



GREEN EARTH BOOK AWARD – 2026 WINNERS, HONORS, RECOMMENDED READING

PICTURE BOOK – PRIMARY READERS

Books for young readers up to age 8

WINNER:

Mara Plants a Seed, by Robert Furrow and Donna Jo Napoli, illustrated by Melissa Bailey (Science, Naturally!)

HONORS:

Daisy Rewilds, by Margaret McNamara, illustrated by Kerascoët (Random House Studio /RHCB)

Recycling Day: What Happens to the Things We Throw Away, by Polly Faber, illustrated by Klas Fahlén (Nosy Crow)

The Wide, Wide Sea, by Anna Wilson, illustrated by Jenny Lovlie (Nosy Crow)

RECOMMENDED READING:

If You Lived in the Sea, Who Would You Be?, by Julie Honan Johnston, illustrated by Meg Sodano (Web of Life Children's Books)

Kani ka 'Ōpala: How Can Garbage Sing?, by Benjamin Fairfield (University of Hawaii Press)

Millie Fleur Saves the Night, by Christy Mandin (Orchard Books, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.)

The Dog Who Saved the Bees, by Stephanie Gibeault, illustrated by David Hohn (Sleeping Bear Press)

The Tide Is Rising, So Are We!: A Climate Movement Anthem, by Shoshana Miera Friedman, illustrated by Kiki Kita (Beaming Books)

They Work: Honey Bees, Nature's Pollinators, by June Smalls, illustrated by Yukari Mishima (Familius Publishing)

Wait Like a Seed, by Erin Alladin (Tara Anderson Pajama Press)

Whales in the City, by Nancy F. Castaldo, illustrated by Chuck Groenink (FSG/MacKids)

PICTURE BOOK – INTERMEDIATE READERS

Books for young readers ages 9-12

WINNER:

Safe Crossing, by Kari Percival (Chronicle Books)

HONORS:

Just in Case, by Megan Clendenan, illustrated by Brittany Cicchese (Charlesbridge)

Magic in a Drop of Water, by Julie Winterbottom, illustrated by Susan Reagan (Rocky Pond Books)

We Carry the Sun, by Tae Keller, illustrated by Rachel Wada (Norton Young Readers)

RECOMMENDED READING:

A Family for Zoya: The True Story of an Endangered Cub, by Debra Kim Wolf, illustrated by Marina and Annalisa Durante (Platypus Media)

Bug Snacks, by Jess French, illustrated by Zoe Ingram (Sourcebooks)

Fishers in the Forest: The Pacific Fishers in Sequoia and Kings Canyon, by Adalgisa and David Nico, illustrated by Andy Atkins (Mummert House Enterprises, Inc.)

From BAM! to BURP!, by Melissa Stewart, illustrated by Marta Alvarez Miguens (Charlesbridge)

How to Explain Climate Science to a Grown-Up, by Ruth Spiro, illustrated by Teresa Martínez (Charlesbridge)

Kaho'olawe: The True Story of an Island and Her People, by Kamalani Hurley, illustrated by Harinani Orme (Lerner Publishing Group)

Rachel Carson's Wonder Filled World, by Kate Hannigan, illustrated by Katie Hickey (Calkins Creek)

Trouble Dog: From Shelter Dog to Conservation Hero, by Carol A. Foote, illustrated by Larry Day (Eerdmans Books for Young Readers)

Saving a Humongous Marine Vegetarian and its Salad (Salvando a un enorme vegetariano marino y a su ensalada), by Antonio Mignucci, illustrated by Mrinali Álvarez (Caribbean Manatee Conservation Center)

CHILDREN'S FICTION

Books for young readers ages 8-12

WINNER:

Armando and the Amazing Animal Race, by Diana Schaffter, illustrated by Juan Pablo Ruiz Morales and Leo Hartas (Sea Otter Press)

HONORS:

Make Way For Monarchs, Eco Warriors Book 3, by Carolyn Armstrong (Climate Kid Adventure Books)

The Secret of the Catapus, by Robin Elsbeth Jenkins 12 Willow Press

The Sunshine Project, by Uma Krishnaswami, illustrated by Julianna Swaney (Groundwood Books)

Three Blue Hearts, by Lynne Kelly (Delacorte Press/RHCB)

RECOMMENDED READING:

Green Jolene and the Neighborhood Swap, by Wendy Mass, illustrated by Billy Yong (Disney-Hyperion)

Outfoxed: A Wish Novel, by Elise McMullen-Ciotti (Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.)

Project Share Table, by Carol Kim, illustrated by Flavia Zuncheddu (Picture Window Books, a Capstone imprint)

The Burning Season, by Caroline Starr Rose, cover by David Dean (Penguin Random House, Penguin Young Readers)

CHILDREN'S NONFICTION

Nonfiction books for young readers ages 8-12

WINNER:

The Buzz on Wild Bees: The Little-Known Pollinators that Keep Our Planet Humming, by Kira Vermond, illustrated by June Steube (Owlkids Books)

HONORS:

Keep Our World Green: Why Humans Need Gardens, Parks and Public Green Spaces, by Frieda Wishinsky, illustrated by Sara Theuerkauf (Orca Book Publishers)

Riverkeeper: Protecting An American River, by Nancy F. Castaldo (Holiday House)

The Black Mambas: The World's First All-Woman Anti-Poaching Unit, by Kelly Crull (Lerner Publishing Group)

The Sustainable School, by Erica Fyvie, illustrated by Scot Ritchie (Kids Can Press)

RECOMMENDED READING:

History Smashers: Earth Day and the Environment, by Kate Messner (Random House Children's Books)

Take a Hike!, by Kate Chynoweth (Magination Press/APA)

What a Waste: 9 Ways to Fight Climate Change, by Karen Tam Wu, illustrated by Bithi Sutradhar (Orca Book Publishers)

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

Books for readers from age 13 to 21

WINNER:

The Dead of Summer (Book 1), by Ryan La Sala (PUSH, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.)

HONORS:

Solar Punks, by Gume Laurel III (West 44 Books)

The Carbon Paradox, by Renat Heuberger, Steve Zwick, Marco Hirsbrunner (Red Penguin Books)

RECOMMENDED READING:

Climate of Chaos, by Cassandra Newbould (Peachtree Teen)

The Last Bookstore on Earth, by Lily Braun-Arnold (Delacorte Press)

YOUNG ADULT NONFICTION

Nonfiction books for readers from ages 13-21

WINNER:

Climate Is Just the Start, by Mikaela Loach (Bright Matter Books/RHCB)

HONORS:

A World Without Summer: A Volcano Erupts, A Creature Awakens, and the Sun Goes Out, by Nicholas Day, illustrated by Yas Imamura

Great Apes: Protecting Our Animal Cousins, by Christopher Gudgeon (Orca Book Publishers)

Saving Our Sturgeon: Protecting Wisconsin's Ancient Fish, by Rebecca Hogue Wojahn (Wisconsin Historical Society Press)

Speaking on Climate: A Guide to Speechwriting for a Better Future, by Rune Kier Nielsen (Lerner Publishing Group)

RECOMMENDED READING:

Conservation Success: Protecting Wild Spaces and Species with Hands-On Science Activities for Kids, by Laura Perdew (Nomad Press)

Farming is Female: Twenty Women Shaking Up the Field, by Rachel Sarah (Little Bee Books)

Giant Rays of Hope, by Patricia Newman (Millbrook Press)

Microbes to the Rescue: Using Bacteria, Algae and Fungi to Clean Up the Planet, by Yolanda Ridge (Orca Book Publishers)

Octopus Ocean: Geniuses of the Deep, by Mark Leiren-Young (Orca Book Publishers)

Our Plastic Problem: A Call for Global Solutions, by Megan Durnford (Orca Book Publishers)

Ultrawild: An Audacious Plan for Rewilding Every City on Earth, by Steve Mushin (Lerner Publishing Group)