

Book Review: Thunder

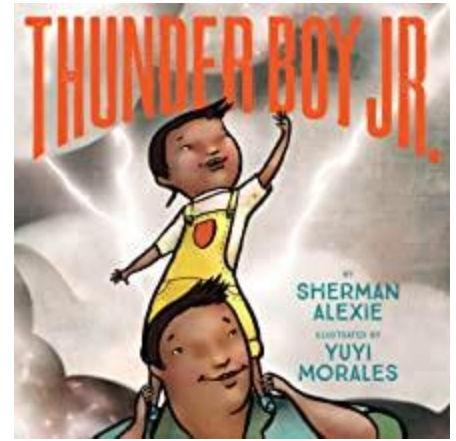
Author: Sherman Alexie

Illustrator: Yuyi Morales

Grade Level: Grades K-2

Reading Level: 2.5-2.9

Information from Amazon



https://www.amazon.com/Thunder-Boy-Jr-Sherman-Alexie-audiobook/dp/B01D3MQ2IO/ref=sr_1_1?crd=3MD911R0MS4AP&keywords=thunder+boy+jr+book&qid=1681994438&sprefix=thunder+boy+book%2Caps%2C194&sr=8-1

Thunder Boy Jr. is named after his dad, but he wants a name that's all his own. Just because people call his dad Big Thunder doesn't mean he wants to be Little Thunder. He wants a name that celebrates something cool he's done, like Touch the Clouds, Not Afraid of Ten Thousand Teeth, or Full of Wonder.

But just when Thunder Boy Jr. thinks all hope is lost, he and his dad pick the perfect name...a name that is sure to light up the sky.

Review Highlights...

- Features a Native American male protagonist, Thunder Boy Jr.
- Features the struggle of establishing identity; sense of self in the family and community.
- Features a Native American family dynamic.
 - Dad, Mom and sister are prominently featured
 - The community plays a role in the support of Thunder Boy Jr.
- Shows the gift and power of a name; both positive and negative.
 - Features Native American Naming tradition.
- Beautifully illustrated.
- Features a humorous story.
- Written with descriptive words that allow the reader to fully participate in Thunder Boy Jr.'s world.
- Includes lots of natural aspect and weather conditions
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) focused story.

Book Review: Wonder Walkers

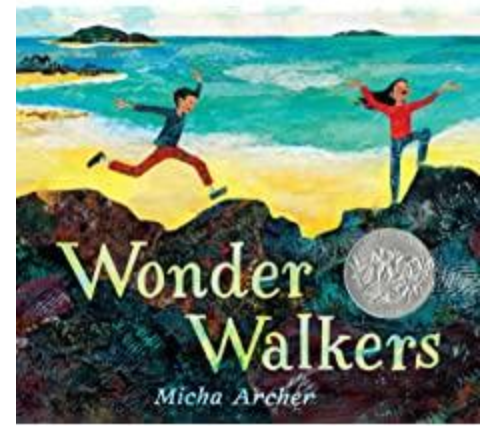
Author: Micha Archer

Illustrator: Micha Archer

Grade Level: Grades DK-3

Reading Age: 5-7

Information from Amazon



https://www.amazon.com/Wonder-Walkers-Micha-Archer/dp/0593109643/ref=d_bmx_dp_k5h3vawo_scc1_4_2/145-2767518-2045366?pd_rd_w=BMcUp&content-id=amzn1.sym.368b1da3-bd5e-471c-a642-a329f8f53bef&pf_rd_p=368b1da3-bd5e-471c-a642-a329f8f53bef&pf_rd_r=Q90GVGYWSSTG7SJ26W8N&pd_rd_wg=lUhqa&pd_rd_r=442649a6-dfb2-4626-8a14-c2afd893a6bd&pd_rd_j=0593109643&psc=1

A Caldecott Honor winner!

Micha Archer's gorgeous, detailed collages give readers a fresh outlook on the splendors of nature.

When two curious kids embark on a "wonder walk," they let their imaginations soar as they look at the world in a whole new light. They have thought-provoking questions for everything they see: *Is the sun the world's light bulb? Is dirt the world's skin? Are rivers the earth's veins? Is the wind the world breathing? I wonder . . .* Young readers will wonder too, as they ponder these gorgeous pages and make all kinds of new connections. What a wonderful world indeed!

Review Highlights...

- Features to children that take an amazing 'wonder a walk'.
- Features questions that help children make sense of their world
- This book celebrates observation.
 - Shows the power of observing your world.
- This book celebrates curiosity.
 - Shows the power and wonder of being curious about the world.
- Features beautiful and vibrant illustrations.
- The book is a series of questions; it elicits conversation about the world around us.
- Includes lots of natural aspects.
- Embodies celebration of the Earth.

Book Review: Grand Canyon

Author: Jason Chin

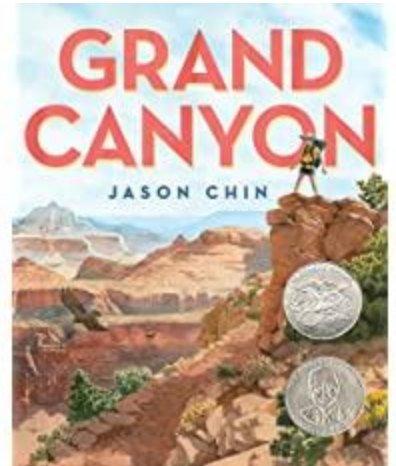
Illustrator: Jason Chin

Grade Level: Grades 2-6

Reading Level: N

Information from Amazon

<https://www.amazon.com/Grand-Canyon-Jason-Chin/dp/1596439505>



Rivers wind through earth, cutting down and eroding the soil for millions of years, creating a cavity in the ground 277 miles long, 18 miles wide, and more than a mile deep known as the Grand Canyon.

Home to an astonishing variety of plants and animals that have lived and evolved within its walls for millennia, the Grand Canyon is much more than just a hole in the ground. Follow a father and daughter as they make their way through the cavernous wonder, discovering life both present and past.

Weave in and out of time as perfectly placed die cuts show you that a fossil today was a creature much long ago, perhaps in a completely different environment. Complete with a spectacular double gatefold, an intricate map and extensive back matter.

Review Highlights...

- Author Jason Chin has been a featured author at Willows Community School.
- Features a nonfiction book.
- Illustrates the beauty and complexity of an Earth's natural wonder.
- Beautifully written and illustrated featuring a scientific look at the Grand Canyon from a child's perspective.
- Featured physical earth habitats in the different sections of the Grand Canyon.
- This book is a great teaching tool.
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) focused story.

Book Review: The Great Kapok Tree

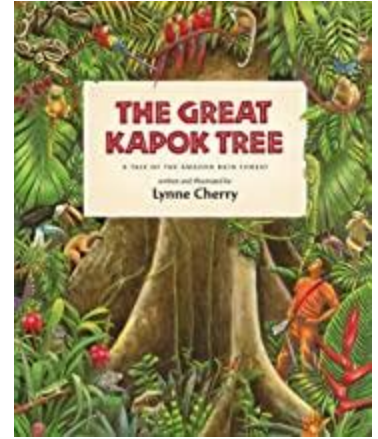
Author: Lynne Cherry

Illustrator: Lynne Cherry

Grade Level: Grades K-4

Guided Reading Level: GR Level R

Information from Amazon Website...



https://www.amazon.com/Great-Kapok-Tree-Amazon-Forest/dp/0152026142/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1LM7N15HY0RU3&keywords=the+great+kapok+tree+by+lynne+cherry&qid=1681995649&prefix=the+great+ka%2Caps%2C144&sr=8-1

A modern fable with an urgent message for young environmentalists. "Spectacular." (*School Library Journal*)

Lynne Cherry journeyed deep into the rain forests of Brazil to write and illustrate this gorgeous picture book about a man who exhausts himself trying to chop down a giant kapok tree. While he sleeps, the forest's residents, including a child from the Yanomamo tribe, whisper in his ear about the importance of trees and how "all living things depend on one another" . . . and it works.

Cherry's lovingly rendered colored pencil and watercolor drawings of all the "wondrous and rare animals" evoke the lush rain forests. Features stunning world maps bordered by detailed illustrations of fascinating rainforest creatures.

An IRA Teacher's Choice * ABA Pick of the Lists * Reading Rainbow Review Book * NSTA-CBC Outstanding Trade Book for Children

Review Highlights...

- Beautifully, beautifully illustrated; features art
- This book takes you on an adventure about deforestation through the perspective of the animals and people who live there.
- Each native of the rainforest gives their view/opinion of the value of the great Kapok tree.
- The book features very vivid images of the animals that inhabit the rainforest.
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) focused story.
- Written with very descriptive words.

Book Review: Zonia's Rain Forest

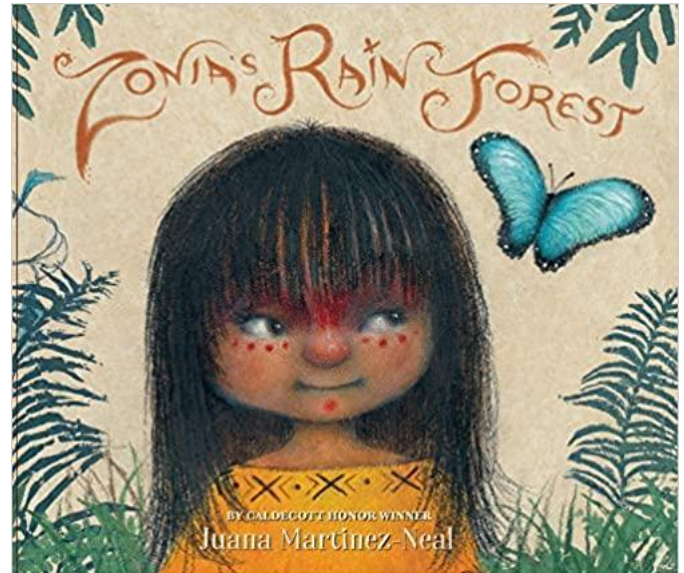
Author: Juana Martines-Neal

Illustrator: Juana Martinez-Neal

Grade Level: Grades K-3

Lexile Reading Level: 790

Information from Amazon Website



<https://www.amazon.com/Zonias-Rain-Forest-Juana-Martinez-Neal/dp/1536208450>

A heartfelt, visually stunning picture book from Caldecott Honor and Robert F. Sibert Medal winner Juana Martinez-Neal illuminates a young girl's day of play and adventure in the lush rain forest of Peru.

Zonia's home is the Amazon rain forest, where it is always green and full of life. Every morning, the rain forest calls to Zonia, and every morning, she answers. She visits the sloth family, greets the giant anteater, and runs with the speedy jaguar. But one morning, the rain forest calls to her in a troubled voice. How will Zonia answer?

Acclaimed author-illustrator Juana Martinez-Neal explores the wonders of the rain forest with Zonia, an Asháninka girl, in her joyful outdoor adventures. The engaging text emphasizes Zonia's empowering bond with her home, while the illustrations—created on paper made from banana bark—burst with luxuriant greens and delicate details. Illuminating back matter includes a translation of the story in Asháninka, information on the Asháninka community, and resources on the Amazon rain forest and its wildlife.

Review Highlights...

- Features a young Ashanika female protagonist from Peru, Zonia.
- Beautifully illustrated.
- Features Zonia's travel through her village/the rainforest.
 - She encounters the effects of deforestation.
 - The author reviews the topic in language for children.
- The author demonstrates the need to protect the Earth.
- Youtube video that features the book and other resources.
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iww5_fnJLI0
 - STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) focused story.

Book Review: One Plastic Bag

Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia

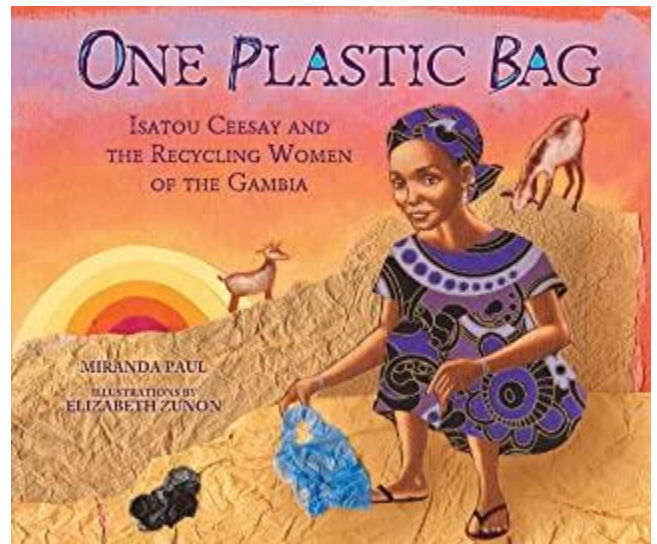
Author: Miranda Paul

Illustrator: Elizabeth Zunon

Grade Level: Grades DK-3

Guided Reading Level: GR Level O

Information from Amazon Website



https://www.amazon.com/One-Plastic-Bag-Recycling-Millbrook/dp/1467716081/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3QLTOL4YM4PRP&keywords=one+plastic+bag+isatou+ceesay+and+the+recycling+women+of+the+gambia&qid=1678410377&srefix=one+plastic+bag%2Caps%2C171&sr=8-1

The inspiring true story of how one African woman began a movement to recycle the plastic bags that were polluting her community.

Plastic bags are cheap and easy to use. But what happens when a bag breaks or is no longer needed? In Njau, Gambia, people simply dropped the bags and went on their way. One plastic bag became two. Then ten. Then a hundred.

The bags accumulated in ugly heaps alongside roads. Water pooled in them, bringing mosquitoes and disease. Some bags were burned, leaving behind a terrible smell. Some were buried, but they strangled gardens. They killed livestock that tried to eat them. Something had to change.

Isatou Ceesay was that change. She found a way to recycle the bags and transform her community. This inspirational true story shows how one person's actions really can make a difference in our world.

Review Highlights...

- A true story about the need for recycling and protecting the Earth.
- Features an African (Gambian) female protagonist, Isatou Ceesay.
- Features beautiful illustrations.
- Features Gambian culture, terms and phrases.
- Features a multi-generational family that includes parents, grandparents, and children.
- Features life in an African village.
- Features the power of a determined woman to change the world.
- The author uses this story to discuss the harmful results of plastics in our environment.
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) focused story.

Information researched/reviewed/organized by Bridgette Blue, DEI Consultant. 2023

Book Review: The Rain Stomper

Author: Addie Boswell

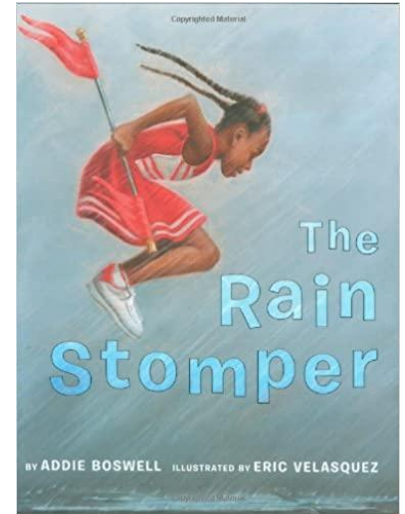
Illustrator: Eric Velasquez

Grade Level: Grades DK-3

Guided Reading Level: 2.2

Information from Amazon Website

<https://www.amazon.com/Rain-Stomper-Boswell-Addie/dp/0761453938>



Today is the day of the big neighborhood parade. Baton twirler Jazmin is ready to lead the way for the dogs and kids, music and fun. But then the clouds crowd in. The sky darkens. Thunder roars. And the rain begins. SLAP clatter clatter SLAP SLAP! Is Jazmin's parade ruined? Or can she use her spirit, her fearless energy, and her mighty baton to save the day? Award-winning illustrator Eric Velasquez's artwork in oil paint on watercolor paper is a perfect complement to debut author Addie Boswell's lyrical, rhythmic words.

Review Highlights...

- Features an African American female protagonist, Jasmin.
- Features beautiful illustrations.
- Features a 'musical', 'movement' vocabulary.(You have to read it to understand 😊)
- Features a diverse neighborhood.
 - The other children in the neighborhood join Jasmin.
- Features problem solving when confronted with rain/storm on a very important day.
 - The author presents Jasmin's problem; the rainstorm, but also demonstrates her problem solving skills.
- Features the power of changing your perspective in the face of a problem or adversity.
 - Jasmin changes her ideas/feelings about rain and this repositions her outlook.
- This book has a weather theme.