



Book Kits for the 2020 Beehive Book Awards Informational Nominees

Earth! My First 4.54 Billion Years

The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler

Flying Colors: A Guide to Flags from Around the World

Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor: The Woman Who Loved Reptiles

Lovely Beasts: The Surprising Truth

Malala's Magic Pencil

***Not So Different: What You Really Want to Ask About Having a
Disability***

***Otis and Will Discover the Deep: The Record-Setting Dive of the
Bathysphere***

Saving Fiona: The Story of the World's Most Famous Baby Hippo

***Sergeant Reckless: The True Story of the Little Horse Who
Became a Hero***



Earth! My First 4.54 Billion Years

Author: Stacy McAnulty

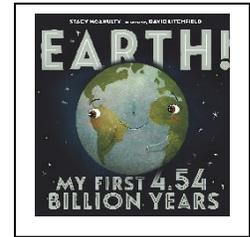
Illustrator: David Litchfield

Publisher: Henry Holt and Company

Publication Date: October 24, 2017

ISBN: 978125020-801

Grade Level: Kindergarten-Grade 3



Description

"Hi, I'm Earth! But you can call me Planet Awesome. I've been around for almost 4.6 billion years. Someone needs to give you the facts, and I'm the best planet for the job. Take a look inside and explore the world-of-well, the world!" Earth! is filled to the brim with eye-opening, kid-friendly facts about our planet, all brought to life with vibrant art by award-winning illustrator David Litchfield. More than that, the picture book, is an adorable imagining of Earth's own personality, making it perfect for Earth Day promotions as well as classrooms.

Themes

Earth, Science and Nature

Author Information

[Stacy McAnulty's website](#)

[David Litchfield's website](#)

Discussion Questions

1. Our planet goes by many names. What are some of our planet's nicknames?
2. Describe how the Earth and its moon are connected to one another.
3. Discuss the changes Earth went through from its birth to just before life appeared on our planet.
4. The Earth says that it isn't always easy being our planet. What are some of the difficulties Earth describes?
5. Study the illustration near the end of the story where humans appear on Earth. What positive contributions by humans are represented in the detailed illustration?

Activities

1. Egg-cellent Example: Earth, or Planet Awesome as it likes to be called, is made up of layers. Use a hard-boiled egg to investigate what the Earth's layers are like. Peel the shell and use a plastic knife to cut the peeled egg in half. How are the parts of the hard-boiled egg like the layers of the Earth? Draw a diagram of your egg model, including the shell, and write a few sentences about which parts of the egg represent specific layers of the Earth. Which section of Earth may not be represented in your egg model?
2. Plate Tectonics: The outer layer of Earth is known as the crust. Using a small, round orange, investigate how the Earth's crust is made up of several plates—clementine work well for this experiment. Peel the orange carefully, removing the peel in large pieces. These peels represent the Earth's tectonic plates. Compare the shape of the peels to the shape of the skinless orange. Reattach the peels back onto the orange securing each piece with a toothpick. Notice the gaps between the plates (peels). Discuss how these gaps might be connected to volcanoes and earthquakes.
3. Earthly Timeline: Create a timeline of life on our planet. Measure a one-foot length of adding-machine tape or paper. Using the information from the story, arrange in sequence how life came to be on Earth. What came first? Second? Label each section with the type of life and how many years ago each appeared on our planet. Add illustrations representing each new phase of life on your timeline.



4. Dear Mom: At the end of the story, the author includes a letter to alien visitors who might be unfamiliar with planet Earth. Pretend that you are one of these aliens reading the author's letter. Imagine that you have visited Earth and have seen what it is like. Write a letter back to your alien home describing the land and life of planet Earth.
5. Earth Museum: After our planet had breathable air, all kinds of life appeared on Earth. Over millions of years, plants, insects, dinosaurs, and mammals became a part of our planet. Investigate the early forms of life on Earth and select one for an informational poster report. Include a description of your topic, facts about how it survived, and an illustration. Create a class museum of early life on Earth. Arrange the posters in the order of the lifeform's arrival on Earth. Invite another class to tour your Earth museum.

More Resources

- [Teacher Guide](#)
- [What if the Earth were twice as big? video](#)
- [National Geographic pictures of planet Earth and its moon](#)

Similar Books

- *If Sharks Disappeared* by Lily Williams
- *Mad Scientist Academy: The Space Disaster* by Matthew McElligot
- *Planet Earth/Inside Out* by Gail Gibbons
- *Tell Me Why Earth is Like a Jigsaw Puzzle* by Barbara Taylor

Related Fiction

- *The Dinosaur Expert* by Margaret McNamara
- *If You Were the Moon* by Laura Purdie Salas
- *The Lonely Giant* by Sophie Ambrose
- *Love the Earth* by Julian Lennon



The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler

Author: John Hendrix
Publisher: Amulet Books
Publication Date: September 18, 2018
ISBN: 9781419728389
Grade Level: Young Adult



Description

Adolf Hitler's Nazi party is gaining strength and becoming more menacing every day. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a pastor upset by the complacency of the German church toward the suffering around it, forms a breakaway church to speak out against the established political and religious authorities. When the Nazis outlaw the church, he escapes as a fugitive. Struggling to reconcile his faith and the teachings of the Bible with the Nazi Party's evil agenda, Bonhoeffer decides that Hitler must be stopped by any means possible!

In his signature style of interwoven handwritten text and art, John Hendrix tells the true story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a pastor who makes the ultimate sacrifice in order to free the German people from oppression during World War II.

Themes

Anti-Nazi Movement, Biographies, Theologians, Politics and Government

Author Information

[John Hendrix's website](#)

Discussion Questions

1. Much of Dietrich's life is about sacrifice. Have students create a list of things they would be "willing to risk it all for," as Dietrich does for his family, faith, and country at various times throughout the book. Create a list on the board of these or have students share them in groups.
2. Dietrich's world view is fundamentally changed on page 13. Have you ever had something happen in your life that changed your whole perspective on yourself or the world around you? How and why?
3. On pages 14-18, the artist portrays war as a giant crack opening in the earth. Why does the artist choose to represent war this way? How would you represent war as an image?
4. Martin Niemöller's words are featured on page 69. What do these words mean to you, and why have they become so well known throughout history? Do they still feel relevant today? If so, why?
5. How does Dietrich's faith evolve as the graphic novel goes on? What key events can you identify that change his faith from a theoretical concept to a collective experience, to a tool for change, and finally to a weapon against evil?

Activities

1. Historical Timeline: Help kids follow along with the plot by having them create a timeline of significant events from the story—including Dietrich's life, the events leading up to the start of WWII, and so on.
2. Newspaper Scavenger Hunt: Have students read local and/or national newspapers from a wide variety of sources alongside the book. As they read, they should create a portfolio of articles they feel are related to issues, themes, and events from the novel. After completing the book, ask students to write or discuss why they selected these contemporary articles and what crossovers they have with the book.



3. Decoding War: To understand the difficulty of communication and maintaining secrecy during war, have students work in groups or pairs to develop a cypher like Dietrich and Hans on page 128-130. Students can then develop messages to pass between one another to see if the cypher works and pass their decoded messages to other groups to see if they can crack each other's codes.

More Resources

- [Author Interview](#)
- [Teaching Guide](#)
- Ken Burns' *The War* (TV Series)

Similar Books

- *The Boy on the Wooden Box* by Leon Leyson
- *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club* by Phillip Hoose
- *The Plot to Kill Hitler* by Patricia McCormick
- *We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance Movement that Defied Hitler* by Russell Freedman

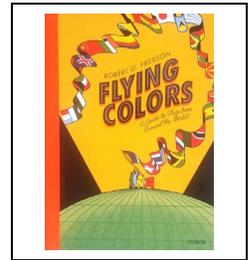
Related Fiction

- *Grenade* by Alan Gratz
- *Hook's Revenge* by Heidi Shulz
- *Maus I: A Survivor's Tale* by Art Spiegelman
- *The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley



Flying Colors: A Guide to Flags From Around the World

Author: Robert Fresson
Publisher: Cicada Books Limited
Publication Date: March 6, 2019
ISBN: 9781908714466
Grade Level: Grades 3-6



Description

By exploring the designs of flags, we can learn all about the histories and aspirations of the countries they represent. Did you know that only the flag of Nepal has more than four sides? Or that the flag of Mozambique features a book, a hoe and an AK47? Robert Fresson's vintage-inflected illustrations shed fresh light on the wonders of vexillology.

Themes

Flags, Symbols, World History

Author Information

[Robert Fresson's website](#)

Activities

1. [Design a Community Flag](#)
2. [Flags of the World Quiz](#)

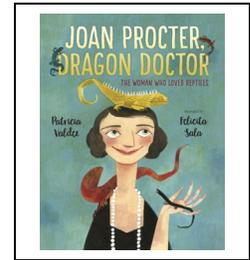
More Resources

- [Flag Heraldry](#)
- [Origins of European Flags](#)



Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor: The Woman Who Loved Reptiles

Author: Patricia Valdez
Illustrator: Felicita Sala
Publisher: Alfred A. Knopf
Publication Date: March 13, 2018
ISBN: 9780399557255
Grade Level: Kindergarten-Grade 3



Description

Back in the days of long skirts and afternoon teas, young Joan Procter entertained the most unusual party guests--slithery and scaly ones, who turned over teacups and crawled past the crumpets.... While other girls played with dolls, Joan preferred the company of reptiles. She carried her favorite lizard with her everywhere--she even brought a crocodile to school!

When Joan grew older, she became the Curator of Reptiles at the British Museum. She went on to design the Reptile House at the London Zoo, including a home for the rumored-to-be-vicious Komodo dragons. There, just like when she was a little girl, Joan hosted children's tea parties--with her Komodo dragon as the guest of honor.

Themes

Heroine, London Zoo, Women Biography, Zookeepers, Reptiles Research

Author Information

[Interview with Patricia Valdez about why she wrote a book about Joan Procter](#)

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Joan was interested in studying reptiles as a child?
2. Joan develops a relationship with a curator at the National History Museum. Based on the information presented, what do you think a curator does?
3. Sometimes animals are portrayed in movies and TV in a way that is not authentic, creating misinformation like that of the Komodo dragon in the book. Do you think that misinformation can be harmful? Why or why not?
4. What was revolutionary about Joan Procter becoming a scientist during the early 1900s?

Activities

1. [Alligator Paper Mache Craft](#)
2. Schedule a visit with Scales and Tails
3. Read the poem "Boa Constrictor" by Shel Silverstein once. Then read it again and prompt students to guess the next body part based on the rhyme scheme. [Shel Silverstein performs "Boa Constrictor"](#).



More Resources

- [Happy Birthday, Joan Procter!](#)
- [Wild Kratts: Komodo Dragon](#)



Similar Books

- *Fur, Fins, and Feathers: Abraham Dee Bartlett and the Invention of the Modern Zoo* by Cassandre Maxwell
- *Hello Hello* by Brendan Wenzel
- *Karl, Get Out of the Garden! Carolus Linnaeus and the Naming of Everything* by Anita Sanchez
- *The Watcher: Jane Goodall's Life with the Chimps* by Jeanette Winter

Related Fiction

- *Ada Twist, Scientist* by Andrea Beaty
- "In the Water World" by Evaleen Stein
- *The Mixed-Up Chameleon* by Eric Carle
- *Verdi* by Janell Cannon



Lovely Beasts

Author: Kate Gardner

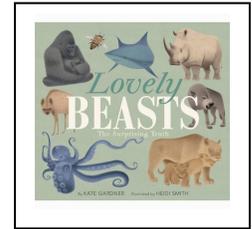
Illustrator: Heidi Smith

Publisher: Balzer + Bray

Publication Date: September 18, 2018

ISBN: 9780062741615

Grade Level: Preschool-Grade 3



Description

A stunning debut picture book that encourages kids to look beyond first impressions by sharing unexpected details about seemingly scary wild animals like gorillas, rhinoceroses, and more. Spiders are creepy. Porcupines are scary. Bats are ugly. Or are they...?

This captivating book invites you to learn more about awe-inspiring animals in the wild. After all, it's best not to judge a beast until you understand its full, lovely life.

Themes

Animals, General Science and Nature

Author Information

Kate Gardner says hello to every animal she encounters, regardless of its reputation. Once, she was even voluntarily shocked by an electric eel named Thor. Kate lives in Somerville, Massachusetts, with three lovely beasts (one of whom is her husband).

Heidi Smith is a freelance character designer and visual development artist. She graduated from California Institute of the Arts in 2008. She was a character designer and conceptual designer of ParaNorman, and she won the Annie Award for her design in 2013. Heidi lives in Arizona.

Discussion Questions

1. Choose a pair of illustrations that you like the most. Share your choice with the class and explain why it appeals to you. How did the illustrator help you better understand these animals?
2. The subtitle of this book is The Surprising Truth. Now that you have read about these fascinating animals, what most surprised you?
3. What is the meaning of the phrase, "There is always more than meets the eye"? How could you use this phrase to describe what you discovered about the animals in the book?
4. Readers learn that rhinoceroses are "tough but vulnerable." What does it mean to be vulnerable? Think about animals in your own community. How are they vulnerable? What can people do to protect the animals in their environment? If you could write a letter to the last rhinos, what would you tell them?
5. The author writes that sharks are "almost universally feared." What do you think is the meaning of this phrase? What other animals in the book could be described this way? After reading about these "scary" animals, what phrase could you invent that would be the opposite of universally feared?



Activities

1. Alliteration is the repetition of a sound at the beginning of two or more neighboring words. Examples of alliteration appear throughout *Lovely Beasts*, such as “creepy crafter,” “fanged friend,” and “buzzing busy workers.” What other ways can you use alliteration to describe the animals in the book?
2. *More Lovely Beasts*. Illustrator Heidi Smith used a combination of charcoal pencil and Adobe Photoshop to create the realistic and beautiful pictures in *Lovely Beasts*. Collaborate with the school’s art teacher or an animal illustration study. Give students time in class to research images and information about a chosen animal. With the art teacher’s help, students can experiment with charcoal and/or computer software drawing programs to create an original animal illustration.
3. As a literacy extension, have students write short, informational paragraphs about their chosen animal from the book.
4. *The Last White Rhino*. In the text, readers learn that, “Sadly, there are no known northern white rhinos left in the wild at all....” Present students with a selection of endangered species. Have the class vote to choose an animal to be the subject of a public-service campaign. Have students do research to uncover the “surprising truth” about the animal’s behavior, habitat, and role in its ecosystem and why it is threatened. Have students create short videos, posters, flyers, and other items that can be shown and distributed throughout the school community to raise awareness about this animal’s plight.
5. *The Book* talks about wolves as “fanged” which seems scary but then it uses a gentle word “friend”. Wolves are loyal to each other, and are social animal, like humans. What we see as scary and menacing, is wolves protecting, feeding and loving their friends and family. What are things you do with your family and friend show that you care? Make a card or draw a picture for someone you care about. Express how you feel about them and why they are important to you. This card or drawing could be given to people y such as parents, grandparents; neighbors, teachers, caregivers, or any other friend.

More Resources

- [Teacher Resources](#)

Similar Books

- *Actual Size* by Steve Jenkins
- *Creature Features: Twenty-Five Animals Explain Why They Look the Way They Do* by Steven Jenkins
- *Give Bees a Chance* by Bethany Barton
- *I, Fly: The Buzz About Flies and How Awesome They Are* by Bridget Heos
- *I’m Trying to Love Spiders* by Bethany Barton



Malala's Magic Pencil

Author: Malala Yousafzai

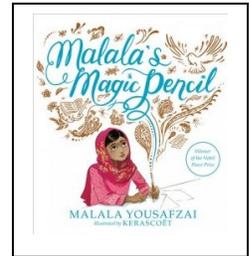
Illustrator: Kerascoet

Publisher: Little, Brown and Company

Publication Date: October 3, 2017

ISBN: 9780316319577

Grade Level: Kindergarten-Grade 6



Description

Malala's first picture book will inspire young readers everywhere to find the magic all around them.

As a child in Pakistan, Malala made a wish for a magic pencil. She would use it to make everyone happy, to erase the smell of garbage from her city, to sleep an extra hour in the morning. But as she grew older, Malala saw that there were more important things to wish for. She saw a world that needed fixing. And even if she never found a magic pencil, Malala realized that she could still work hard every day to make her wishes come true.

This beautifully illustrated volume tells Malala's story for a younger audience and shows them the worldview that allowed Malala to hold on to hope even in the most difficult of times.

Themes

Education, Girls, Nobel Prize Winners, Pakistan, Perseverance, Women Social Reformers

Author Information

Malala Yousafzai, (born July 12, 1997, Mingora, Swat Valley, Pakistan), Pakistani activist who, while a teenager, spoke out publicly against the Taliban's prohibition on the education of girls. She gained global attention when she survived an assassination attempt at age 15. [Additional Information](#)

Discussion Questions

1. Can you think of any historical figures (past or present) who have inspired you? How are they the same or different than Malala?
2. Think about what Malala is passionate about. What are you passionate about and willing to stand up for?
3. Do you think boys and girls are treated equally? Why or why not?
4. By standing up for the right for girls to go to school, some people thought Malala was breaking the rules. Is it ever OK to break rules?
5. How would you feel if you were told you could not go to school because of your gender?

Activities

1. What would you like to change about the world? Write a speech and create a campaign poster to try to convince others to join you in making the change.
2. Imagine you had a "magic pencil." Draw some pictures of what you would do with it.
3. Malala won a Nobel Peace Prize. Research other recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize. How are their achievements the same and different from Malala's?
4. Malala notices peers sorting trash and fishing for metal in the dump nearby her house. Go around the classroom with a magnet (on a string) and find out what is magnetic.
5. After Malala became well known, she was interviewed a lot. Find a partner and take turns interviewing each other about what you are passionate about and why.



More Resources

- [Interactive Timeline: Malala Yousafzai's Extraordinary Journey](#)
- [Resources to Learn About Malala Yousafzai](#)
- [Malala Yousafzai: Other Resources](#)
- [My Daughter, Malala](#)
- [Malala Day](#)
- Documentary Film: *He Named Me Malala*

Similar Books

- *Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909* by Michelle Markel
- *The Breadwinner Trilogy* by Deborah Ellis
- *Dear Malala, We Stand with You* by Rosemary A. McCartney
- *For the Right to Learn: Malala Yousafzai's Story* by Rebecca Langston-George
- *I am Malala: how one girl stood up for education and changed the world* (Young Readers Edition) by Malala Yousafzai
- *Malala, A Brave Girl from Pakistan, and Iqbal, A Brave Boy from Pakistan* by Jeanette Winter
- *Malala: Activist for Girls' Education* by Raphaelle Frier
- *Malala, My Story of Standing Up for Girls' Rights* by Malala Yousafzai
- *Marley Dias Gets It Done* by Marley Dias
- *Nasreen's Secret School* by Jeanette Winter
- *Pedal Power: How One Community Became the Bicycle Capital of the World* by Allan Drummond
- *Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down* by Andrea Davis Pinkney
- *Who is Malala Yousafzai?* by Dinah Brown

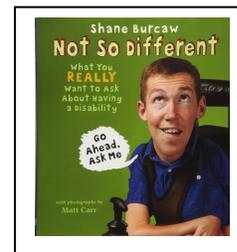
Related Fiction

- *The Butterfly* by Patricia Polacco
- *Drum Dream Girl* by Margarita Engle
- *Flowers for Sarajevo* by John McCutcheon
- *Henry's Freedom Box* by Ellen Lavine
- *Meet Yasmin!* by Saadia Faruqi
- *Ruby's Wish* by Shirin Yim Bridges



Not So Different: What You Really Want to Ask About Having a Disability

Author: Shane Burcaw
Publisher: Roaring Brook Press
Publication Date: November 7, 2017
ISBN: 9781626727717
Grade Level: Grades 1-4



Description

Not So Different offers a humorous, relatable, and refreshingly honest glimpse into Shane Burcaw's life. Shane tackles many of the mundane and quirky questions that he's often asked about living with a disability, and shows readers that he's just as approachable, friendly, and funny as anyone else.

Themes

Spinal Muscular Atrophy, People with Disabilities, Neuromuscular Diseases, Celebrate Differences

Author Information

Shane Burcaw is a twenty-something young adult with Spinal Muscular Atrophy and a wicked sense of humor. He lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he runs a blog and nonprofit organization dedicated to providing medical equipment to people with muscular dystrophy diseases. He and his girlfriend are the duo behind Squirmy and Grubs, and a YouTube channel.

[Skype with Shane:](#) You can bring Shane to your class via webcam for a live Q&A with your students for free.

[Shane's Blog](#)

[An interview with Shane](#)

Discussion Questions

1. Like Shane, we all have things that are hard for us or that are challenging. Many times, they can't be as easily seen as Shane's. What are some things that are hard for you or that challenge you?
2. What did you learn about how people with differences would like to be treated?
3. Shane's wheelchair helps him to do a lot of things. If you were in a wheelchair, what superpower would you want to invent for it to do, or what stunt would you want to try in it?
4. What can we do to avoid hurting someone who is different than us?
5. What other kinds of disabilities do you know about?
6. Shane compares himself to a T-Rex. What animal would you compare yourself to and why?

Activities

1. Like Shane, we all have things that are hard for us or that are challenging. Many times, they can't be as easily seen as Shane's. What are some things that are hard for you or that challenge you?
2. What did you learn about how people with differences would like to be treated?
3. Have a series of activities that will help students understand a little about what it might be like in someone else's shoes. Use some of these ideas:
 - a. Borrow some old wheelchairs and have kids navigate around a space



- b. Play the game Telestrations without allowing any speaking until the end. Some people communicate with visual cue cards. How would it be if you could only identify things by pictures, but not talk or write?
 - c. Play a blindfold game and have the participants identify a scent with only their noses- how might it feel to be blind? Show kids some braille books or braille cards afterwards.
 - d. Show kids what it might look like if they had a reading disability such as Dyslexia.
4. Have a celebration for Martin Luther King Day and People Who are Different than you.
- a. Read this book and some of the similar titles
 - b. Some of the activities above could be used
 - c. Divide the students into groups to talk about some of the discussion questions.
 - d. Have them identify at least 3 differences and 3 similarities they have with a partner.
5. Host a Book Club group. Have the participants, and possibly their parent or caregiver read one of the longer titles, as well as this title. When everyone comes together, do some of the activities above.
6. Host your own Special Olympics events for kids. They will complete events with a series of different disabilities such as dropping clothespins into a jar while blindfolded, racing only on the knees, tying a shoe with 1 hand, etc. As part of the event, show them a [videoclip](#) relating to the Special Olympics.
7. Include people with disabilities in your promotional materials and displays so that every child feels like they have representation in your library or classroom.

When some people look at a page the words are not spaced correctly.

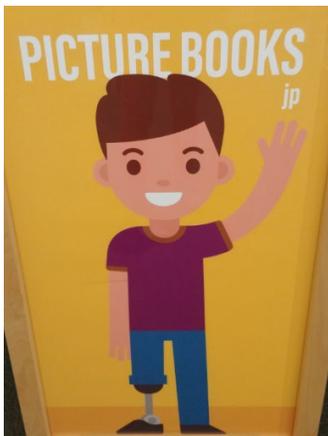
Some people who have dyslexia see words all crushed together when they try to read.

Some people who have dyslexia say that the words on a page look shadowed or doubled when they try to read.

Some people who have dyslexia say that the words on a page look shadowed or doubled when they try to read.

Some people with dyslexia say that the words on a page look blurred from a central point when they try to read them.

Some people with dyslexia say that the words on a page look blurred from a central point when they try to read them.



More Resources

1. [Find a Children's Book to Explain Disabilities to Your Child or Classmates](#)
2. [Disability Awareness Packet](#)- This has some great activities which help students to understand how people with different disabilities might feel.



Similar Books

- *Calling All Minds* by Temple Grandin
- *Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofose Yeboah* by Laurie Ann Thompson
- *Helen's Big World: The Life of Helen Keller* by Doreen Rappaport
- *Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World* by Sy Montgomery

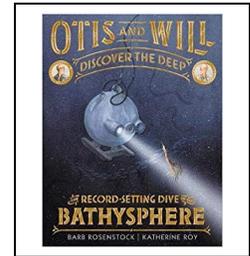
Related Fiction

- *Hello, Universe* by Erin Entrada Kelly
- *Rules* by Cynthia Lord
- *Stand Tall Molly Lou Melon* by Patty Lovell
- *The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley



Otis and Will Discover the Deep: The Record-Setting Dive of the Bathysphere

Author: Barb Rosenstock
Illustrator: Katherine Roy
Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers
Publication Date: June 5, 2018
ISBN: 9780316393829
Grade Level: Preschool-Grade 3



Description

The suspenseful, little-known true story of two determined pioneers who made the first dive into the deep ocean. On June 6, 1930, engineer Otis Barton and explorer Will Beebe dove into the ocean inside a hollow metal ball of their own invention called the Bathysphere. They knew dozens of things might go wrong. A tiny leak could shoot pressurized water straight through the men like bullets! A single spark could cause their oxygen tanks to explode! No one had ever dived lower than a few hundred feet...and come back. But Otis and Will were determined to become the first people to see what the deep ocean looks like. This suspenseful story from acclaimed author Barb Rosenstock with mesmerizing watercolors by award-winning artist Katherine Roy will put you right in the middle of the spine-tingling, record-setting journey down, down into the deep.

Themes

Underwater Exploration, Submersibles, Deep Diving, Diving Equipment and Supplies

Author Information

Barb Rosenstock is a children's author that likes true stories about real people. She mixes fascinating research and playful language into picture books that bring the people of history to life. Barb was born, raised and still lives near Chicago with her family and two big poodles. Her book, *The Noisy Paint Box*, illustrated by Mary Grandpré was awarded a Caldecott Honor in 2015. She loves to visit schools across the country to share tips about writing with students. Website For school or Skype visits, writing questions or just to chat, you can reach the author at: barb@barbrosenstock.com

Discussion Questions

1. How do you think Otis and Will felt during their descent? Do you think they were scared? Have you ever felt scared and overwhelmed?
2. What kinds of creatures do you think you'd see if you went deep in the ocean?
3. Otis and Will both wanted to explore the ocean when they grew up. Do you know what you want to be when you grow up? What school you want to attend?
4. Why was the dive of the bathysphere so important? What record did they break?
5. There wasn't a lot of space inside the bathysphere. Otis and Will were determined enough to endure the tight space. Have you ever wanted to do something bad enough that you would be willing to be uncomfortable to do it? Why do you think the bathysphere was so small?

Activities

1. [Do a Saltwater Experiment to learn about the density of saltwater versus fresh water.](#)
2. Learn about deep sea diving by watching the following videos:
 - a. This video shows James Cameron diving Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench in 2009: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-DWPDsgTiaE>
 - b. The first 4 minutes of this video talk about Otis and Will's dive and the importance of it to the world: <https://youtu.be/VtNHKfm6Wc4>



- c. This video is strictly footage and audio of the actual dive done by Otis and Will in 1934:
<https://youtu.be/vSfb16yscC8>
3. [Discover how to make your own ocean zones in a jar!](#)
 4. Measure out the space for the Bathysphere, 4.5 feet with a 14-inch-wide hole to get in and 2 eight-inch portholes to see out. Talk about how the dive would be under those conditions.
 5. For a fun experiment take a two-liter bottle and make 4 holes from top to bottom in the side with a pushpin. Cover the holes with masking tape and fill the bottle up (leave cap off). Remove the tape (be sure you're in a place for the water to leak out). Watch and record which hole has the strongest squirt. Which is the weakest? Discuss why the pressure is greater at the bottom than at the top.
 6. Create and play ocean bingo!
 7. Make an ocean animal sun catcher craft! [Step-by-step instructions](#)
 8. For an easy, quick craft give the kids a piece of black paper or cardstock and chalk and have them draw a picture of the bottom of the ocean! Or a creature from the bottom of the ocean!



More Resources:

- [Educator's Guide](#)
- [Site](#) with additional information about the bathysphere and William Beebe
- Barb Rosenstock created and shared a Pinterest board that has lessons and activity ideas about ocean discovery relating to *Otis & Will Discover the Deep*, and much more! [Check it out for almost 200 great ideas!](#)

Similar Books

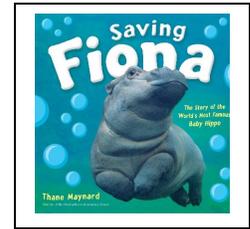
- *Awesome Ocean Science* by Cindy A. Littlefield
- *Astronaut, Aquanaut* by Jennifer Swanson
- *The Brilliant Deep* by Kate Messner
- *Exploring the Depths of the Ocean* by Todd Kortemeier
- *Flying Deep* by Michelle Cusolito
- *How Deep is the Ocean* by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld
- *Shark Lady* by Jess Keating

Related Fiction

- *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne
- *Journey Under the Sea* by R.M. Montgomery
- *Deep Underwater* by Irene Luxbacher
- *Way Down Deep in the Deep Blue Sea* by Jan Peck



Saving Fiona: The Story of the Worlds' Most Famous Baby Hippo



Author: Thane Maynard
Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers
Publication Date: June 19, 2018
ISBN: 9781328485137
Grade Level: Preschool-Grade 1

Description

The amazing, true story of Fiona, a baby hippo born prematurely at the Cincinnati Zoo, the team of scientists and caregivers who nursed her to health, and the vast community in Cincinnati and beyond who rallied around her.

Themes

Animals, Hippopotamus, Animal Welfare, Baby Animals, Zoos

Author Information

Cincinnati Zoo Director Thane Maynard is internationally known for his dedication to wildlife preservation, research and education. He has authored more than a dozen books, the most recent, "Hope for Animals & Their World," was coauthored with Jane Goodall. He has also shared science and environmental news via his nationally syndicated radio program, "The 90-Second Naturalist," for thirty years.

Discussion Questions

1. Why was Fiona more popular than other animals? Talk about changes in technology and safe uses of social media.
2. What facts did you learn about hippos?
3. How can we help animals stay protected in their natural habitats?
4. What other animals besides hippos are competitive and mark their territory to warn off others?
5. What makes hippos dangerous to people?
6. Hippos only eat things like grass and no meat. This means they are herbivores. What other animals are herbivores? What animals are carnivores (meat-eaters)? What animals eat both?
7. Hippos are mostly active at night, which means they are nocturnal. What other animals are nocturnal?

Activities

1. While caring for Fiona, it was discovered that hippo milk is higher in protein and lower in fat than human milk. Discover what is in your food. Help your parents prepare a healthy meal or gets books about the science behind cooking. Helpful resources include WebMD, Nutrition.gov. Search using "what is in my food". Look for professional websites or use your library databases.
2. Pick an animal and find out what goes into feeding and caring for them. Don't forget about important jobs like walking, vacations, and waste management. Learning about pets are great for this activity.
3. Visit a zoo, aquarium, aviary, farm, hatchery, animal shelter, pet store or whatever animal habitat you can find. Learn about how these animals are cared for.
4. Fiona was a premature baby, meaning she was born too early and not fully developed. Learn about other premature babies, both animals and humans. March of Dimes is a great place to start.
5. Fiona's hippo pool is 100% rainwater. Some states have laws about collecting rainwater, Utah is one of them. Research the laws and then figure out a way to legally collect rainwater. Look into Utah's water rights. [Utah Water Rights](#)



More Resources

- [Fiona Updates](#)
- [Fiona Show](#)
- [2nd Birthday January 2019 Update](#)
- [Cincinnati & National Zoo websites](#)

Similar Books

- *Animals by the Numbers: A Book of Infographics* by Steve Jenkins
- *Born in the Wild: Baby Mammals and Their Parents* by Lita Judge
- *Hippos Are Huge!* by Jonathan London & Matthew Truman
- *Hope for Animals and their World: How Endangered Species Are Being Rescued from the Brink* by Jane Goodall, Thane Maynard & Gail Hudson
- *Moto and Me: My Year as a Wildcat's Foster Mom* by Suzi Eszterhas
- *Owen & Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship* by Isabella Hatkoff, Craig Hatkoff, Dr. Paula Kahumbu & Peter Greste
- *The Truth About Hippos* by Maxwell Eaton III

Related Fiction

- *George & Martha* books by James Marshall
- *The Hiccupotamus* by Aaron Zenz
- *Hippopotamister* by John Patrick Green
- *Hippos Go Berserk!* By Sandra Boynton
- *I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas* by John Rox
- *A Story for Hippo: A Book About Loss* by Simon Puttock & Alison Bartlett



Sergeant Reckless

Author: Patricia McCormick

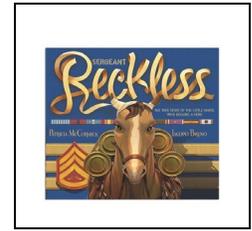
Illustrator: Iacopa Bruno

Publisher: Harper Collins

Publication Date: September 12, 2017

ISBN: 9780062292599

Grade Level: Grades 1-5



Description

When a group of US Marines fighting in the Korean War found a bedraggled mare, they wondered if she could be trained to as a packhorse. They had no idea that the skinny, underfed horse had one of the biggest and bravest hearts they'd ever known- And one of the biggest appetites!

Soon, Reckless showed herself more than willing to carry ammunition too heavy for the soldiers to haul. As cannons thundered and shells flew, she marched into battle—again and again—becoming the only animal ever to officially hold military rank—becoming Sgt. Reckless—and receive two Purple Hearts.

Themes

Korean War, U.S. History, U.S. Marine Corps 5th Regiment, Horses, Animals in Combat

Author Information

Patricia McCormick, a two-time National Book Award finalist, is the author of several critically acclaimed novels – including *Never Fall Down*, the true story of a boy who survived the Killing Fields of Cambodia by playing music for the Khmer Rouge, and *SOLD*, a moving account of sexual trafficking. She is also the co-author of *I am Malala*, the story of Malala Yousafzai, the girl who was shot by the Taliban in her fight for education.

Her books have been named to the *New York Times* Notable Books list, *Publishers Weekly* Best Books list, NPR's Best Books list and iTunes Best Books lists. *SOLD*, featuring Gillian Anderson, was released as a feature film on April 1, 2016. Her first picture book, *Sgt. Reckless, the True Story of the Little Horse Who Became a Hero*, came out in the fall of 2017. She attended Rosemont College, the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and has an MFA from the New School. She lives in New York.

Patricia's honors include New York Foundation on the Arts fellowship, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts fellowship and MacDowell Center fellowship.

Discussion Questions

1. Sergeant Reckless came with the name Flames. How did Sergeant Reckless get her name? Do you think the soldiers picked a good name for the horse?
2. What sort of food did Sergeant Reckless like to eat?
3. Sergeant Reckless received a 2 Purple Heart Awards. The Purple Heart is awarded to those with qualifying combat injuries, and it's among the highest military honors available for those who serve in wartime, or while in combat against those hostile to the United States. Why do you think the US Marine Corp would give such special award to a horse? Do you think a horse should be awarded the same award offered to a human counterpart?
4. What happened to Sergeant Reckless after the Korean War?
5. After Sergeant Reckless was retired from official Marines duties, an official letter was written about her retirement care and feeding. What were the food items she could eat "in limited amounts"?



Activities

1. The Reckless .75 mm rifle was a very accurate rifle. However, it required a 20 lbs. bullet. After carrying 2 or 3 bullets a marine would get tired and not be able to use his energy to fight the enemy. Get a 20 lbs. bag of flour, sugar pet food etc. Have the students get in groups. Have races to see who can move the bag the fastest and with the least number of students.
2. The Korean War was a war fought in Korea between armies from North Korea and from South Korea. The war started June 25, 1950. And fighting stopped July 27, 1953. More than two million Koreans died, most of them in the north. Both sides blame each other for starting the war. The North, led by communist Kim Il-Sung, was helped mostly by People's Republic of China, and the Soviet Union. The South, led by nationalist Syngman Rhee, was helped by many countries in the United Nations, and especially by the United States. The war did not end but a ceasefire was put in place. South Korea and North Korea are still officially at war, and the United States keeps troops in South Korea, in case North Korea ever invades again. North and South Korea are divided by the Korean Demilitarized Zone that crosses the 38th parallel. Do more research on The Korean War. Do you think The United States should be involved in wars and conflicts around the world that don't directly affect our county and people? Write a paragraph defending your answer.
3. Sergeant Reckless was labeled a Hero but she was also injured while performing her duties in battle. Should animals be allowed to be part of combat and war? Have a classroom debate. One side will be "pro" using animals for war and one side "against" using animals in combat. Write about what your class thinks. There is no definitive answer so plead your case for your side of the debate.
4. Learn more about how South Korea. Find a map of South Korea and Color it. Also learn about the culture, language Hello 여보세요 (Pronounced ahn-yong hah-**say**-yoh)
5. Many people have horses as be pets. Sergeant Reckless was not a pet, she was a marine. She was a work horse who didn't just stay in a field all day. Learn more about horses. Visit a farm, or places that keeps horses. Speak to a horse trainer and learn more about horses and the jobs they can do to help humans!

Similar Books

- *No Better Friend: Young Readers Edition: A Man, a Dog, and Their Incredible True Story of Friendship and Survival in World War II* by Robert Weintraub
- *Stubby the Dog Soldier: World War I Hero (Animal Heroes)* by Blake Hoena and Oliver Hurst
- *Step Right Up: How Doc and Jim Key Taught the World about Kindness* by Donna Janell Bowman
- *War Dogs: Tales of Canine Heroism, History, and Love* by Rebecca Frankel
- *Winnie: The True Story of the Bear Who Inspired Winnie-the-Pooh* by Sally M. Walker

Related Fiction

- *Cracker!: The Best Dog in Vietnam* by Cynthia Kadohata
- *War Horse* by Michael Morpurgo