# Nature Book Club: Family Reading List

1. Choose a theme that interests the whole family. (Themes are listed in alphabetical order.)
2. Choose age-appropriate books within the theme for each family member. (Use the key below to determine genre. Purchase books from your local independent bookstore or support your local library, if possible!)
3. Read, read, read!
4. Use the discussion questions and activity ideas provided to share what you’ve learned with each other.
5. Get outside and learn about nature from the source!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AN</th>
<th>Adult nonfiction</th>
<th>MG</th>
<th>Middle grade (Ages 8+)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AF</td>
<td>Adult fiction</td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>Picture book</td>
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<tr>
<td>YA</td>
<td>Young adult (Ages 12+)</td>
<td>JN</td>
<td>Juvenile nonfiction</td>
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<tr>
<td>GN</td>
<td>Graphic novel</td>
<td>PO</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
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## Animals

### AN
- *Being With Animals: Why We Are Obsessed with the Furry, Scaly, Feathered Creatures Who Populate Our World* by Barbara J. King
- *Our Wild Calling: How Connecting with Animals Can Transform Our Lives- and Save Theirs* by Richard Louv
- *How to Be a Good Creature: A Memoir in Thirteen Animals* by Sy Montgomery, illustrated by Rebecca Green

### MG
- *The Lost Rainforest* series by Elliot Schrefer

### IN
- *Howl Like A Wolf: Learn to Think, Move, and Act Like 15 Amazing Animals* by Kathleen Yale and Kaley McKeane
- *Cute as an Axolotl: Discovering the World’s Most Adorable Animals* by Jess Keating, illustrated by David DeGrand
- *The Lost Words* by Robert Macfarlane, illustrated by Jackie Morris

### PB
- *A Stone Sat Still* by Brendan Wenzel
- *Hello Hello* by Brendan Wenzel

## Animal Migration
AN
- No Way Home: The Decline of the World’s Great Animal Migrations by David Wilcove
- A Season on the Wind: Inside the World of Spring Migration by Kenn Kaufman

MG
- Wild Wings by Gill Lewis

IN
- Home at Last: A Song of Migration by April Pulley Sayre and Alix Berenzy
- North: The Amazing Story of Arctic Migration by Nick Dowson and Patrick Benson
- Numenia and the Hurricane: Inspired by a True Migration Story by Fiona Halliday

Appalachia
AN
- Far Appalachia: Following the New River North by Noah Adams
- The Barefoot Sisters Southbound by Susan and Lucy Letcher
- A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail by Bill Bryson
- Bringing Down the Mountains: The Impact of Mountaintop Removal in Southern West Virginia Communities by Shirley Stewart Burns

AF
- Prodigal Summer by Barbara Kingsolver
- October Sky by Homer Hickam

PO
- Affrilachia: Poems by Frank X. Walker by Frank X. Walker
- Elderberry Flood: The History, Lore, and Land of West Virginia by Louise McNeill

PB
- When I was Young in the Mountains by Cynthia Rylant and Dianne Goode
- Appalachian ABCs by Francie Hall

Bears
AN
- Search for the Golden Moon Bear: Science and Adventure in Pursuit of a New Species by Sy Montgomery
- Summers with the Bears: Six Seasons in the North Woods by Jack Becklund
- The Blue Bear: A True Story of Friendship and Discovery in the Alaskan Wild by Lynn Schooler

YA
- Dreaming the Bear by Mimi Thebo

MG
- Moon Bear by Gill Lewis

IN
- The Truth About Bears: Seriously Funny Facts About Your Favorite Animals by Maxwell Eaton III

PB
Jasper’s Story: Saving Moon Bears by Jill Robinson and Marc Beckoff, illustrated by Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen
Kuma-Kuma Chan, the Little Bear by Kazue Takahashi
Moon Bear by Brenda Guiberson, illustrated by Ed Young
Big Bear Hug by Nicholas Oldland
Very Hairy Bear by Alice Schertle, illustrated by Matt Phelan
The Deliverance of Dancing Bears by Elizabeth Stanley
Snow Bear by Jean Craighead George, illustrated by Wendell Minor
Baby Bear’s Adoption by Jennifer Keats Curtis and Veronica Jones

Beavers
AN
Eager: The Surprising, Secret life of Beavers and Why They Matter by Ben Goldfarb
Once They Were Hats: In Search of the Mighty Beaver by Frances Backhouse
The Beaver Manifesto by Glynnis Hood

MG
Jack: The Story of a Beaver by Shirley Woods, illustrated by Celia Godkin

IN
Beavers (Superpower Field Guide) by Rachel Poliquin, illustrated by Nicholas John Frith

PB
The Skydiving Beavers: A True Tale by Susan Wood, illustrated by Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen
Beavers Build Lodges by Elizabeth Raum, illustrated by Romina Marti
Five Busy Beavers by Stella Partheniou Grasso, illustrated by Christine Battuz
Little Beaver and the Echo by Amy MacDonald and Sarah Fox-Davies

Big Cats
AN
Bones of the Tiger: Protecting the Man-Eaters of Nepal by Hemanta Mishra
The Man-Eating Tigers of Sundarbans by Sy Montgomery
Chasing the Dragon’s Tail: The Struggle to Save Thailand’s Wild Cats by Alan Rabinowitz
The Beast in the Garden: A Modern Parable of Man and Nature by David Baron
The Snow Leopard by Peter Matthiessen
Snow Leopard: Stories from the Roof of the World edited by Don Hunter
Cat Tale: The Wild, Weird Battle to Save the Florida Panther by Craig Pittman

MG
Tiger Boy by Mitali Perkins

IN
Saving the Ghost of the Mountain: An Expedition Among Snow Leopards in Mongolia by Sy Montgomery, photographs by Nic Bishop

PB
Little Tigers by Jo Weaver
Tigress by Helen Cowcher
A Boy and a Jaguar by Alan Rabinowitz, illustrated by Catia Chien
Snow School by Sandra Markle, illustrated by Alan Marks

Birds

AN
That Quail, Robert by Margaret A. Stanger
Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird by Katie Fallon
One Wild Bird at a Time: Portraits of Individuals Lives by Bernd Heinrich
The Birds of Pandemonium: Life Among the Exotic and the Endangered by Michele Raffin
Flyaway: How A Wild Bird Rehabber Sought Adventure and Found Her Wings by Suzie Gilbert
Rare Encounters with Ordinary Birds by Lyanda Lynn Haupt
Birds of a Feather: Tales of a Wild Bird Haven by Linda Johns
Wesley the Owl: The Remarkable Love Story of an Owl and His Girl by Stacey O'Brien

IN
Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World’s Strangest Parrot by Sy Montgomery, photographs by Nic Bishop

MG
Strange Birds: A Field Guide to Ruffling Feathers by Celia C. Perez
Hoot by Carl Hiaasen

PB
Birds by Kevin Henkes, illustrated by Laura Dronzek
Hooray for Birds by Lucy Cousins
The Birdwatchers by Simon James
Feathers: Not Just for Flying by Melissa Stewart, illustrated by Sarah S. Brannen
Vulture View by April Pulley Sayre, illustrated by Steve Jenkins

Black in Nature

AN
Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors by Carolyn Finney

PO
Haiku: The Last Poetry of Richard Wright by Richard Wright

PB
Hiking Day by Anne F. Rockwell and Lizzy Rockwell
A Stone for Sascha by Aaron Becker
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Butterflies, Bugs, Spiders, and Stuff</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AN</td>
<td>Buzz, Sting, Bite: Why We Need Insects by Anne Sverdup-Thygeson</td>
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<tr>
<td>AF</td>
<td>Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver</td>
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<td>IN</td>
<td>The Tarantula Scientist by Sy Montgomery, photographs by Nic Bishop</td>
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<td>PB</td>
<td>Waiting for Wings by Lois Ehlert</td>
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<td>Velma Gratch and the Way Cool Butterfly by Alan Madison, illustrated by Kevin Hawkes</td>
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<td>An Extraordinary Ordinary Moth by Karlin Gra, illustrated by Steliyana Doneva</td>
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<td>Diary of a Worm by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Harry Bliss</td>
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<tr>
<td>AN</td>
<td>Following Atticus: Forty-Eight High Peaks, One Little Dog, and an Extraordinary Friendship by Tom Ryan</td>
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<td>Merle’s Door: Lessons from a Freethinking Dog by Ted Kerasote</td>
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<td>A Small, Furry Prayer: Dog Rescue and the Meaning of Life by Steven Kotler</td>
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<td>PO</td>
<td>Dog Songs by Mary Oliver</td>
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<td>God Got a Dog by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Marla Frazee</td>
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<td>MG</td>
<td>Love That Dog by Sharon Creech</td>
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<td>PB</td>
<td>Samsara Dog by Helen Manos, illustrated by Julie Vivas</td>
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<th><strong>Elephants &amp; Rhinos</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>AF</td>
<td>The White Bone by Barbara Dowdy</td>
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<tr>
<td>AN</td>
<td>Love, Life, and Elephants: An African Love Story by Daphne Jenkins Sheldrick</td>
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<td>The Soul of the Rhino: A Nepali Adventure with Kings and Elephant Drivers, Billionaires and Bureaucrats, Shamans and Scientists and the Indian Rhinoceros by Hemanta Mishra</td>
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<tr>
<td>MG</td>
<td>What Elephants Know by Eric Dinerstein</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tua and the Elephant by R. P. Harris, illustrated by Taeeun Yoo</td>
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<td>The Truth About Elephants: Seriously Funny Facts About Your Favorite Animals by Maxwell Eaton III</td>
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</table>
The Elephant Scientist by Caitlin O’Connell and Donna M. Jackson, illustrated by Timothy Rodwell

Monkey and Elephant by Carole Lexa Schaefer, illustrated by Galia Bernstein
How to Be an Elephant: Growing Up in the African Wild by Katherine Roy
Jubela by Cristina Kessler, illustrated by JoEllen McAllister Stammen

Evolution

The Tangled Tree: A Radical New History of Life by David Quammen
The Species Seekers: Heroes, Fools, and the Mad Pursuit of Life on Earth by Richard Conniff
Wonderful Life: The Burgess Shale and the Nature of History by Stephen Jay Gould
The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt’s New World by Andrea Wulf

The Story of Life: A First Book about Evolution by Catherine Barr and Steve Williams illustrated by Amy Husband
Amazing Evolution: The Journey of Life by Anna Claybourne, illustrated by Wesley Robins

Grandmother Fish: A Child’s First Book of Evolution by Jonathan Tweet, illustrated by Karen Lewis
Our Family Tree: An Evolution Story by Lisa Westberg Peters, illustrated by Lauren Stringer

Great Apes

Walking with the Great Apes: Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, Birute Galdikas by Sy Montgomery
Reflections of Eden: My Years with the Orangutans of Borneo by Birute M. F. Galdikas
The Intimate Ape: Orangutans of the Secret Life of a Vanishing Species by Shawn Thompson

Gorilla Dawn by Gill Lewis, illustrated by Susan Meyer
Endangered by Elliot Schrefer
Orphaned by Elliot Schrefer

The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate, illustrated by Patricia Castelao

Primates: The Fearless Science of Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Birutė Galdikas by Jim Ottaviani and Maris Wicks
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<th>Himalaya</th>
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<td>AN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beyond the Sky and the Earth: A Journey into Bhutan by Jamie Zeppa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animal Intimacies: Interspecies Relatedness in India’s Central Himalayas by Radhika Govindrajan</td>
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<td>Tibet Wild: A Naturalist’s Journeys on the Roof of the World by George Schaller</td>
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<td>Seven Years in Tibet by Heinrich Harrer</td>
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<td>AF</td>
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<td>The Folded Earth by Anuradha Roy</td>
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<td>World Above the Clouds: A Story of a Himalayan Ecosystem by Ann Whitehead Nagda, illustrated by Paul Kratter</td>
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<td>The Chiru of High Tibet: A True Story by Jacqueline Briggs Martin, illustrated by Linda Wingerter</td>
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<td>Crane Boy by Diana Cohn, illustrated by Youme Landowne</td>
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<td>Tiger of the Snows: Tenzing Norgay: The Boy Whose Dream Was Everest by Robert Burleigh, illustrated by Ed Young</td>
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<td>Tenzin’s Deer: A Tibetan Tale by Barbara Soros, illustrated by Danuta Mayer</td>
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<td>Dorje’s Stripes by Anshuman Ruddra, illustrated by Gwangjo and Jung-a Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>All the Way to Lhasa: A Tale from Tibet by Barbara Helen Berger</td>
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<td>The Mountains of Tibet by Mordiaci Gerstein</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Primate’s Memoir: A Neuroscientist’s Unconventional Life Among the Baboons by Robert Sapolsky</td>
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<tr>
<td>Almost Human: A Journey into the World of Baboons by Shirley Strum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faces in the Forest: The Endangered Muriqui Monkeys of Brazil by Karen B. Strier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lords and Lemurs: Mad Scientists, Kings with Spears, and the Survival of Diversity in Madagascar by Alison Jolly</td>
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<td>MG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monkey Business: Stories from Around the World by Shirley Climo, illustrated by Erik Brooks</td>
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<td>Summer of the Monkeys by Wilson Rawls</td>
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IN

- *No Monkeys, No Chocolate* by Melissa Stewart and Allen Young, illustrated by Nicole Wong
- *The Great Monkey Rescue: Saving the Golden Lion Tamarins* by Sandra Markle

PB

- *The Monkey Bridge* by Rafe Martin, illustrated by Fahimeh Amiri
- *Monkey Colors* by Darrin Lunde, illustrated by Patricia J. Wynne
- *When the Monkeys Came Back* by Kristine Franklin, illustrated by Robert Roth
- *Monkey: A Trickster Tale from India* by Gerald McDermott
- *Mad About Monkeys* by Owen Davey
- *Cloud Tea Monkeys* by Mal Peet and Elspeth Graham, illustrated by Juan Wijngaard
- *Slow Loris* by Alexis Deacon
- *Ny Aiay Ako* by Alison Jolly and Hantanirina, illustrated by Deborah Ross

Nature Poetry

**ADULTS**

- *Haiku: The Last Poetry of Richard Wright* by Richard Wright
- *Devotions* by Mary Oliver
- *Classic Haiku: The Greatest Japanese Poetry from Basho, Buson, Issa, Shiki, and Their Followers* by Tom Lowenstein
- *Hill Daughter: New and Selected Poems* by Louise McNeill
- *Wild Form and Savage Grammar: Poetry, Ecology, Asia* by Andrew Schelling

**KIDS**

- *Hi, Koo! A Year of Seasons* by Jon J. Muth
- *Song of the Water Boatman and Other Pond Poems* by Joyce Sidman, illustrated by Beckie Prange
- *Orangutanka: A Story in Poems* by Margarita Engle, illustrated by Renee Kurilla

Oceans

**AN**

- *The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness* by Sy Montgomery

**YA**

- *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

**MG**
White Dolphin by Gill Lewis
Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O’Dell

Neighborhood Sharks: Hunting with the Great Whites of California’s Farallon Islands by Katherine Roy

Heartbeat by Evan Turk
Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean’s Most Fearless Scientist by Jess Keating, illustrated by Marta Álvarez Miguéns
Sam the Sea Cow by Francine Jacobs, illustrated by Laura Kelly
Swimming with Seals by Maggie De Vries and Janice Kun

Plants

Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses by Robin Wall Kimmerer
Lab Girl by Hope Jahren
Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer
Orchid Fever: A Horticultural Tale of Love, Lust, and Lunacy by Eric Hansen

AF
The Signature of All Things by Elizabeth Gilbert

YA
Walking is a Way of Knowing: In a Kadar Forest by Madhuri Ramesh and Manish Chandi, illustrated by Matthew Frame

MG
Wishtree by Katherine Applegate
Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

PB
The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rainforest by Lynne Cherry
Aani and the Tree Huggers by Jeannine Atkins, illustrated by Venantius J. Pinto
Tap the Magic Tree by Christie Matheson
We Planted a Tree by Diane Muldrow, illustrated by Bob Staake
Mama Miti: Wangari Maathai and the Trees of Kenya by Donna Jo Napoli, illustrated by Kadir Nelson
Alison’s Zinnia by Anita Lobel
Fantastic Flowers by Susan Stockdale
The Legend of the Lady Slipper by Lisa Lunge-Larsen and Margi Preus, illustrated by Andrea Arroyo
Tashi and the Tibetan Flower Cure by Naomi C. Rose

Seasons

True Nature: An Illustrated Journal of Four Seasons in Solitude by Barbara Bash
The Forest Unseen: A Year’s Watch in Nature by David George Haskell

PO
Sing a Song of Seasons: A Nature Poem for Each Day of the Year by Nosy Crow and Fiona Waters, illustrated by Frann Preston-Gannon

PB
A Bear’s Year by Kathy Duval, illustrated by Gerry Turley
Moonstick: The Seasons of the Sioux by Eve Bunting, illustrated by John Sandford

Snails
AN
The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating by Elisabeth Tova Bailey

IN
Snails are Just My Speed by Kevin McCloskey

PB
Escargot by Dashka Slater, illustrated by Sydney Hanson
Snail Crossing by Corey R. Tabo

Snakes & Other Reptiles
AN
Secrets of Snakes: The Science Beyond the Myths by David Steen
The Snake Charmer: A Life and Death in Pursuit of Knowledge by Jamie James

IN
Tracking Pythons: The Quest to Catch an Invasive Predator and Save an Ecosystem by Kate Messner
Snakes by Gail Gibbons

PB
Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor: The Woman Who Loved Reptiles by Patricia Valdez, illustrated by Felicita Sala
Komodo! by Peter Sis
Gator, Gator, Gator! by Daniel Bernstrom and Frann Preston-Gannon

Turtles
AN
Dreaming in Turtle: A Journey Through the Passion, Profit, and Peril of Our Most Coveted Prehistoric Creatures by Peter Laufer

MG
The Turtle of Oman by Naomi Shihab Nye

IN
Interrupted Journey: Saving Endangered Sea Turtles by Kathryn Laskey, photographs by Christopher G. Knight
A Place for Turtles by Melissa Stewart, illustrated by Higgins Bond
| **Box Turtle at Long Pond** by William T. George, illustrated by Lindsay Barrett George |
| **Truman** by Jean Reidy, illustrated by Lucy Ruth Cummins |

### Water

| AN | The Other Side of the River: Stories of Women, Water, and the World by Eila Carrico |
| YA | The Weight of Water by Sarah Crossan |
| IN | Water is Water: A Book About the Water Cycle by Miranda Paul, illustrated by Jason Chin |
| PB | A River Ran Wild: An Environmental History by Lynne Cherry |
|    | Monsoon Afternoon by Kashmira Sheth, illustrated by Yoshiko Jaeggi |
|    | Out of the Woods: A True Story of an Unforgettable Event by Rebecca Bond |
|    | A Cool Drink of Water by Barbara Kerley |
|    | Muskrat Will Be Swimming by Cheryl Savageau, illustrated by Robert Hynes |
|    | Water is Water by Miranda Paul and Jason Chin |

### Wolves & Coyotes

| AN | Shadow Mountain: A Memoir of Wolves, a Woman, and the Wild by Renee Askins |
|    | Coyote America: A Natural and Supernatural History by Dan Flores |
|    | The Way of the Coyote: Shared Journeys in the Urban Wilds by Gavin van Horn |
| MG | Run Wild by Gill Lewis |
|    | Street Shadows by Claire Gilchrist |
| PB | Coyote Moon by Maria Gianferrari, illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline |

### Wildlife Conservation

| AN | Hope for Animals and Their World: How Endangered Species Are Being Rescued from the Brink by Jane Goodall |
|    | Pilgrim at Tinker Creek by Annie Dillard |
|    | Rewilding Our Hearts: Building Pathways of Compassion and Coexistence by Marc Bekoff |
|    | The Condor’s Shadow: The Loss and Recovery of Wildlife in America by David S. Wilcove |
Wildlife Heroes: 40 Leading Conservationists and the Animals They Are Committed to Saving by Julie Scardina

YA

Endangered by Eliot Schrefer

IN

Going Wild: Helping Nature Thrive in Cities by Michelle Mulder

PB

Gone Wild: An Endangered Animal Alphabet by David McLimans

Can We Save the Tiger? by Martin Jenkins, illustrated by Vicky White

Red Alert! Endangered Animals Around the World by Catherine Barr, illustrated by Anne Wilson

Questions to Inspire Family Book Discussion:

❖ Who is the author of the book? What do you think it was like for them to write it?
❖ What did you like about the book?
❖ What questions did the book not answer? How can you learn more?
❖ What would you change about the book, if you could re-write it?
❖ Did the book encourage you to think about something in a new way?
❖ How does the book/theme relate to your own life? Have you ever observed any of the plants, animals, or phenomena featured in the book?
❖ How did the book make you feel?
❖ Is there anything you would like to do differently after reading the book?
❖ What is one new thing you learned from reading the book?
❖ Did you like the book’s ending? Why or why not?

Family Book Club Activity Ideas:

❖ Make book marks with your favorite quotes from the books.
❖ Read aloud your favorite parts from each book.
❖ Use social media to contact the author, ask a question, and see if they respond. If you liked their book, be sure to tell them so!
❖ Watch a movie related to the theme and compare it to the books you read.
❖ Create a timeline or map that represents your book and its setting.
❖ Recommend books to others in your life who you think may enjoy them.
❖ Check author websites for additional activities.
❖ Use the references or recommended reading list to choose your next book.