



Environmental Fiction Readings

Here are some of my findings:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Environmental_fiction_books

<http://www.amazon.com/Eco-and-Environmental-Fiction/lm/R21PGL86J7PC1K>

<http://www.proteacher.net/discussions/showthread.php?t=67639>

<http://www.wakegov.com/NR/rdonlyres/13E47D38-8FE1-4E95-A267-2AF1FFE467/0/BookList.pdf>

Consider having students evaluate younger-level fictional stories. Many are in the 4th link I have above, as well as scattered in the other resources. This could be done from the CAPT focus questions, as well as having students outline how the particular reading could be brought up to high school level. Libraries have many copies of books that could be used.

- **Seedfolks** by Paul Fleischman. Scholastic.Com has a lesson plan. It has been selected by a number of One Book/One Community groups. The book is available in an online version, too. http://wread.com/view/browsebookframe.php?productid=BOK-10033256-3&isbn10=0064472078&refuid=VISITOR_9956F682-5522-41CB-AB8C-32AE1FD6D269&src=bookdetail.
- For years I used Ray Bradbury's short story "**A Sound of Thunder**" at the beginning of an interdisciplinary high school Environmental Studies course. The story could be used in middle school as well, I think.
- **Eco-Fiction** by John Stadler is excellent, which includes "Sound of Thunder" Available on Amazon for about \$2/copy. Also, "**Where the Wildbooks Are- a field guide to ecofiction**" by Jim Dwyer has high reviews.
- I have a few- **California Blue**, by David Klass, **Hoot and Flush** by Karl Hiaasen, and I heard that Jean Craighead George (of Julie of the Wolves fame) has written a series of environmental

mysteries- but I have not read those- although I have read the other books I mentioned with students. I second the recommendation for **Seedfolks**- might seem for a younger audience, but I used it with middle schoolers and think it can be read and learned from at any level.

- Jean Craighead George's **My Side of the Mountain** was one of my first favorites. Other possible books by her include **There's an Owl in My Shower**
- I suggest **Window** and **Home**, both books by Jeannie Baker. And also: **Rah Rah Radishes** about locally grown food.
- I suggest Dr. Seuss' **The Lorax**.
- There are many. Below is a list of common books and for younger ages than 10th grade. But, if they are to read them and analyze the messages it would translate as an older student activity. **The Great Kapok Tree; The Tree Farmer; Compost Stew** – young readers; **Everybody's Somebody's Lunch; A Drop Around the World**- really good tie in with water crisis issues

For their age group actual reading level- **The Hunger Games**- currently out and popular has a great sustainability slant and a past popular book was **HOOT**.

- We have long been advocates of raising academic achievement and building student engagement in real-world issues from an early age by the use of stories (a favorite of ours is Dr. Seuss' **The Lorax**). At our [CELF Summer Institute for Sustainability Education](#) (in NY and MA) teachers learn how sustainability issues can be introduced in practically every book they may already be discussing in their classroom, ranging from K through 12 and across subjects. For example, 9/10 English teachers skillfully re-wrote their units on F. Scott Fitzgerald's **The Great Gatsby** and Charles Dicken's **Great Expectations** to examine and critique economic models and social issues of the 20th and 21st centuries, as well other issues related to the environment and sustainability. It simply requires looking at teaching and learning through a "sustainability lens."
- **The Man Who Planted Trees** is a good one. I used it in a 9th grade course on sustainability to explore the relationship between place/ environment and our mental and spiritual health, as well as the role that the individual can play in making change and restoring the environment. If you go to a broader sustainability focus, I used several short stories from an anthology of international women's authors writing on women's experiences called "**Fragments of a Lost Diary**." From this I've used: "The Memorial Service on the Mountain"; "Wedding Dance"; "A Truly Married Woman"; "A Woman's Life" These all deal much more with social equity and women's issues, which are all part of sustainability, but they don't directly address environmental issues or lend themselves to an environmental lens. I used these in a class that focused on the Millennium Development Goals and sustainability.
- There's a new anthology called '**I'm with the Bears**', edited by Mark Martin - mainly chapters from novels already published.
- '**In-Flight Entertainment**' by Helen Simpson is a recent collection of short stories on the theme of climate change denial.

- I've used all of these at both the HS & MS levels: Bradbury, Ray - **The Veldt**; Asimov, Isaac - **A Sound of Thunder**; Bradbury, Ray - **It's such a beautiful day**; Chopin, Kate – **The Storm** ; Crane, Stephen – **The Open Boat**; Dollarhide, Lewis – **The Gift**; Jewett, Sarah Orne – **A White Heron**; Kaplan, David Michael – **Doe Season**; London, Jack – **To Build a Fireplace** ; Murphy, Pat – **In the Abode of the Snows** ; Oates, Joyce Carol – **The Buck** ; O'Connor, Flannery – **The Turkey Quammen Walking Out** ; Wolff, Tobias - **Powder**
- I've read Jean Craighead George's **Eco Mystery** series and they are great eco fiction for kids (but not as wonderful as **My Side of the Mountain**). I would put them at grade 4 through middle school. Her **The Talking Earth** is excellent for middle school and up. Some other books from the middle school & up level that chapters could be selected from include Will Hobbs books such as the **Maze**, or **Jackie's Wild Seattle**, **Riding the Flume** by Patricia Curtis Pfitsch, **Touching Spirit Bear** by Ben Mikaelson, **Flashpoint** by Sneed B. Collard III and **Silent Spillbills** by Tor Seidler, which happens to be set in Connecticut. As far as shorter works, I'd add Holling Clancy. Holling's books such as **Tree in the Trail**. For collections of short stories, I can only think of Michael Caduto & Joseph Bruchac's **Keepers of the Earth** series.