TOP 10 SUSTAINABILITY THEMED CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2022

Presenting the SustainRT Top 10 Children’s Books published last year! The American Library Association’s Sustainability Resources Committee curates an annual list of 10 notable children’s books on nature, conservation, and communities that reflect SustainRT’s mission “to exchange ideas and opportunities regarding sustainability in order to move toward a more equitable, healthy, and economically viable society.” Check them out today!

**Reuse This Book** by Emma Morris
In this interactive, clever board book, young children are introduced to the concepts of reducing, reusing and recycling with an emphasis on keeping our planet healthy and protected in the simplest of terms. **Age range:** 3-6. **Grade level:** Preschool-1.

**Zonia’s Rain Forest** by Juana Martinez-Neal
A native child living in the rainforest of Peru describes her days filled with joy as being called to nature. Zonia visits her friends introducing the reader to life in the rainforest and its inhabitants. Zonia hears the rainforests’ call for help and vows to answer it as we all should. **Age range:** 4-8. **Grade level:** Preschool-3.

**Jayden’s Impossible Garden** by Melina Mangal
Jayden loves nature but his mom tells him that there is no nature in the middle of the city. However, Jayden makes a new friend and together they accomplish the impossible – an impossible garden! This is a sweet book that will motivate anyone: if you love something, and put in time and effort, your dreams can come true! **Age range:** 4-8. **Grade level:** Preschool-3.

**If Bees Disappeared** by Lily Williams
This beautifully illustrated book teaches readers about the crucial role bees play in our lives. It examines what would happen if bees were no longer around to pollinate the plants. The impact on our world would be tremendous as food would become less plentiful, for people and for other species. Fortunately, the book ends with a list of practical activities young people can do to help the bees. **Age range:** 4-8. **Grade level:** Preschool-3.

**A Garden to Save the Birds** by Wendy McClure, illustrations by Beatriz Mayumi
Young Callum & Emmy worry about birds flying into the window of their house. They learn about making bird-safe windows & a bird-friendly yard, and eventually bring their neighbors together in making a wildlife habitat. A heartwarming story and gorgeous illustrations of people and wildlife alike. It concludes with tips and resources to try at home. **Age range:** 5-8. **Grade level:** K-3.

**Saving American Beach** by Heidi Tyline King
This is a story based on the life of MaVynee Betsch. When she was a girl, beaches were segregated and there was even a rope in the ocean to divide people. When American Beach was in trouble of being overrun by developers, MaVynee became the beach lady, who took action & motivated others to preserve the beach forever. **Age range:** 5-8. **Grade level:** K-3.

**The Last Straw: Kids vs Plastics** by Susan Hood, illustrations by Christiane Engel
This book teaches young readers about the negative impact that single-use plastic has on the environment & gives real-life examples of children & scientists working to repurpose or eliminate single-use plastic. It also offers practical alternatives to single-use plastic & includes a comprehensive list of resources. **Age range:** 6-10. **Grade level:** 2-5.

**The Wisdom of Trees: How Trees Work Together to Form a Natural Kingdom** by Lita Judge
This book describes the importance of trees & their functions, such as the “secret networks” they form to communicate with other trees. Each two-page spread features a poem & a short description on topics such as the importance of tree diversity & how healthy forests are an important defense against climate change. It include suggestions on how students can help the forests. **Age range:** 7-12. **Grade level:** 2-5.

**Our World out of Balance: Understanding Climate Change and What We Can Do** by Andrea Minoglio and Laura Fanelli
Using age-appropriate language, the authors provide science-based explanations for the causes of climate change & its impact on our lives. Each two-page spread tackles a different aspect of the climate crisis & includes information on current efforts to mitigate the effects of climate changes and ways that young people can help. **Age range:** 8-12. **Grade level:** 3-6.

**City of Water** by Andrea Curtis illustrations by Katy Dockrill
This title explores the many ways we use and interact with water in society, through history and around the world. Readers can learn about environmental, social, and engineering issues, and explore how we can make a more sustainable world and water cycle. **Age range:** 8-12. **Grade level:** 3-6.

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