Outdoor adventure, environmental stewardship
Noble, T. H. (2006). <i>The legend of Michigan</i> . Sleeping Bear Press.	Tells a legend about Michigan, showcasing how stories about a place can inspire connections and understanding.	Legends about places
Wolfson, J. (2006). <i>Home, and other big, fat lies</i> . Holt.	Whitney learns about the wonders of nature and community while navigating the foster care system, emphasizing the importance of a sense of place and belonging.	Sense of place and belonging
Lewis, G. (2011). <i>Wild wings</i> . Atheneum Books for Young Readers.	Callum and Iona save a migrating Osprey, highlighting how natural phenomena connect geographical areas and people.	Connection between geographical areas through natural phenomena
Ouchley, A. G. (2013). <i>Swamper: Letters from a Louisiana swamp rabbit</i> . Louisiana State University Press.	A swamp rabbit shares his observations about life in a Louisiana swamp, educating readers about the richness and value of wetlands.	Importance of wetlands
Martin, J. B., & Lee, J. J. (2022). <i>Sandor Katz and the tiny wild</i> . Readers to Eaters.	Chronicles Sandor Katz's journey of community-building through fermented foods, emphasizing resilience and ecological awareness.	Community-building, resilience, ecological awareness

CHAPTER 6: HOW EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS CONNECT OUR COMMUNITIES—GREEN READS AND VIEWS

Title	Summary	Theme
Human experience and response to extreme weather		
Ashman, L. (2020). <i>When the storm comes</i> . Nancy Paulsen Books.	A storm rolls in, sending people and animals to seek shelter. Afterward, as people clean up and reconnect, animals emerge, and all enjoy the sunny calm together.	Importance of people coming together after an extreme weather event
Sotomayor, S. (2022). <i>Just help! How to build a better world</i> . Philomel Books.	Inspired by her family's commitment to helping others, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor shares a story of neighbors working together to create a better community.	Importance of helping to create a better community together
Winter, J. (2020). <i>Our house is on fire: Greta Thunberg's call to save the planet</i> . Beach Lane Books.	Climate activist Greta Thunberg sparked a worldwide student movement to demand action from world leaders to address climate change and save the planet.	Importance of finding a way to speak out on climate change; finding a way forward on this crucial issue
Rusch, E. (2019b). <i>Mario and the hole in the sky: How a chemist saved our planet</i> . Charlesbridge.	The true, inspiring story of how Mexican-American scientist Mario Molina helped solve the ozone crisis of the 1980s and went on to become a Nobel laureate and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.	Drawing inspiration from a success story
Cousteau, P., & Hopkinson, D. (2016). <i>Follow the moon home: A tale of one idea, twenty kids, and a hundred sea turtles</i> . Chronicle Books.	A story of the powerful difference young people can make in the world. Viv finds her way in a new place and helps bring together a whole community to save the sea turtles of the South Carolina coast.	A triumphant story of youth environmental activism, community, and friendship
CBC News. (2023, August 14). <i>Youth win Montana climate lawsuit, hailed as a 'game-changer'</i> [Video file]. Accessed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZPXYkW_mNfE on March 20, 2025.	Young people win a climate change lawsuit in Montana claiming that youth are disproportionately impacted by fossil fuel pollution, though the impact remains unclear.	Youth victory in court may lead to change
Animals in extreme weather events		
Williams, L. (2018). <i>If polar bears disappeared</i> . Roaring Brook Press.	Imagines the consequences of a world without polar bears.	Consequences of extinction
Williams, L. (2021). <i>If bees disappeared</i> . Roaring Brook Press.	Imagines the consequences of a world without bees.	Consequences of extinction

Climate change		
Hamalainen, K. (2020). <i>Extreme weather and rising seas: Understanding climate change</i> . Scholastic.	What is the difference between climate and weather? How does ice melting at the South Pole affect sea levels thousands of miles away?	Nonfiction; explains how climate change contributes to rising sea levels and hazards like heat waves, droughts, and extra-powerful storms
Yolen, J., & Stemple, H. E. Y. (2020). <i>I am the storm</i> . Rise x Penguin Workshop.	Portrays four different children experiencing a tornado, blizzard, forest fire, and hurricane.	Emphasizes nature's power and the strength found within oneself during such events
Rusch, E. (2019a). <i>Glacier on the move</i> . West Margin Press.	Follow the journey of Flo, a glacier, through captivating illustrations. Learn glacial terminology, explore their dynamics, and discover fascinating "ice worms."	A model for scientific storytelling
Experiencing extreme weather		
Villa, A. F. (2013). <i>Flood</i> . Picture Window Books.	A wordless picture book that beautifully illustrates a family's experience before, during, and after a devastating flood.	Resilience
Arnold, M. D. (2000). <i>The bravest of us all</i> . Dial Books for Young Readers.	Ruby Jane has always looked up to her older sister, Velma Jean, for her brave and daring stunts, but it is Ruby Jane's turn to be brave in the face of a tornado that threatens her sister's life.	Bravery in the face of natural disaster
Purtill, S. (2021). <i>The wonder of thunder: Lessons from a thunderstorm</i> . Dunhill Clare.	A lighthearted children's rhyming picture book that helps tame fears while highlighting all the wondrous things thunderstorms can do. Sally Storm, a lovable character, excitedly shares all the good she can do as she swirls and tumbles overhead.	Engaging with storms through fact and experience
Bildner, P. (2015). <i>Marvelous Cornelius: Hurricane Katrina and the spirit of New Orleans</i> . Chronicle Books.	The inspiring story of a humble man and the heroic difference he made in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.	Thriving and helping others after a natural disaster
Tarshis, L. (2011). <i>I survived Hurricane Katrina, 2005</i> . Scholastic.	Barry and his family are stuck in their home when Hurricane Katrina breaks. When Barry is swept out of his home and stranded with only a dog for company, he must find the courage to survive the storm of the century.	Courage during a natural disaster
Smith, H. (2019). <i>The phone booth in Mr. Hirota's garden</i> . Orca Book.	When the Tohoku tsunami destroyed Makio's village in 2011, his neighbor, Mr. Hirota, begins a mysterious project—building a phone booth in his garden to connect people to their lost loved ones. Makio ultimately finds his voice and solace in a phone that carries words in the wind.	Working through grief after loss from a natural disaster

Conway, D. (2008). <i>Lila and the secret of rain</i> . Frances Lincoln Children's Books.	With the sun baking their Kenyan village for months and no rain sight, Lila learns the trick for making the rains come from her wise grandfather. She then heads out to confront the sky in the hopes of saving everyone and everything in the land she loves.	Working through grief after loss from a natural disaster
Looking into the perspective of animals and plants		
Cañas, D. (2022). <i>Memories of a birch tree</i> . Cuento de Luz.	A birch tree narrates its difficulties after being removed from its home but learns to appreciate its surroundings: "I soon understood that hope and love could manifest anywhere in the world, so I decided to put down roots."	Empathizing with a transplanted tree
Parry, R. (2020). <i>A whale of the wild</i> . Greenwillow Books.	Two orca siblings are separated from their family, trying to find food and their seasonal home. Alternating perceptions of the older sister Vega and little earnest, trusting brother Deneb, their voices express a uniquely imagined orca's perspective. The writing is wonderfully evocative.	Seeing differing perspectives of sibling animals in the wild
Pfaltz, K. (2002). <i>Lauren's story: An American dog in Paris</i> . J.N. Townsend.	A beagle named Lauren goes from near starvation to enjoying the finest foods in Paris while strengthening her bond with author Kay Pfaltz.	The bond of love between people and their animal friends
Refugee experiences		
Davies, N. (2018). <i>The day war came</i> . Candlewick Press.	Tells the story of a young girl's journey from a normal life to a refugee, highlighting the trauma and displacement caused by war and showing the importance of kindness.	Offers reassurance that feeling one belongs will help one to feel warm
Williams, M. (2005). <i>Brothers in hope: The story of the Lost Boys of Sudan</i> . Lee & Low Books.	Follows four boys who were among 150 resettled from Sudan to Atlanta, with close looks at their struggles and triumphs with adjusting to a new place and the historical and political background.	Surviving the trauma of war with resolve
Morales, Y. (2018). <i>Dreamers</i> . Neal Porter Books.	Finding your way in a new place, navigating an unfamiliar world: Of urgency as the status of our own Dreamers becomes uncertain, this is a story that is both topical and timeless.	Transitioning from one home to another with resilience
Kuntz, D., & Shrodes, A. (2017). <i>Lost and found cat: The true story of Kunkush's incredible journey</i> . Crown Books for Young Readers.	An Iraqi family flees their home but can't bear to leave their beloved cat, Kunkush, behind. They smuggle him onto the boat, but during the crowded voyage, he escapes and gets lost. A worldwide community comes together to reunite Kunkush and his family.	Worldwide community can come together to support an immigrant family

Seeking Hope		
Nellist, G. (2020). <i>Little Mole finds hope</i> . Beaming Books.	When Little Mole is feeling sad in his dark, underground home, his mother shows him how to look for hope. He finds that signs of spring are everywhere. Hope can be found in the darkest places.	Things are not what they seem; nature changes with seasons, and spring brings feelings of hope.
Marino, G. (2012). <i>Meet me at the moon</i> . Viking Books for Young Readers.	When Mama Elephant must leave Little One to ask the skies for rain, the young elephant is worried. Mama reassures Little One will hear her song on the wind and feel her love in the warmth of the sun, and they will meet again.	Elements of nature help maintain a fundamental bond
Bauer, M. D. (2007). <i>A mama for Owen</i> . Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.	After a tsunami washed his mother and his world away, Owen the baby hippo befriends Mzee, a grayish brown tortoise. Inspired by the tsunami of 2004.	Healing, adoption, and rebirth after natural disaster

CHAPTER 7: HOW SYSTEMS THINKING CHANGES OUR WORLD—GREEN READS AND VIEWS

Title	Summary	Theme
Interconnectedness		
Numeroff, L. J. (1985). <i>If you give a mouse a cookie</i> . Harper & Row.	When you give a hungry mouse a cookie, the next thing you know is the energetic mouse wants a glass of milk, then he wants to look in the mirror to see if he doesn't have a milk mustache, and this goes on and on. Unlike dominoes, by the end we're back where we started.	Thought experiment on feedback or causal loops
Greene, C. (1991). <i>The old ladies who liked cats</i> . HarperCollins.	This tale shows how things work together. When the mayor decrees that all the cats must be kept locked up indoors at night, the chain of ecological interdependence is broken. Eventually, the sailors who protect the island get sick and invaders take over. When the mayor rescinds the order, and all the actions are reversed; the sailors get well and chase the invaders away.	Thought experiment of unintended consequences: how a seemingly rational decision can have disastrous large-scale results
Baker, J. (2010). <i>Mirror</i> . Candlewick Press.	Compares a day in the life of two families: one in a Western city and one in a North African village. Their lives may at first seem quite unlike, but a closer look reveals that there are many things, some unexpected, that connect them.	We are more alike than different; why do we treat strangers unkindly?

Seuss, D. (1961). <i>The sneetches and other stories</i> . Random House Books for Young Readers.	This story shows how prejudice and the drive for exclusivity can result in wasted energy and depleted resources. A cycle continues until sneetches have spent all their money to one-up each other. Finally, they learn to accept themselves and their differences.	Acceptance and embracing of differences
Seuss, D. (1971). <i>The Lorax</i> . Random House.	The Lorax warns against mindless progress and its danger to the earth's natural beauty. The Once-ler and his growing family cut down Truffula trees and build factories. All is bleak until the Once-ler tosses a Truffula tree seed to a curious child.	The pitfall of overuse of the natural environment for frivolous human consumption; ends with some hope that the younger generation will change the pattern
Yamada, K. (2020). <i>Trying</i> . Compendium.	A story for those who have experienced the pain of trying something new and not having it turn out as they had hoped. Celebrates the lessons that help us learn, grow, and discover all the amazing things we can do.	Learning from failure
Young, E. (2016). <i>The cat from Hunger Mountain</i> . Philomel Books.	Lord Cat has everything imaginable yet thinks he never has enough. When drought plagues the land, Lord Cat is faced with his first taste of deep loss. He ventures down Hunger Mountain, and what he discovers will change his life forever.	Appreciating the value of treasures that need not be chased
Friedman, L. (2009). <i>Mallory goes green!</i> Darby Creek.	Mallory McDonald is an official member of the Fern Falls Elementary Environmental Committee and class representative for the all-school Green Fair. But everything goes wrong. Can Mallory find a way to save the planet and her friendships?	Advocating for the environment with people with low awareness of environmental issues
Digital media on interconnectedness and consumerist culture		
Leonard, A. (2007, December). <i>The story of stuff</i> [Video file]. Free Range Studios. Accessed at www.storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of-stuff on August 23, 2024.	A documentary film that emphasizes we need to realize that our production- and consumption-driven patterns are unsustainable and harmful to the planet and our wellbeing. Provides facts and exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues. It calls us together to create a more just and sustainable world.	Consumerist culture and the need to change
Leonard, A. (2012, July). <i>The story of change</i> [Video file]. Free Range Studios. Accessed at www.storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of-change on August 23, 2024.	A documentary film in which Annie Leonard argues that it's not bad shoppers who are putting our future at risk; it's bad policies.	The need for change in consumer awareness and change in the economic system

Leonard, A. (2013, October). <i>The story of solutions</i> [Video file]. Free Range Studios. Accessed at www.storyofstuff.org/movies/the-story-of-solutions on August 23, 2024.	Explores how we can move the economy in more sustainable and just directions, starting with orienting ourselves toward a new goal.	The possibility of meaningful change
Matis, C. (2023, November 1). <i>The recycle film title 02 01</i> [Video file]. Accessed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpMsBLC_m1w on August 23, 2024.	Preschoolers learn about and share their knowledge and enthusiasm of recycling by acting out a recycling song.	Behind the scenes of the recycling process
Consequences of interconnectedness: Pollution		
Boxer, E. (2022). <i>One turtle's last straw: The real-life rescue that sparked a sea change</i> . Crown Books for Young Readers.	A Ridley turtle is found off the coast of Costa Rica with a straw blocking its airways. The narrative subtly conveys the evils of plastic straws to young and older readers. The ending is happy, at least for this particular turtle. End notes include author's discussion, plans of action, bibliography, and further sources.	Consequences of plastic in the ocean and what we can do
Yousafzai, M. (2017). <i>Malala's magic pencil</i> . Little, Brown.	Malala uses her "magic pencil" to dream of solutions to systemic issues like access to education for girls.	Systems thinking
Paul, M. (2015). <i>One plastic bag: Isatou Ceesay and the recycling women of the Gambia</i> . Millbrook Press.	Using creativity and care, a woman in Gambia inspired women in her village to join her in cleaning up plastic bags that were littered all around, causing terrible problems.	One person making a difference
Trembath, C. A. (2022). <i>Pass the feather: Walking Lake Erie</i> . Lakeside Publishing.	A young Ojibwe girl, Mai, learns about her heritage as she and her family walk the perimeter of Lake Erie to raise awareness about the harm being done to the Great Lakes. The book includes web and print resources, cross-curriculum activities, and a glossary of environmental terms.	Heritage and raising awareness of harm done to the environment
Linden, J. (2022). <i>Scrap metal swan: A river clean-up story</i> . Barefoot Books.	When community members work together with trucks and ships to clean up the town's riverfront, an artist and her child hammer, chisel, weld, and zap the found materials into something beautiful. Young makers will find inspiration in the playful, rhyming text and mixed media illustrations. Endnotes provide recycled-art activity ideas.	Recycling found materials into art

Peet, B. (1970). <i>The wump world</i> . Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.	After trashing their own planet, Pollutions invade the home of peaceful creatures called Wumps. The Pollutions continue building and expanding until all the Wump World's resources are depleted, after which they leave to seek greener pastures again. The Wumps emerge from the caves and find a small patch of grass still growing.	The need for conservationism, the unsustainability of some practices, and the lasting consequences of pollution
Baker, J. (2016). <i>Circle</i> . Candlewick Press.	Follows the migration of godwit birds and highlights the interconnectedness of habitats and species.	Interconnectedness
Williams, V. B. (1982). <i>A chair for my mother</i> . HarperCollins.	A family works together to save money to solve the problem of replacing their belongings after a fire, demonstrating teamwork and perseverance.	Small actions making a difference
Nelson, K. (2015). <i>If you plant a seed</i> . Balzer + Bray.	Uses a simple story about planting seeds to explore how small actions can lead to larger systemic change.	Small actions making a difference