

# Great Pre K-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Environmental Books (DVDs, too!)

University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy & Environmental Education, [www.ceee.uni.edu/wastereduction/books.aspx](http://www.ceee.uni.edu/wastereduction/books.aspx).

Metro Waste Authority, <http://www.mwatoday.com/>

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☉☉ --Salterberg's top must-read picks

☉--Salterberg's top picks

Age Level	Title	Author	Book Summary	Copyright/ Publisher/ISBN	Format
Youth-- Ages 4-12	<i>Agatha's Feather Bed</i> ☉☉	Agra Deedy, Carmen	This book explains that everything on the earth comes from something on the earth--silk from silkworms, cotton from a cotton boll... Check out Agatha's Feather Bed at <a href="http://www.ceee.uni.edu/wastereduction/alphaorder_lessonplans.aspx">www.ceee.uni.edu/wastereduction/alphaorder_lessonplans.aspx</a> to learn one way to use this in the classroom.	1994: Peachtree Publishers 1-56145-008-1	Illustrated picture book
Youth— Ages 10 and 14	<i>Earth Keepers</i>	Anderson, Joan	This book introduces readers to the Hudson River, a New York City community garden, and to the Minnesota wilderness...and to people who are working to reverse destruction of natural areas.	1993: Gulliver Green Book, Harcourt Brace & Co., NY, NY 0-15-242199-8	91 pgs. Nonfiction
Youth-- Ages 4 and up	<i>Home</i> ☉	Baker, Jeannie	This wordless book begins with a mother and father holding their newborn in an urban environment with only a trace of the natural world. As the baby grows, so too does the greening of the neighborhood, turning a drab city street into a living, thriving home.	2004: Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers 0-06-623935-4	Illustrated picture book
Youth-- Ages 4 and up	<i>Window</i> ☉☉	Baker, Jeannie	This wordless book begins with a mother holding her newborn son as she looks out the window at a pond and lush vegetation. The following illustrations show the changes in the landscape during the next 20 years.	1991: Greenwillow Books, a division of William Morrow & Co., NY, NY 0-688-08917-8	Illustrated picture book
Youth— Ages 7- 12	<i>Chattanooga Sludge</i>	Bang, Molly	This book challenges students to be problem-solvers by telling them about a man who tried to clean poisons from the Chattanooga Creek.	1996: Harcourt Brace & Co., Orlando, FL 0-15-216345-X	47 pgs. Nonfiction
Youth-- Ages 6 and up	<i>Common Ground: The Water, Air and Earth We Share</i>	Bang, Molly	This parable about sheep and the Commons where they graze demonstrates impacts of daily actions and the value of working together to preserve common ground.	1997: Blue Sky Press, an Imprint of Scholastic Inc.: NY, NY 0-590-10056-4	Illustrated picture book

Ages 6-12	<b><i>Tree of Life</i></b>	Bash, Barbara	This book describes the lifecycle of one of Africa's trees--the baobab, which has branches that look like gnarled roots. These trees, often measuring 60 feet tall and 40 feet across, have a lifespan of over 1000 years. In the book, the baobab tree dies--but one of its seeds sprouts, so life continues. One of nature's great lessons is recreated in this wonderfully illustrated book.	2002: Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, CA 1-578-05086-3	Illustrated picture book
Youth--Ages 6-9	<b><i>Table Where Rich People Sit</i></b> ☺	Baylor, Byrd	A girl feels her family doesn't have enough money. As the family discusses this issue at their worn-out table, they determine there is much value in the non-tangibles of their lives--the sunsets, the stars, the wind. The girl decides her family may indeed be rich after all.	1994: Aladdin Paperbacks/Simon & Schuster, NY, NY 0-689-82008-9	Illustrated picture book
Youth--Ages 4-8	<b><i>The Goat in the Rug</i></b> ☺	Blood, Charles L. and Martin Link	Geraldine is a goat and Glenmae, a Navajo weaver. This is a story about the time Glenmae decided to weave Geraldine's coat into a rug.	1990: Aladdin Paperbacks, NY, NY 978-0-689-71418-4	Illustrated picture book
Youth--Ages 4-8	<b><i>Garbage Collectors</i></b>	Bourgeois, Paula	Join garbage collectors and find out what happens to garbage after it leaves the curb.	1998: Kids Can Press Ltd., Buffalo, NY 1-55074-440-2	Youth--Ages 4-8
Youth--Ages 4 and up	<b><i>Quiltmaker's Gift</i></b> ☺	Brumbeau, Jeff and Gail Marcken	A prince acquires many possessions, but in the end realizes that it is far better to give than to receive. Check out Quiltmaker's Gift at <a href="http://www.ceee.uni.edu/wastereduction/alphaorder_lessonplans.aspx">www.ceee.uni.edu/wastereduction/alphaorder_lessonplans.aspx</a> to learn one way to use this in the classroom.	2000: Scholastic Press NY, NY 0-439-30910-7	Illustrated picture book
Youth--Ages 4 and up	<b><i>The Quiltmaker's Journey</i></b>	Brumbeau, Jeff and Gail Marcken	This is a story about the value of generosity. A young girl leaves her home and village, and finds many less-fortunate people in the world. The young girl discovers a gift she can share with these people, which enriches their lives and her own.	2004: Scholastic Inc. NY, NY 0-439-51219-0	Illustrated picture book
Youth--Ages 4-8 and up	<b><i>Someday a Tree</i></b> ☺ ☺	Bunting, Eve	Alice and her family prize an old oak tree in an open field near her home, but the tree starts to die because hazardous materials were dumped under it. The family and others in the community try to save it to no avail, but Alice thinks of a way that the tree can live on in another way. Great book for illustrating the dangers of chemicals.	1993: Clarion Books, NY 0-395-61309-04	Illustrated picture book
Youth--Ages 4-8	<b><i>Butterfly House</i></b> ☺ ☺	Bunting, Eve	After saving a caterpillar, a young girl and her grandfather build a butterfly house. The child decides to bring outdoor beauty into the box by painting a colorful "garden" on the insides of the box, and a	1999: Scholastic Press 0-59084-884-4	Illustrated picture book

			blue sky on the inner lid. The caterpillar undergoes the metamorphosis and is set free by the tearful girl. In her older years, the “girl” (who narrates the story) enjoys the many butterflies in her own garden. A touching story.		
Youth— Ages 4-8	<b><i>Secret Place</i></b>	Bunting, Eve	The young narrator discovers wildness among a city’s concrete. He shares his find with a few grateful adults and, at the same time, introduces readers to wildlife he’s discovered. As his enthusiasm for wildness grows, he wants to tell others but is cautioned to “be careful,” as some may want to take it and change it.	1996: Clarion Books 0-39564-367-8	40 pgs. Illustrated picture book
Youth-- Ages 4-8	<b><i>Hey, Get Off Our Train</i></b>	Burningham, John	This is a story about the perils facing animals around the world...from pollution to habitat destruction.	1994: Dragonfly Books NY, NY 0-517-88204-3	Illustrated picture book
Ages 4-8	<b><i>The Great Kapok Tree</i></b>	Cherry, Lynne	This wonderfully illustrated and highly recommended book depicts the lushness of the Amazon rainforest, and why it needs to be protected.	1990: Gulliver Green	Illustrated picture book
Ages 4-8	<b><i>Miss Rumphius</i></b>	Cooney, Barbara	As a child Great-aunt Alice Rumphius resolved that when she grew up she would go to faraway places, live by the sea in her old age, and do something to make the world more beautiful--and she does all those things, the last being the most difficult of all.	1982: Viking 0-670-47958-6	Illustrated picture book
Youth-- Ages 4-8	<b><i>Diary of a Worm</i></b> ☾★	Cronin, Doreen	This book is about the hidden world of worms and their daily doings.	2003: Joanna Cotler Books (imprint of HarperCollins Publishers) 0-06-000150-X	Illustrated picture book
Youth-- Ages 7-10	<b><i>Recycling</i></b> (A True Book)	Donald, Rhonda Lucas	This guidebook addresses waste, composting, recycling, and household hazardous waste.	2001: Children's Press, NY, NY 0-516-22193-0	47 pgs., Nonfiction
Youth— Ages 4-8	<b><i>Dougal The Garbage Dump Bear</i></b> ☾★	Dray, Matt	Dougal, a stuffed bear, is left out in the rain, then tossed in the garbage. But workers at the landfill save Dougal and other stuffed animals from landfill death. Personification is used throughout.	2005: Kane/Miller, La Jolla, CA 1-929132-78-6	Illustrated picture book
Youth— Ages 4-8	<b><i>Gumfounded</i></b>	Garr, Sherry B.	While walking to school, Tia steps on a piece of gum. That leads to a whole mess of other problems, as the gum keeps picking up other litter. Tia is left walking with a mountain of litter attached to her shoes.	2004: Sherry B. Garr Seattle, WA 0-9759866-0-0	Illustrated picture book

Youth— Ages 3-8	<b><i>What's Going on In There</i></b>	Grahn, Geoffrey	This book helps young children learn that things are not always as they appear. Though not about environmental issues, the book can be used effectively to teach students about household hazardous wastes and their look-alike food products. This is important safety information for children. Go to <a href="http://www.upstate.edu/poison/pdf/teachersguide2005.pdf">http://www.upstate.edu/poison/pdf/teachersguide2005.pdf</a> for examples of look-alikes and sample lesson plans.	2005: Orchard Books, NY 0-439-57495-1	Illustrated picture book
Youth-- Ages 5-9	<b><i>Wake Up, World</i></b>	Hollyer, Beatrice	This book provides information about the day in the live of children around the world.	1993: Puffin 0-8050-6293-9	Illustrated picture book
Ages 7-9	<b><i>Mr. Garbage</i></b>	Hooks, William H.	This Bank Street Ready-to-Read Series grades 2-3 book tells the story of a 5-year-old who tries to protect the environment by collecting garbage to recycle it. In the process, he drives his brother crazy because their shared bedroom is overwhelmed with newspapers and other recyclables.	1996: Byron Preiss Visual Publications, Inc.	48 pgs., Illustrated picture book 0-8368-1756-7
Youth— Ages 4-8	<b><i>Hey, Little Ant</i></b> ☺	Hoose, Phillip M. and Hannah Hoose	Readers look at life from an insect's point of view in this story. A boy talks with an ant he wants to squish, and the ant pleads for his life, saying "You are very much like me."	1998: Tricycle Press 1883672546	Illustrated picture book, 28 pgs.
Youth-- Ages 7-10	<b><i>The Wartville Wizard</i></b>	Madden, Don	Wartville is being buried in trash. Then, one day, an old man realizes he can clean up Wartville. He involves the entire community in this solution.	1986: Aladdin Paperbacks 0-7857-0925-8	Illustrated picture book
Youth-- Ages 4-8	<b><i>Beatrice's Goat</i></b>	McBrier, Page	This recounts a true story about a girl, given the right tools, who helped lift her family from poverty. Go to <a href="http://readtofeed.org">readtofeed.org</a> to obtain a free copy of this book and other educational materials.	Atheneum Books for Young Readers 0-689-82460-2	Illustrated picture book
Ages 4-8	<b><i>A Tallgrass PrairieAlphabet</i></b>	McGehee, Claudia	McGehee brings the prairie to life, illustrating flowers such as the yellow stargrass that welcomes springtime to the butterfly weed that attracts summer's winged visitors. Each season unfolds in this alphabet book through McGehee's vibrant, vivid illustrations.	2004: University of Iowa Press 978-0877458975	Illustrated picture book, 32 pgs.
Ages 4-8	<b><i>A Woodland Counting Book</i></b>	McGehee, Claudia	In this counting book, McGehee's vibrantly colored scratchboard illustrations reveal beauty in woodland communities.	2006: University of Iowa Press 978-0877459897	Illustrated picture book, 32 pgs.
All ages	<b><i>Hungry Planet</i></b>	Menzel,	This book, featuring 30 families from 24 countries around the world,	2005: Material World	288 pgs.,

	<b><i>What the World Eats</i></b> ☾★	Peter and Faith D'Aluisio	presents a photographic study of the foods they eat in one week.	Books and Ten Speed Press	Nonfiction
All ages	<b><i>Material World: A Global Family Portrait</i></b> ☾☾	Menzel, Peter	This is a photographic look at 30 families, their homes and their possessions. The families represent 30 United Nations countries. Beautiful photos, brief but compelling narratives and fascinating statistics about these 30 countries, the energy they use, population per capita, income, etc.	1994: Sierra Club, San Francisco, CA 0-87156-437-8	255 pgs. Nonfiction
Youth-- Ages 4-8	<b><i>A Pig Tale</i></b>	Newton John, Olivia and Brian Hurst	Iggy, a pig who enthusiastically collects junk, eventually creates a treasure from his load of trash. The book may be a bit earnest and sugary for some, but the rhymes and watercolors make it a hit for some young readers.	1993: Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing	32 pgs. Illustrated picture book
Youth-- Ages 5-18	<b><i>Garbage</i></b>	Nye, Bill	By digging up garbage in landfills, Bill Nye exposed the waste humans create.	1995: Disney Productions	26 min. Video/DVD
Youth-- Ages 5-9	<b><i>Taking Care of Our Earth</i></b>	100% Educational Videos	Students tour a landfill, and learn about the importance of conserving natural resources. They also discover how reducing, reusing and recycling benefit the environment and how air and water pollution can harm it.	1999:100% Educational Videos, El Dorado Hills, CA 1-58541-292-9	17 min. DVD
Youth-- Ages 4-8	<b><i>The Wump World</i></b>	Peet, Bill	This book teaches about loving nature, taking care of the planet, and also teaches about pollution. The story's villains are called Pollutians. .	1974: Houghton Mifflin 0395198410	48 pgs. Illustrated picture book
Youth— Ages 4-8	<b><i>Earthways: Simple Environmental Activities for Young Children</i></b>	Petrash, Carol	Earthways contains developmentally-appropriate, imaginative activities in science, nature and art. The activities are designed to empower young children to feel a joyous kinship with nature.	1992: Gryphon House 087659156X	206 pgs.
Youth— Ages 4-8	<b><i>Compost, by Gosh!</i></b>	Portman, Michelle Eva	This simple, rhyming book explains the process of worms eating leftover food and creating fertilizer. The book's instructions for creating compost is easy and step-by-step.	2002: Flower Press 0-942250616-1	42 pgs. Illustrated picture book
Youth— Ages 6-	<b><i>What are Things Made</i></b>	Roca, Nuria	The book makes connections between natural resources and the products made from them. Hands-on activities are included.	2007: Barron's Educational Series	35 pgs. Nonfiction

10	<i>Of?</i>			0-7641-3651-8	
Ages 4-8	<b><i>The Treasure Hunt</i></b>	Estate of Richard Scarry	Two animated characters discover that recyclables can in fact be treasures, and that one person's trash is another's treasure.	1994: Aladdin Paperbacks, New York, NY	Illustrated picture book
Youth— Ages 4-8	<b><i>The Lorax</i></b> ☾	Seuss, Dr.	<i>The Lorax</i> shares a powerful message about the environment in this classic. Brilliant and whimsical rhymes and delightful creatures tell the story that "UNLESS someone like you...cares a whole awful lot...nothing is going to get better...It's not."	1971: Random House Books for Young Readers 0-39482-337-0	72 pgs. Illustrated picture book
Youth-- Ages 5-12	<b><i>Song of the Water Boatman and Other Pond Poems</i></b>	Sidman, Joyce	Sidman shares 11 poems about pond life and its diversity. Each poem is accompanied by a paragraph that provides information about a part of pond life, A combination of poetry and science.	2005: Houghton Mifflin Co. 0-618-13547-2	Illustrated picture book
Youth— Ages 4-10	<b><i>Rot 'n Roll</i></b>	Slaughter, Stan	This illustrated songbook includes music notation and guitar chords for songs about composting and recycling. Also available are CDs with the same songs.	1995: Tall Oak Productions, Kansas City , MO stan@stanslaughter.com	Songbook
Youth-- Ages 8-12	<b><i>If the World Were a Village</i></b> ☾	Smith, David J.	If 6 billion people on the planet were a village of 100, what would it look like? The book explains whom lives in the village, where they live, how fast the village is rowing, what languages are spoken, what religions are practiced and more.	2002: Kids Can Press, Tonawanda , NY 1-55074-779-7	Illustrated picture book
Youth-- Ages 7-11	<b><i>Doing the 4Rs</i></b>	StopWaste, Alameda Co.,CA	Kids from Alameda county show how they practice the 4Rs--reducing, reusing, recycling and "rotting" (composting) at home, school and play.	2005: Adameda County Waste Management Authority, Oakland, CA	17 min. DVD
Youth-- Ages 4-8	<b><i>Joseph Had a Little Overcoat</i></b> ☾	Taback, Simms	Joseph had an overcoat, it gets old and shabby, but he keeps re-making some-thing of it until he has nothing. Then he even makes some-thing out of that.	1999: Viking, NY , NY 0-670-87855-3	Illustrated picture book
Youth— Ages 4-8	<b><i>Dirt: Jump into Science</i></b>	Tomecek, Steve	This book gives a quick and easy introduction to earth science--the layers of soil and how they are formed. Colorful illustrations lighten the text.	2002: National Geographic Children's Books	32 pgs. Illustrated picture book
Youth— Ages 4-12	<b><i>A Life Like Mine</i></b>	UNICEF	This book beautifully profiles 18 children from around the world and addresses survival, development, protection and participation.	2005: DK Children 0-75661-803-7	128 pgs. Nonfiction
Youth-- Ages 7	<b><i>Just a Dream</i></b>	Van Allsburg,	Walter doesn't care much about the environment, but one night when he falls asleep, his dreams help him understand what the	1990: Houghton Mifflin Co.: Boston	Illustrated picture

and up		Chris	future will be like, depending upon the choices made in the present.	0-395-53308-2	book
Youth— Ages 4-8	<i>The Forest Where Ashley Lives</i>	Vitosh, Mark A., Ashley L. Vitosh, John L. Smith	This 24-page book is a great introduction to trees and forests, with basic information about trees. Written by a father/daughter team. Available as a pdf at <a href="http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1812.pdf">http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1812.pdf</a>	2000: Iowa State University Extension: Ames, IA 978-0970052803	Illustrated picture book, 24 pgs.

## Lesson Plans

The University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy & Environmental Education's site lists a variety of lesson plans by subject area. Bookmark this page:

[www.ceee.uni.edu/wastereduction/alphaorder\\_lessonplans.aspx](http://www.ceee.uni.edu/wastereduction/alphaorder_lessonplans.aspx)

The Population Connection website is a great tool for browsing materials by type, grade and subject level.

Bookmark this page:

<http://www.populationeducation.org/>

There's not enough time to introduce all of the great resources available. But go to Heifer Project International's Educational Resources for Teachers at

<http://www.heifer.org/site/c.edJRKQNiFiG/b.3813431/#> for lesson plans, free books and posters and other information.



**University of Northern Iowa**  
**1 hour of graduate credit**  
**\$50 or FREE\***

Part I: Tuesday, June 9, 2009 (9 am-4 pm),  
Wednesday, June 10, 2009 (9am-3 pm)  
Part II: Friday, November 13, 2009 (6-9:30 pm)  
YMCA Camp, Boone, Iowa  
**\$50 or FREE**

[www.ceee.uni.edu/wastereduction/workshops.aspx](http://www.ceee.uni.edu/wastereduction/workshops.aspx)

### Who should attend

The workshop targets middle school language arts, science, social studies, math and TAG, but is adaptable to K-12th grades. **Teacher teams are encouraged to participate.**

Study about the environment is meaningful and relevant in most disciplines because the issues are real-life and lessons are hands-on.

### Workshop details

This workshop will emphasize lifecycle analysis, waste reduction and reuse,

\*A limited number of free registrations are available thanks to the generous support of local solid waste agencies. Watch for this information at <http://www.ceee.uni.edu/wastereduction/workshops.aspx>.

hazardous materials, and will incorporate other environmental concerns. You will receive:

- **One hour of graduate credit**, meals and refreshments. (This course does not count toward a UNI degree program.)
- **Bibliography of resources** for reading in content areas
- **Free resources—valued at more than \$70**—that are directly applicable to cross-curricular and thematic units
- **Tour the Boone County Landfill**, the Recycling Center and Household Hazardous Materials Facility.
- **Modeling of activities**
- **Classroom-ready lesson ideas** that incorporate research-proven instructional strategies

After attending Part I of the workshop, teachers return to classrooms to teach waste reduction mini-units using materials provided at the workshop. In the Part II workshop, teachers will exchange information, discussing what worked and what didn't. Participation in all of Parts I & II is required for graduate credit.

### Standards

**Iowa Teaching Standards:** Components of most of the teaching standards may be met through this course, including but not limited to: Standard 1 (a, g); Standard 2 (d); Standard 4: (b); Standard 5: (a, d); Standard 7: (c); Standard 8: (e).

**Staff Development Standards:** Assists teachers in improving student learning; Improves teaching evidenced through the adoption or application of practices, strategies, and information.

### What teachers say

“Our school offers t-shirts for every activity... Besides the expense, students now realize there is a high environmental cost to pay as well.”

“I built a great [social studies] lesson between [Stuff: The Secret Lives of Everyday Things, a free resource to workshop participants] and the novel Amos Fortune: Free Man...”

“I work with international students and public school students. We use the book and poster to generate discussions. The American students realize how wasteful our society is after this discussion. It is a very powerful book.”

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**Watch for  
registration information at  
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