

# **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!

**AN** = Adult nonfiction **MG** = Middle grade (Ages 8+)

 $\mathbf{AF} = \mathbf{Adult} \text{ fiction}$   $\mathbf{PB} = \mathbf{Picture} \text{ book}$ 

**YA** = Young adult (Ages 12+) JN = Juvenile nonfiction

**GN** = Graphic novel **PO** = Poetry

### **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

## JN

- Howl Like A Wolf: Learn to Think, Move, and Act Like 15 Amazing Animals by Kathleen Yale and Kaley McKean
- ☐ 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

## PΒ

- 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
<ul> <li>IN</li> <li>□ Home at Last: A Song of Migration by April Pulley Sayre and Alix Berenzy</li> <li>□ North: The Amazing Story of Arctic Migration by Nick Dowson and Patrick Benson</li> <li>□ Numenia and the Hurricane: Inspired by a True Migration Story by Fiona Halliday</li> </ul>
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
Bears
<u>AN</u>
☐ 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
<u>YA</u>
Dreaming the Bear by Mimi Thebo MG
Moon Bear by Gill Lewis
<ul> <li>IN</li> <li>□ The Truth About Bears: Seriously Funny Facts About Your Favorite Animals by Maxwell Eaton III</li> <li>PB</li> </ul>
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-	Story: Saving Moon Bears by Jill Robinson and Marc Beckoff, illustrated by
,	van Frankenhuyzen uma Chan, the Little Bear by Kazue Takahashi
	ear by Brenda Guiberson, illustrated by Ed Young
	Hug by Nicholas Oldland
C	iry Bear by Alice Schertle, illustrated by Matt Phelan
•	verance of Dancing Bears by Elizabeth Stanley
	ar by Jean Craighead George, illustrated by Wendell Minor
	ar's Adoption by Jennifer Keats Curtis and Veronica Jones
Beavers	
<u>AN</u>	
	he Surprising, Secret life of Beavers and Why They Matter by Ben Goldfarb
	ey Were Hats: In Search of the Mighty Beaver by Frances Backhouse
	ver Manifesto by Glynnis Hood
MG	Ctamu of a Paggar by Chirley Woods illustrated by Colin Codkin
<u>IN</u>	e Story of a Beaver by Shirley Woods, illustrated by Celia Godkin
	(Superpower Field Guide) by Rachel Poliquin, illustrated by Nicholas John
Frith	
<u>PB</u>	
The Skya Franken	diving Beavers: A True Tale by Susan Wood, illustrated by Gijsbert van
	Build Lodges by Elizabeth Raum, illustrated by Romina Marti
🚨 Five Bus	y Beavers by Stella Partheniou Grasso, illustrated by Christine Battuz
🚨 Little Be	aver and the Echo by Amy MacDonald and Sarah Fox-Davies
Big Cats	
<u>AN</u>	
	the Tiger: Protecting the Man-Eaters of Nepal by Hemanta Mishra
	n-Eating Tigers of Sundarbans by Sy Montgomery
Rabinov	the Dragon's Tail: The Struggle to Save Thailand's Wild Cats by Alan
	t in the Garden: A Modern Parable of Man and Nature by David Baron
	w Leopard by Peter Matthiessen
	opard: Stories from the Roof of the World edited by Don Hunter
	The Wild, Weird Battle to Save the Florida Panther by Craig Pittman
MG	
Tiger Bo	y by Mitali Perkins
<u>IN</u>	
	he Ghost of the Mountain: An Expedition Among Snow Leopards in Mongolia
	lontgomery, photographs by Nic Bishop
<u>PB</u>	

☐ 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					
<u>IN</u> ☐ <i>Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrot</i> 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					
Black in Nature					
AN  Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors by Carolyn Finney  The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature by J. Drew Lanham.					
PO  Black Nature: Four Centuries of African American Nature Poetry edited by Camille T.  Dungy					
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					

Where's Rodney? by Carmen Bogan and Floyd Cooper
Butterflies, Bugs, Spiders, and Stuff
AN  Buzz, Sting, Bite: Why We Need Insects by Anne Sverdup-Thygeson
AF  ———————————————————————————————————
<u>IN</u> — The Tarantula Scientist by Sy Montgomery, photographs by Nic Bishop
<ul> <li>PB</li> <li>Waiting for Wings by Lois Ehlert</li> <li>□ Velma Gratch and the Way Cool Butterfly by Alan Madison, illustrated by Kevin Hawkes</li> <li>□ An Extraordinary Ordinary Moth by Karlin Gra, illustrated by Steliyana Doneva</li> <li>□ Diary of a Worm by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Harry Bliss</li> </ul>
Dogs
AN  Following Atticus: Forty-Eight High Peaks, One Little Dog, and an Extraordinary Friendship by Tom Ryan  Merle's Door: Lessons from a Freethinking Dog by Ted Kerasote  A Small, Furry Prayer: Dog Rescue and the Meaning of Life by Steven Kotler
PO  Dog Songs by Mary Oliver God Got a Dog by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Marla Frazee
MG  Love That Dog by Sharon Creech
$\underline{PB}$ $\square$ Samsara Dog by Helen Manos, illustrated by Julie Vivas
Elephants & Rhinos  AF  The White Bone by Barbara Dowdy
AN  Love, Life, and Elephants: An African Love Story by Daphne Jenkins Sheldrick  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
MG

<u>JN</u>
The Elephant Scientist by Caitlin O'Connell and Donna M. Jackson, illustrated by Timothy Rodwell
<u>PB</u>
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
<u>AN</u>
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
<u>IN</u>
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
<u>PB</u>
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
AN 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
YA
Gorilla Dawn by Gill Lewis, illustrated by Susan Meyer  Endangered by Elliot Schrefer
Orphaned by Elliot Schrefer
MG  The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate, illustrated by Patricia Castelao
Primates: The Fearless Science of Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Birtute Galdikas by Jim Ottaviani and Maris Wicks
IN

Looking for Miza: The True Story of the Mountain Gorilla Family Who Rescued Once of Their Own by Juliana Hatkoff, Isabella Hatkoff, Craig Hatkoff, and Dr. Paula Kahumbu
<u>PB</u> ☐ The Watcher: Jane Goodall's Life with the Chimps by Jeanette Winter ☐ Furious George Goes Bananas: A Primate Parody by Michael Rex
Himalaya AN
<ul> <li>□ Beyond the Sky and the Earth: A Journey into Bhutan by Jamie Zeppa</li> <li>□ Animal Intimacies: Interspecies Relatedness in India's Central Himalayas by Radhika Govindrajan</li> <li>□ Tibet Wild: A Naturalist's Journeys on the Roof of the World by George Schaller</li> <li>□ Seven Years in Tibet by Heinrich Harrer</li> </ul>
<u>AF</u>
The Folded Earth by Anuradha Roy <u>IN</u>
<ul> <li>World Above the Clouds: A Story of a Himalayan Ecosystem by Ann Whitehead Nagda, illustrated by Paul Kratter</li> <li>The Chiru of High Tibet: A True Story by Jacqueline Briggs Martin, illustrated by Linda Wingerter</li> </ul> PB
<ul> <li>☐ Crane Boy by Diana Cohn, illustrated by Youme Landowne</li> <li>☐ Tiger of the Snows: Tenzing Norgay: The Boy Whose Dream Was Everest by Robert Burleigh, illustrated by Ed Young</li> <li>☐ Tenzin's Deer: A Tibetan Tale by Barbara Soros, illustrated by Danuta Mayer</li> <li>☐ Dorje's Stripes by Anshumani Ruddra, illustrated by Gwangjo and Jung-a Park</li> <li>☐ All the Way to Lhasa: A Tale from Tibet by Barbara Helen Berger</li> <li>☐ The Mountains of Tibet by Mordiaci Gerstein</li> </ul>
Monkeys & Prosimians
AN  A Primate's Memoir: A Neuroscientist's Unconventional Life Among the Baboons by Robert Sapolsky  Almost Human: A Journey into the World of Baboons by Shirley Strum  Faces in the Forest: The Endangered Muriqui Monkeys of Brazil by Karen B. Strier  Lords and Lemurs: Mad Scientists, Kings with Spears, and the Survival of Diversity in Madagascar by Alison Jolly
MG
<ul> <li>Monkey Business: Stories from Around the World by Shirley Climo, illustrated by Erik Brooks</li> <li>Summer of the Monkeys by Wilson Rawls</li> </ul>

<u>IN</u>
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
<u>PB</u>
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
My Aiay Ako by Alison Jolly and Hantanirina, illustrated by Deborah Ross
NIstana Davida
Nature Poetry
ADULTS  On Heilus, The Leet Beating of Bighand Whicht has Bighe and Whicht
Haiku: The Last Poetry of Richard Wright by Richard Wright  Plack Nature: Four Contumes of African American Nature Poetry edited by Cornillo T
Black Nature: Four Centuries of African American Nature Poetry edited by Camille T.
Dungy  Deviations by Marry Olivar
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
Mational Geographic Book of Animal Poetry: 200 Poems with Photographs That Squeak,
Soar, and Roar! by Patrick Lewis
Song of the Water Boatman and Other Pond Poems by Joyce Sidman, illustrated by
Beckie Prange
☐ <i>Orangutanka: A Story in Poems</i> by Margartia Engle, illustrated by Renee Kurilla
The Tree That Time Built: A Celebration of Nature, Science, and Imagination by Mary
Ann Hoberman and Linda Winston
Oceans
<u>AN</u>
The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness by
Sy Montgomery
<u>YA</u>
Life of Pi by Yann Martel
<u>MG</u>

White Dolphin by Gill Lewis
☐ Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell
Noighborhood Sharker Hunting with the Creat Whites of California's Favallon Islands by
Neighborhood Sharks: Hunting with the Great Whites of California's Farallon Islands by Katherine Roy
PB
— 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
AN 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
<u>AF</u> ☐ <i>The Signature of All Things</i> 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
<u>PB</u>
The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rainforest by Lynne Cherry
<ul><li>Aani and the Tree Huggers by Jeannine Atkins, illustrated by Venantius J. Pinto</li><li>Tap the Magic Tree by Christie Matheson</li></ul>
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  Contaction Floryway by Capacita dela
<ul><li>Fantastic Flowers by Susan Stockdale</li><li>The Legend of the Lady Slipper by Lisa Lunge-Larsen and Margi Preus, illustrated</li></ul>
by Andrea Arroyo
Tashi and the Tibetan Flower Cure by Naomi C. Rose
Seasons
AN
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
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
<ul> <li>IN</li> <li>□ Tracking Pythons: The Quest to Catch an Invasive Predator and Save an Ecosystem by Kate Messner</li> <li>□ Snakes by Gail Gibbons</li> </ul>
PB
Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor: The Woman Who Loved Reptiles by Patricia Valdez, illustrated by Felicita Sala
<ul><li>Komodo! by Peter Sis</li><li>Gator, Gator, Gator! by Daniel Bernstrom and Frann Preston-Gannon</li></ul>
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
<u>IN</u> ☐ 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 <u>PB</u>

☐ 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			
<u>IN</u> 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  The Daily Coyote: A Story of Love, Survival, and Trust in the Wilds of Wyoming by Shreve Stockton			
© 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  □ 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 ☐ Rewildling 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			

	$ lue{} $ Wildlife Heroes: 40 Leading Conservationists and the Animals They Are Com	nitted to
	Saving by Julie Scardina	
YΑ		
	🖺 Endangered by Eliot Schrefer	
JN	•	
	Going Wild: Helping Nature Thrive in Cities by Michelle Mulder	
<u>PB</u>		
	Gone Wild: An Endangered Animal Alphabet by David McLimans	
	(an We Save the Tiger? by Martin Jenkins, illustrated by Vicky White	
	Red Alert! Endangered Animals Around the World by Catherine Barr, illust	rated by
	Anne Wilson	J

## **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.

