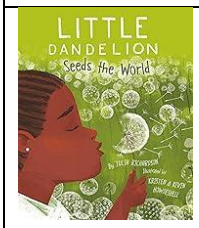
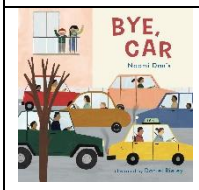
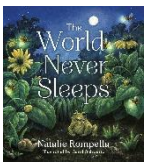
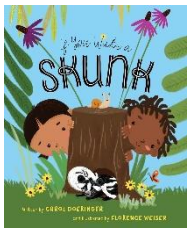
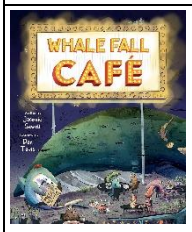
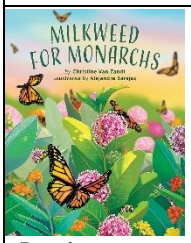
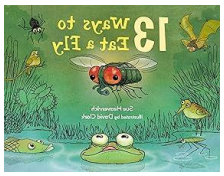
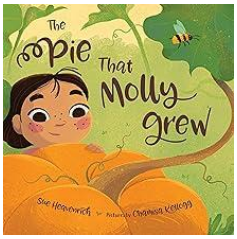
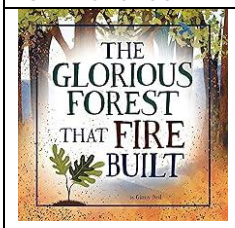
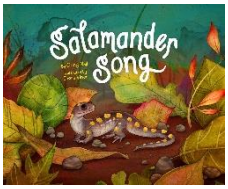
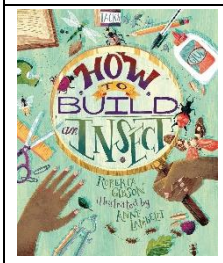
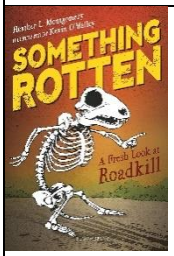
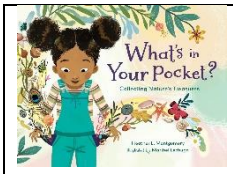
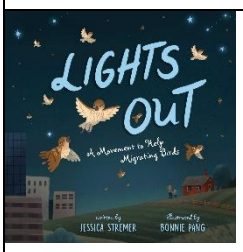
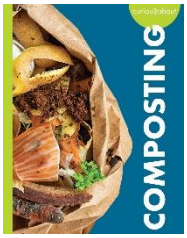
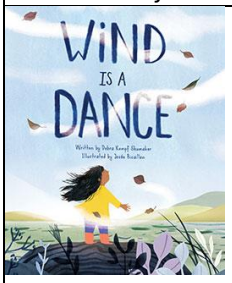
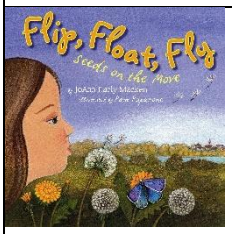
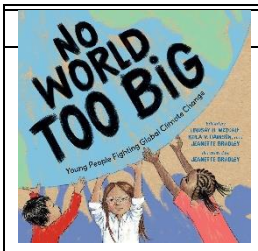
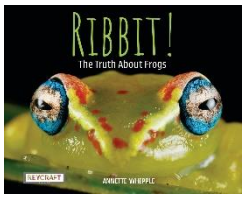
Cover	Summary	For Educators
 Welcome Rain by Sheryl McFarlane illustratedby Christine Wei. Published by Greystone. ISBN: 9781771646956	*Welcome Rain!* is about puddle-jumping, and wonder. It's about appreciating how rain helps our gardens grow It's about knowing that rain quenches thirsty streams and forests, and the plants and animals who live in and near them. *Welcome Rain!* encourages outdoor activities during rainy days and helps children understand why rain is important.	After the rain, do a little puddle jumping. Bring along some extendable tape measures. Have students jump in puddles to see who can splash the farthest. Experiment with ways to make the biggest splash. Try measuring in both US and Metric Lengths **Math**-measuring length, US and Metric **STEM**-problem solving
 *The Blue Canoe* by Sheryl McFarlane illustrated by Laurel Aylesworth. Published by Familius. ISBN: 9781641709156	Join a mother-to-be and her daughter in *The Blue Canoe*, an enchanting picture book adventure filled with love, reassurance, and cherished connections, discovering the wonders of nature while embracing the arrival of a new baby.	Brainstorm a list of all the birds found in *The Blue Canoe*. Use a birding guide to help identify each species of bird. How does that compare with local birds? -Help students create a list of the animals found in *The Blue Canoe*. Put them into categories; for example, insects, birds, amphibians, mammals. Are local animals different or similar? -Create a food web based on the plants and animals in the book. **Science** Ecosystems, Food Webs **Math-**Categorizing **Nature-**Identifying birds
 Little Dandelion Seeds the World by Julia Richardson Illustrated by Kristen and Kevin Howdeshell **ISBN-10 :** 1534110534 **ISBN-13 :** 978-1534110533	A child blows a dandelion. One fluffy seed floats "far, far away" to an African plain. It sends down roots and blooms among African animals. The book continues to describe how seeds travel—one on the ear of a cheetah, another hitchhiking on a pant leg across the sea, a third in a bird's droppings. The seeds travel around the world and bloom among diverse children and a wide variety of animals.	Discuss different types of seeds. Search for dandelion seeds, wing-shaped seeds, berries, fruits, pinecones, nuts, grass seed. Discuss how each of these different types of seeds spread (wind, water, hitchhiking, animal digestion, dropping and rolling). Ask: If you were a seed how would you travel? Discuss why plants produce so many seeds. Educator's guide https://www.juliarichardson.net/_files/ugd/024406_41b4f69095864ef69b3575631fd834e4.pdf **Science**-life cycles of plants, types of seeds **Geography**-place locations on a map
 BYE, CAR written by Naomi Danis, illustrated by Daniel Rieley. ISBN 978-1786285676	Two children are fascinated by the vehicles that surround them. Big, small, noisy, quiet, an endless stream passes through the streets each day, and the children wave them all goodbye. But exciting though they are, many vehicles also have a damaging impact on the environment. Is there a better way to get around? A greener alternative, BYE, CAR takes a positive look into the future.	Sit outside and track passing vehicles. Make note of how many carry multiple passengers, how many are bicycles, etc. **Math**- collecting data, creating charts and graphs
 The World Never Sleeps by Natalie Rompella, illustrated by Carol Schwartz, ISBN 13: 978-0884485612, iSBN 10: 0884485617	*Midnight. Stars speckle the darkness with bits of light. A cockroach skitters across the kitchen floor to snatch a forgotten breadcrumb. In the backyard, a spider weaves an intricate design on the fence. Winged insects dance and flicker in the porch light.* *Day and night, small creatures are busy working, eating, hunting, hiding.*	This website has a great activity about collecting bugs from dead logs https://www.nps.gov/teachers/classrooms/life-in-a-log.html Here is another about shaking insects from a bush or tree on to a sheet for inspection https://thedenkitco.com/blogs/news/bug-shaking **Math**-counting, collecting data **Science**-habitats and ecosystems

 If You Wake a Skunk, by Carol Doeringer, illustrated by Florence Weiser. ISBN 9781534111721	A sneeze wakes a snoozing skunk. Tension builds as two campers creep closer and closer, tempting fate as they dismiss the skunk's warnings. Will the skunk launch its stench defense? Or is it a faker, all out of stink and only pretending it will spray. Includes back matter about skunk biology and behavior.	Animals often use camouflage as an adaptation to prevent being predated upon. Disguise a Plate Give each participant a white paper plate and some crayons Show them the outdoor area where they will be hiding their plate. Then have them use pattern and color to disguise their plate. Send half the group out to a designated area to hide their plate. Send the other half out to search. What camouflage techniques were successful. What animals use these techniques? **Science**-adaptations and survival
 *Whale Fall Cafe*; author: Jacquie Sewell; Illustrator: Dan Tavis **ISBN-13 :** 978-0884488484	When a whale carcass lands on the deep ocean floor, a café opens for business, and the diners don't stop rooting their way through the menu until the cupboards are bare. Hagfish, zombie worms, sleeper sharks—this group of patrons is stranger than the denizens of the Mos Eisley Cantina in Star Wars. A fish in a lab coat, piloting a deep-sea submersible, is our guide to the weirdly fascinating goings-on miles beneath the ocean surface.	A fallen tree in the forest is also an ecosystem - called a tree fall. If possible, go out into the woods and find a fallen tree or a decomposing branch or study a picture of a tree fall (I have one on my website). Compare and contrast the creatures found at a whale fall and a tree fall. Students may be surprised to see one genus is present at both! https://www.jacquiesewell.com/uploads/2/0/7/7/20774120/whale_fall_literature_link_and_study_guide.pdf **Science**-lifecycles, habitats
 MILKWEED FOR MONARCHS By Christine Van Zandt Illustrated by: Alejandra Barajas 978-1506489308	Every year, monarch butterflies migrate to warmer climates for overwintering months. However, changing environments make it continually more difficult to find food and places to lay eggs. In this nonfiction picture book, the monarch's life cycle is detailed in lyrical verse as stunning art accompanies each stage in the butterfly's life.	In the spring or summer go outside and look for milkweed plants where you might be able to spot a monarch in one of its four stages: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, butterfly. In the fall, take apart milkweed seed pods and scatter the seeds to the wind, or watch out for migrating Monarchs. You can find more information about how to spot and capture, and possibly tag them, here: https://journeynorth.org/monarchs **Science-** lifecycles, migration
 13 WAYS TO EAT A FLY By Sue Heavenrich; Illustrated by David Clark Charlesbridge, February 2021 ISBN: 9781580898904	Math meets science as a swarm of flies meet their demise. Whether they are zapped, wrapped, liquefied, or zombified, the science is real--and hilariously gross. Includes a guide to eating bugs, complete with nutritional information for a single serving of flies.	Activity: Fly-watching (observation, drawing, writing) Find a fly to watch. This shouldn't be too hard, as flies are everywhere! Then write down your observations: what your fly looks like (color, patterns, size); where it is (on a flower or __); what it sounds like when it flies. Draw a picture of your fly and write a short description about it. Put your observations together to create a "Guide to the Local Flies" to share. guide: https://www.sueheavenrich.com/activity-guides.html **Science-**making observations, collecting data, comparing and contrasting

 THE PIE THAT MOLLY GREW By Sue Heavenrich; Illustrated by Chamisa Kellogg Sleeping Bear Press, August 2023 ISBN: 9781534111844	Using "The House That Jack Built" rhyme scheme and beginning with the planting of a single seed, the journey of bringing a pumpkin to harvest comes to life. At the end, Molly's pumpkin is turned into a delicious pie for all to share in a celebration of gratitude. All from the seed that Molly sowed.	Compare pumpkin flowers to other flowers. Pumpkin blossoms are big enough that you can get a good look at the flower parts. They're also pollinator flowers, so they're a great flower to dissect before doing a wildflower walk or pollinator walk. **Science**-pollination, flower parts
 THE GLORIOUS FOREST THAT FIRE BUILT By Ginny Neil ISBN-10 : 1681529009 ISBN-13 : 978-1681529004	A wildfire roars through the forest, leaving nothing but ashes until seeds sprout from deep below. Root by root and seed by seed, the forest rises again. In this lyrical cumulative nonfiction story about forest succession, readers will learn that forest fires are critical to forest health and that the end of a tree's life provides the opportunity for new life. Back matter explains the timeline of the forest cycle in more detail.	Tree rings tell the stories of what has happened to a particular tree. Either share some precut tree rings with participants or take them to a place where tree rings are visible on stumps or logs. What can you tell about the history of the forest based on what you see here? Age of tree? Injuries to tree? Did it grow on a slope or a flat area? Was there a fire in its lifetime? **Science**- succession, data gathering
 SALAMANDER SONG By Ginny Neil Illustrated by Charli Vince ISBN 978-1668945094	Salamanders and children alike hear the rhythms and song of the seasons as winter gives way to spring. They meet on a night of salamander rain (the first warm rain of spring), when the children and their teacher work to help the salamanders cross a busy road to the vernal pool on the other side. The author's note includes information about amphibian migrations and descriptions of citizen science activities that kids can participate in to help keep the world wild and beautiful.	Use the resource in the link below to evaluate an area's suitability as a salamander habitat. https://parcplace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Salamander-Habitat-Hunt-Upper-Elementary.pdf **Science-**data collection **Social Studies**-making maps Follow this link for a magical **Art** activity that you start in the day and finish at night: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7Clb14OXIw
 *How to Build an Insect* by Roberta Gibson and illustrated by Anne Lambelet ISBN 9781541578111	Let's build an insect! In the pages of this book, you'll find a workshop filled with everything you need, including a head, a thorax, an abdomen, and much more. Written by entomologist Roberta Gibson and accompanied by delightfully detailed illustrations by Anne Lambelet, this wonderfully original take on insect anatomy will spark curiosity and engage even those who didn't think they liked creepy, crawly things!	Create insects using natural clay soil or pebbles for bodies, twigs and stems for legs and antennae, and leaves for wings. Indoors, young learners can let their imaginations run wild with many different types of craft supplies. Check https://robertagibsonwrites.com/insect-activities/ for more ideas. **Science**-insects **STEAM**-building models
 Something Rotten: A Fresh Look at Roadkill, written by Heather L. Montgomery, illustrated by Kevin O'Malley, 978-1-68119-900-9 (HC), 978-1547602506	From biologists who use the corpses of Tasmanian devils to investigate cures for a contagious cancer, to a scientist who discovered a whole new species of bird from a single wing left behind, to a boy rebuilding animal bodies from the bones up, to a restaurant that serves up animal remnants, This engaging narrative nonfiction is an eye-opening and irreverent look at the dead and dying animals that we pass by without a second thought--as well as a fascinating insight to the scientific research process.	Read the last half of chapter 11 (it is about creating safe passages for animals over or under roads) and then develop other passage ways for animals (like creating a toad ladder for amphibians to escape a swimming pool or sewage grate). https://www.instructables.com/Ribbit-Ramp/ https://riveal.pt/how-to-build-a-frog-ladder-a-stepbystep-guide/ **Science**-STEM engineering

 WHAT'S *IN YOUR POCKET? DISCOVERING NATURE'S TREASURES* *Written by Heather L. Montgomery, illustrated by Maribel LaChuga* ISBN *978-1623541224*	When you find something strange and wonderful, do you put it in your pocket? Meet nine scientists who, as kids, explored the great outdoors and collected "treasures": seedpods, fossils, worms, and more. Observing, sorting, and classifying their finds taught these kids scientific skills--and sometimes led to groundbreaking discoveries. Author Heather Montgomery has all the science flair of a new Bill Nye.	Hand out a bunch of shells (or other natural artifact) and challenge groups to sort the shells, then sort again (using a category they have not already discussed). Do it a third time and then groups switch and try to guess the categories the other group was using. And for older kids here is an activity on developing their own scientific key (with candy) at https://www.patriciamnewman.com/litlinks-icky-sweet-or-how-to-build-a-science-key-with-words/ **Science**: classification, scientific keys
 LIGHTS OUT By Jessica Stremer, illustrated by Bonnie Pang ISBN **166593197** Published by Simon and Schuster	When the seasons change and it's time for a flock of sparrows to move on, a map made of stars guides their way. But when they reach the city, light pollution masks the map and confuses the birds. One sparrow becomes separated from the flock. A girl rescues the lost sparrow and decides to take action so this doesn't happen again.But will the city be ready by the time the flock return?	Build a Nest Challengen: Engage learners in a STEAM activity, where they must engineer and design a bird's nest with the given supplies. See activity here: https://www.jessicastremer.com/_files/ugd/9f01fc_97272647da5340748bbb7741dec1ef5e.pdf **Science:** STEAM, Stars, Astronomy, bird migration
 CURIOUS ABOUT COMPOSTING (from the Curious about Green Living series) By Amy S. Hansen ISBN 9781645496960 Published by Amicus	What is composting and how does it work? And does it stink? Ignite kids' growing curiosity about the green living with an inquiry-based approach to composting. Conversational questions and answers guide early elementary readers on a critical thinking journey with accessible text about what to put in compost bins, how to make sure it doesn't smell, the difference between hot and cold composts, and how composting can help save the Earth from climate change.	Build a mini compost bins with participants using an 18 gallon rectangular storage tote with a lid. Link to activity: https://preparednessmama.com/create-a-mini-compost-bin/ **Science:** soil cycles
 WIND IS A DANCE By Debra Kempf Shumaker Illustrator: Josée Bisaillon Publisher: Kids Can Press The ISBN is 978-1525308758.	"You can feel wind … but you can't see it. What *is* wind?" This exploration of different types of wind pairs lyrical descriptions of wind types with accessible, informational sidebars about each. The whimsical narrative uses metaphor to help readers visualize wind's characteristics. Evocative illustrations further bring the text to life in this fascinating introduction to the ever-changing wind.	**STEM** Make a homemade anemometer and compare wind speed to the Beaufort Wind Scale in the book. **ART:** Create ribbon sticks or pinwheels to explore the wind. Are there places where the wind blows stronger or softer. Can you discover why? Teacher Guide: https://debrashumaker.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/WindIsaDance_2857_teaching46-1.pdf
 *Flip, Float, Fly: Seeds on the Move* author: JoAnn Early Macken illustrator: Pam Paparone ISBN: 9780823437580	*Spinning like a shiny green helicopter, a maple seed floats on the wind. Where will it land? Seeds splash away in raindrops, slide across the snow, and hitch rides on birds and animals—and even people's clothing.* *For anyone who's ever blown the fluff of a dandelion and wondered where it went, this is the perfect introduction to plant life cycles and seed dispersals for young readers. The simple, poetic text is paired with detailed illustrations and close-ups of seeds, pods, and other parts of plants.*	In the fall, give each participant a sock. Participants flip socks inside out, then walk through an unmoved meadow running their hands through all the plants. The socks will collect seed much the same way an animal's fur will catch it. Remove seeds from socks and examine them with a magnifying glass. What features help the seeds stick? **Science**: Plant lifecycles, seed dispersal

 No World Too Big Edited by: Keila Dawson et al, Illustrated by Jeanette Bradley, ISBN:**1623543134** Charlesbridge	*Climate change impacts everyone, but the future belongs to young people. No World Too Big celebrates twelve young activists and three activist groups on front lines of the climate crisis who have planted trees in Uganda, protected water in Canada, reduced school-bus climate footprint in Indonesia, invented alternate power sources in Ohio, and more. Fourteen poems by various authors.*	There are poems that are great lead-ins to tree planting activities or composting activities or inspire action or involvement. Use this LitLinks article by Lindsay H. Metcalf, How to conduct an energy audit of your school because students can take collective action in their school communities that makes a real impact. Use the activity, Measuring Decomposition by Jeanette Bradley shares at the 8:30 minute mark in this video, Discover Composting with NO WORLD TOO BIG! that explains how composting works. **Science**, **Social Studies**
 On a Snow-Melting Day: Seeking Signs of Spring Author: Buffy Silverman ISBN: 978-1-5415-7813-5	*On a Snow-Melting Day: Seeking Signs of Spring celebrates the seasonal changes from winter to spring. With playful, lyrical language and beautiful photographs, the book encourages youngsters to see the natural world changing as animals emerge or return, and plants begin to grow. It is the perfect book to introduce these changes before taking students on a late-winter/early spring walk.*	Locate the buds on the end of branches of a deciduous tree or bush. In late summer, trees prepare for the next gowing season by growing buds. These buds will grow into leaves and flowers during the spring. As the weather warms and the days lengthen, buds begin to swell and leaves start to emerge. Draw and/or photograph tree buds. Return weelly to the same tree and notice how the buds change. Guide:https://buffysilverman.com/on-a-snow-melting-day/ **Science: seasons** **Art**
 Ribbit! The Truth About Frogs by Annette Whipple, illustrated by Juanbjuan Oliver Reycraft Books, 978-1478875871	*Teachers have used this in outdoor education to focus on life cycles, pond and stream life, and spring (and FROGS!)* *In addition, environmental educators may be interested in using Whooo Knew? The Truth About Owls prior to an owl prowl or pellet dissection. Scurry! The Truth About Spiders is especially good when exploring the different kinds of webs in late summer and early fall that are easily spotted. (Flick! The Truth About Lizards is coming in 2025.)*	Teacher Guides for mentioned books https://www.annettewhipple.com/search/label/teacher%20guide