

The Blueberry Award



Welcome!



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The Blueberry Award



The Blueberry Award celebrates children's books that inspire a love of nature and action for planet Earth for children between the ages of 3-10.



2

- Provides excellence in children's literature in writing, art, and design
- Shares nature, nature intersections, or climate peril with kids in developmentally appropriate, truthful ways
- Reflects the diversity of people in our world
- Delivers content grounded in real science
- Incites kids to action that would make a real difference
- *Bonus: Topics that coincide with the City of Evanston's Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP) goals!*



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Climate Anxiety Criteria and Research

Anxiety is the Enemy of Collective Action and
Collective Action is the Enemy of Anxiety!

Anti-Climate Anxiety Criteria for the Blueberry Awards

1. Love of nature first, climate action 2nd. (you only save what you love)
2. Recommend GROUP action, not going it alone
3. Must include practical suggestions for mitigating the actual problem shared in the text
4. State (or imply) that Adults are engaged. Never say, it is up to YOU or young people alone.
5. Follow child development guidelines about what kind of information kids can handle at which age. (Significant climate change information should not be shared with children under 8 years of age.)

Louise Chawla, Prof Emeritus, U of C, Boulder, Scientific Advisory Council of the Children and Nature Network gave a lecture at the Brookfield Zoo last year which led to these more formal guidelines.

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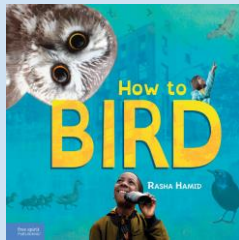
2023 Blueberry Winner - 1

A brilliant, gentle, warm pep talk for urban kids of all abilities to begin birding!

Photos are by the author who is a working teacher in NYC, of the kids she teaches!

Presents different abilities regarding birding as "superpowers"

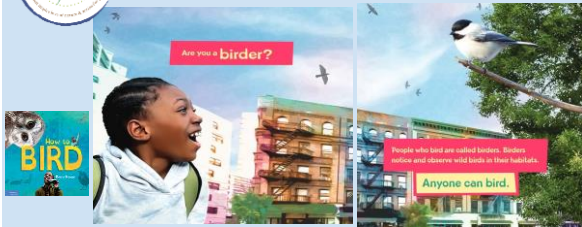
Age Range: 3 - 8 years



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2023 Blueberry Winner - 1



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2023 Blueberry Winner - 1

As a parent and educator, I have spent decades looking for books that reflect the extraordinary diversity of our earth and also that center Black and Brown children in urban communities.



How to Bird was inspired by the dream that our public green spaces can be safe and welcoming for everyone, that joyful, mindful activities like birding are available to all of us, wherever we live and whoever we are."

Rasha Hamid, author and teacher

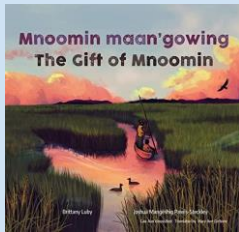
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2023 Blueberry Winner - 2

A gorgeous new bilingual book by an Anishinaabe author and illustrator sharing about the keystone species for the Upper Great Lakes, mnoomin, or "wild rice."

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

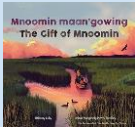


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2023 Blueberry Winner - 2

Mnoomin is an Ojibway word pronounced "Men-Ohl-Men."



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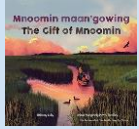
2023 Blueberry Winner - 2

"I'd like to say *miigwetch* to the Blueberry Award Committee.

When we plant a seed, we can provide food and habitat to a diversity of species, plant and animal relatives who in turn nurture us. If you read *The Gift of Mnoomin*, I hope you find a sense of connection. I hope you feel a sense of intergenerational love and interspecies care through the pages because that is the gift that the elders gave me when they first invited me into the fields, when they introduced me to mnoomin.

To them, to my elders, I also say *miigwetch*.

Professor Brittany Luby, University of Guelph, Canada, of Anishaanabe descent



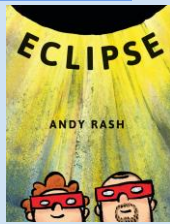
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2023 Blueberry Honor Award

A boy and his dad experience a total solar eclipse in this heartwarming picture book by author and illustrator Andy Rash.

Read it before April 8, 2024, when a total solar eclipse will be visible as it crosses from Texas to Maine!

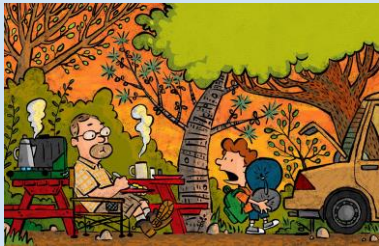


Age Range: 4 - 8 years

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2023 Blueberry Honor Award



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2023 Blueberry Honor Award



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2023 Blueberry Honor Award




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2023 Blueberry Honor Award

All of Me is Nature: Exploring My Five Senses Outside!

There is no better way to learn about our senses than stepping outside! Follow kids of all colors, genders and ability levels as they explore nature with their fingers, toes, ears, eyes and taste buds.

Age Range: 2.5 - 7 years



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2023 Blueberry Honor Award



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2023 Blueberry Honor Award

As a lover of nature and the spirit of imaginative play, I'm honored to have *All of Me is Nature* be recognized for such an important award for young children.



Writing this book was truly a labor of love in hoping that I could not only illustrate my appreciation for nature, but also the importance of everyone getting the chance to experience it in the way that is most personal to them, because all of us are part of nature.

Ashley Renee Jefferson, author

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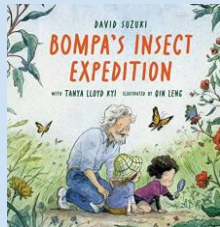


2023 Blueberry Honor Award

Join David Suzuki, environmental activist, and his two grandkids on an expedition just outside their door!

Find lots of cool insects.

Age Range: 4 - 8 years



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2023 Blueberry Honor Award



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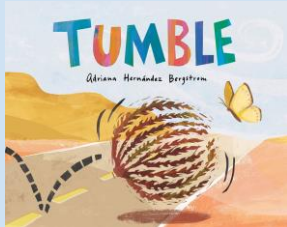
2023 Blueberry Honor Award



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2023 Blueberry Honor Award



Age Range: 4 - 6 years

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2023 Blueberry Honor Award



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2023 Blueberry Honor Award



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2023 Blueberry Honor Award



Age Range: 4 - 8 years

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2023 Blueberry Honor Award





The world we experience is rarely the reality we feel. They have a thick membrane to help all the fun going down a larger range of hearing than any other animal. They can hear the chirping of birds, the rustle of leaves, and even the faintest sounds of the human heart in motion. They need to hear because...



The two most earthy books like to hear you read. The biggest one will even let all the water on the top of the head. This special production is a book that is a much larger animal that has a much larger animal that has a much larger animal...

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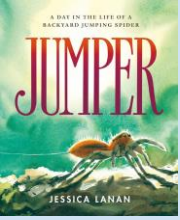


2023 Blueberry Honor Award

A bold nonfiction story following a day in the life of a backyard jumping spider—meticulously researched and utterly charming. Told from the *spider's* perspective!

Winner of the Sibert Honor Award!

Age Range: 4 - 8 years



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The 2023 Blueberry Honor Award




What if you could see inside?
What if you could see everything
What if you could see everything
What if you could see everything

What would you see? The best?

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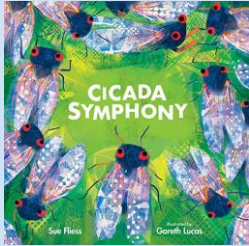
The 2023 Blueberry Honor Award





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2023 Blueberry Honor Award

Age Range: 4 - 8 years


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2023 Blueberry Honor Award





Plunging fast, but crashing too. Smacking into things, and your feet to worry they aren't hole or perch or sting or even fight.

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2023 Blueberry Honor Award



Mosses are known for the green things that they make, but how they sleep is a symphony of changing colors. They already know their parts.

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2023 Blueberry Changemaker Award



Dr. Alison Greenwood
Author: Tracy

a little dose of nature

Outdoor fun to help happiness bloom.

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

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2023 Blueberry Changemaker Award

One of the most effective – and neglected – ways to de-stress and boost wellbeing is to surround yourself with nature, fresh air, the world's creatures.



This book introduces kids to nature's 5 'key ingredients', which can provide cognitive and emotional benefits.



Natural Fractals
Did you know that a tree's branches, a coastline, and a snowflake are all examples of fractals? Fractals are shapes that repeat themselves over and over again, creating a complex, self-similar pattern. In nature, fractals are everywhere, from the branching of a tree to the jagged edges of a coastline. Fractals are a fascinating and beautiful part of the natural world.

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

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2023 Blueberry Changemaker Award

<https://www.doseofnature.org.uk/>
An organization as well as a book!



Age Range: 5 - 8 years

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2023 Blueberry Changemaker Award



Planning on adding solar panels, a heat pump, a green roof or any other small or large eco upgrades to your infrastructure?

Explore it with kids, with this book!

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

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2023 Blueberry Honor Award



Age Range: 4 - 8 years

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The 2023 Blueberry Honor Award

One Tiny Treefrog: A Countdown to Survival by Tony Piedra and Mackenzie Joy
A fun counting book giving kids a taste of how predation works.

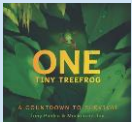
Age Range: 4-8 years



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The 2023 Blueberry Honor Award



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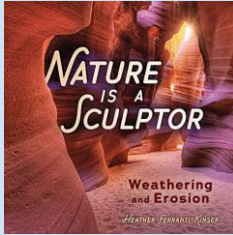
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2023 Blueberry Honor Award

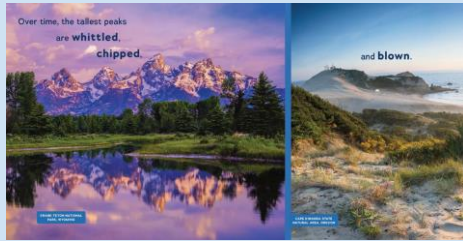


Age Range: 5 - 8

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2023 Blueberry Honor Award



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2023 Blueberry Honor Award



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2023 Blueberry Changemaker Award






Age Range: 4 - 8 years

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2023 Blueberry Honor Award



When you recycle something, it can get made into something new rather than sitting in a landfill forever!



Recycled paper bags get turned into cereal boxes. **100%**


Recycled soda cans get turned into new soda cans. **100% GOOD!**

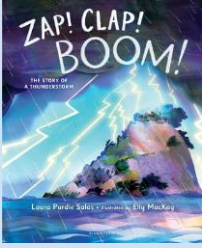
Recycled milk jugs get turned into shampoo bottles. **100% LA LA!**

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2023 Blueberry Honor Award- Poetry

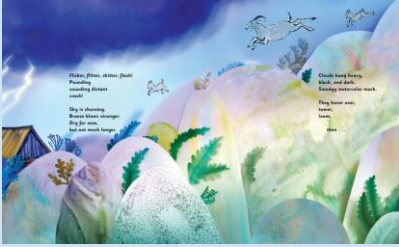


Age Range: 3 - 6 years

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2023 Blueberry Honor Award



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Seven horizontal lines for writing.



2023 Blueberry Honor Award- Poetry



A book about forest succession for kids! Aimed older but the Chicago Botanic Garden Nature Preschool used it to explain prescribed burns.

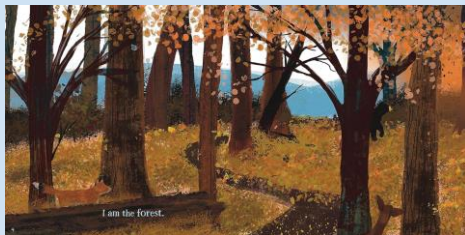
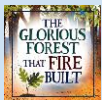
Age Range: 5 - 9 years

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Seven horizontal lines for writing.



2023 Blueberry Honor Award



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Seven horizontal lines for writing.



2023 Blueberry Honor Award



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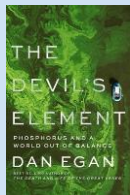
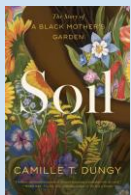
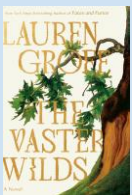
2023 Blueberry Honor Award



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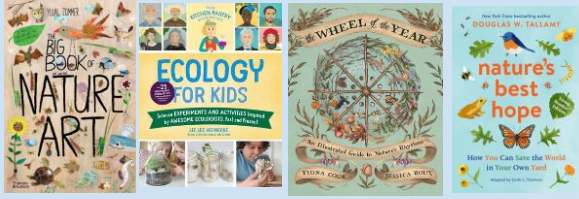
2023 Adult Reading
Selected by the Blueberry Committee



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2023 Blueberry Educator Resources Booklist



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The Baby Blueberry: Best Nature Board Books of the Year!

- Betsy Bird selects for her national column for School Library Journal, plus more!
- All board books, some for 0 - 6 months and on up to 5+ year olds.
- www.epl.org/blueberry



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Blueberry Honor Board Book



Whose Prints? By Kari Allen illustrated by Kim Smith

Go on a snowy adventure through the woods and match animals to their tracks in this beautiful board book with die-cuts throughout! Who tiptoed across the snow? Who scurried and skittered? Little readers will love looking at different tracks in the snow and figuring out which animal made each one.

Age Range: 3 - 6 years

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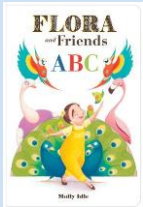
Blueberry Honor Board Book



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Baby Blueberry Board Books



Flora And Friends ABC by Molly Idle

Perfect for bird lovers!

This inventive book features a different bird on each page along with rounded, thick board construction and sturdy flaps.

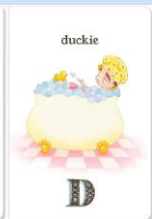
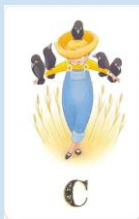
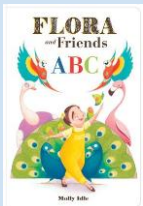
Molly Idle, the author & illustrator, is the Caldecott-winning author for *Flora and the Flamingo!*

Age Range: 3 - 6 years

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Baby Blueberry Board Books




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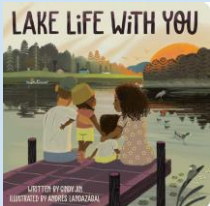
Baby Blueberry Board Books




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Baby Blueberry Board Books



Lake Life with You by Cindy Jin Illustrated by Andrés Landazáb

With sweet, rhyming text and beautiful art that will transport you to the lake, this heartfelt board book celebrates the best things about enjoying lake life with the ones you love.

Age Range: 1 - 5 years

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Baby Blueberry Board Books



THEY CANOE ON THE WATER
GO SPLASH AND SWIM,
MAYBE SPOT FISH BY THE SHORE, TOO

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How can I use these lists?

The Blueberry List is great for:

- Inspiring your storytimes
- Starting a STEM activity: planting a seed, looking for bugs or birds, taking a nature walk, visiting a local garden or wetland, sorting seeds or creating designs with seeds, sticks, rocks & more!
- Selecting a weekly theme: Birding! Weather! Rocks & Stones!
- Sharing with your students' parents to guide them to the best books for their children
- Using for Earth Day - hand-out, storytime, sharing with partners
- Collaborating with the local library or parks department on an outdoor book walk or outdoor storytime!
- Arranging an online author visit!




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The Blueberry Award 2022

How to get the Blueberry lists, the Blueberry flyers, the Best Nature Board book list, the Educator List, the Adult reading list and even Blueberry Spine labels for your books:

www.epl.org/blueberry

Join this simple climate action! Spread the word!

Thank you!



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The Blueberry Award 2023

Questions?

www.epl.org/blueberry
For the booklists, the flyer, and more!






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