

environmental fiction books

environmental fiction books have emerged as a powerful literary genre, addressing pressing ecological concerns and inspiring readers to reflect on humanity's relationship with the natural world. These novels blend compelling narratives with environmental themes, ranging from climate change to conservation and sustainability, offering both entertainment and educational value. In this article, you will discover what defines environmental fiction, explore its historical development, examine notable works and authors, and understand the impact this genre has on readers and society. We'll also provide guidance on how to choose and recommend the best environmental fiction books, ensuring you find stories that resonate with your interests and values. Whether you are a seasoned reader or new to this genre, you'll gain a comprehensive understanding of environmental fiction books and their significance in today's literary landscape.

- Understanding Environmental Fiction Books
- Historical Development and Evolution
- Key Themes and Motifs in Environmental Fiction
- Notable Environmental Fiction Authors and Works
- Impact of Environmental Fiction on Society
- How to Choose the Best Environmental Fiction Books
- Recommended Environmental Fiction Titles

Understanding Environmental Fiction Books

Environmental fiction books are stories that incorporate ecological issues, environmental activism, and the relationship between humans and nature into their core narrative. These books aim to raise awareness about environmental challenges while engaging readers through imaginative storytelling. The genre includes a wide range of subgenres such as cli-fi (climate fiction), eco-thrillers, and speculative fiction, all united by their focus on the environment.

Authors of environmental fiction often use settings, characters, and plotlines to explore topics like climate change, deforestation, pollution, and biodiversity loss. By weaving these themes into their stories, they encourage readers to contemplate the consequences of human actions and the importance of preserving the planet. Environmental fiction books appeal to a diverse audience, from young adults to seasoned literary enthusiasts, making complex ecological topics accessible and compelling.

Historical Development and Evolution

Origins of Environmental Fiction

The roots of environmental fiction can be traced back to early nature writing and classic novels that highlighted the beauty and fragility of the natural world. Works like "Walden" by Henry David Thoreau and Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" laid the groundwork for incorporating environmental consciousness into literature. These foundational texts inspired future generations of writers to address ecological concerns through fiction.

Growth in the 20th and 21st Centuries

During the 20th century, environmental fiction evolved alongside increasing public awareness of environmental crises. The emergence of climate fiction, or cli-fi, marked a significant shift, with authors imagining future scenarios shaped by climate change and resource depletion. In the 21st century, the genre has gained mainstream popularity, with novels reflecting contemporary anxieties about global warming, extinction, and sustainability.

Modern Trends in Environmental Fiction

- Exploration of intersectional themes such as social justice and indigenous rights
- Use of speculative and dystopian settings to dramatize ecological collapse
- Inclusion of diverse voices and perspectives from around the world
- Integration of scientific research and real-world data into storytelling

Key Themes and Motifs in Environmental Fiction

Climate Change and Global Warming

Climate change is a central theme in many environmental fiction books. Authors depict altered landscapes, extreme weather events, and societal upheaval resulting from rising temperatures and sea levels. These stories often serve as cautionary tales, urging readers to consider the long-term impacts of environmental neglect.

Conservation and Biodiversity

Conservation efforts and the protection of endangered species are frequently explored in environmental fiction. Novels may focus on the struggle to preserve habitats, the ethical dilemmas of

conservation, and the interconnectedness of ecosystems. This motif highlights the importance of biodiversity to the health of the planet.

Human-Nature Relationships

Environmental fiction often delves into the complex relationship between humans and nature. Characters may experience a sense of loss, wonder, or responsibility as they interact with their environment. This theme encourages readers to reflect on their own connections to the natural world and the consequences of human activity.

Activism and Ethical Dilemmas

Many environmental fiction books feature protagonists engaged in activism or grappling with difficult moral choices. These narratives explore the challenges of advocating for change, the risks of confronting powerful interests, and the personal sacrifices required to protect the environment.

Notable Environmental Fiction Authors and Works

Prominent Authors in Environmental Fiction

- Margaret Atwood: Known for the MaddAddam Trilogy, which explores genetic engineering and ecological disaster.
- Kim Stanley Robinson: Author of "The Ministry for the Future," a visionary look at climate action and global policy.
- Barbara Kingsolver: Her novel "Flight Behavior" examines butterfly migration and climate change in rural America.
- Octavia E. Butler: The "Parable" series combines environmental collapse with social upheaval and resilience.

Influential Environmental Fiction Books

1. "The Overstory" by Richard Powers: An intricate novel about trees, interconnected lives, and ecological activism.
2. "Solar" by Ian McEwan: Focuses on scientific innovation and climate change through the lens of a flawed protagonist.
3. "Annihilation" by Jeff VanderMeer: Explores environmental transformation and the mystery of a contaminated zone.

4. "State of Wonder" by Ann Patchett: Blends medical science and Amazonian ecosystems in a gripping adventure.

Impact of Environmental Fiction on Society

Raising Environmental Awareness

Environmental fiction books have played a crucial role in educating readers about ecological issues. By presenting complex scientific concepts in relatable narrative forms, these books make environmental challenges more understandable and urgent. Many readers report increased awareness and engagement with environmental causes after encountering these stories.

Influencing Policy and Advocacy

Some environmental fiction has sparked real-world action, influencing public opinion and policy. Novels like "Silent Spring" contributed to the environmental movement and regulatory change. Contemporary works continue to inspire activism, debate, and legislative attention to sustainability and conservation.

Encouraging Personal Reflection and Change

Through rich character development and immersive settings, environmental fiction encourages readers to reflect on their own lifestyles and choices. Many novels prompt readers to consider their ecological footprint, fostering a sense of responsibility and inspiring practical changes in daily life.

How to Choose the Best Environmental Fiction Books

Identifying Your Interests and Preferences

When selecting environmental fiction books, consider which environmental themes intrigue you most, such as climate change, conservation, or activism. Think about your preferred genres—whether you enjoy thrillers, literary fiction, or speculative tales—and choose novels that align with your interests.

Evaluating Author Credibility and Research

Look for authors who demonstrate a strong understanding of environmental issues, either through scientific research or lived experience. Well-researched novels tend to offer more accurate and insightful portrayals of ecological challenges, enhancing the story's impact and credibility.

Reading Reviews and Recommendations

- Consult literary reviews and reader ratings to gauge a book's quality and relevance.
- Seek recommendations from environmental organizations, book clubs, or educators.
- Explore award-winning and critically acclaimed environmental fiction titles.

Recommended Environmental Fiction Titles

Recent Standout Novels

- "The Ministry for the Future" by Kim Stanley Robinson
- "The Overstory" by Richard Powers
- "Flight Behavior" by Barbara Kingsolver
- "Annihilation" by Jeff VanderMeer
- "New York 2140" by Kim Stanley Robinson

Classic Environmental Fiction

- "Silent Spring" by Rachel Carson (nonfiction with strong narrative elements)
- "Walden" by Henry David Thoreau
- "Parable of the Sower" by Octavia E. Butler
- "State of Wonder" by Ann Patchett

Diverse Voices in Environmental Fiction

- "The Water Knife" by Paolo Bacigalupi
- "The Fifth Sacred Thing" by Starhawk
- "Memory of Water" by Emmi Itäranta

- "The Windup Girl" by Paolo Bacigalupi

Trending Questions and Answers about Environmental Fiction Books

Q: What is the definition of environmental fiction books?

A: Environmental fiction books are novels that incorporate ecological issues, environmental activism, and the relationship between humans and nature into their narrative, encouraging reflection and awareness about the planet's health.

Q: How does environmental fiction differ from other genres?

A: Environmental fiction specifically focuses on ecological themes and the consequences of human actions on the environment, whereas other genres may not address these topics as a central concern.

Q: Why are environmental fiction books important?

A: They raise awareness about environmental challenges, inspire activism, and help readers understand complex scientific concepts through engaging storytelling.

Q: What are some popular environmental fiction subgenres?

A: Notable subgenres include cli-fi (climate fiction), eco-thrillers, speculative fiction, and dystopian environmental novels.

Q: Who are some leading authors in environmental fiction?

A: Margaret Atwood, Kim Stanley Robinson, Barbara Kingsolver, Octavia E. Butler, and Richard Powers are among the most recognized authors in the field.

Q: What themes commonly appear in environmental fiction books?

A: Common themes include climate change, conservation, biodiversity, human-nature relationships, and environmental activism.

Q: How can readers choose quality environmental fiction books?

A: Readers should consider their interests, evaluate author credibility and research, and seek recommendations or reviews from trusted sources.

Q: Have environmental fiction books influenced real-world actions?

A: Yes, books like "Silent Spring" have inspired environmental movements and policy changes, and contemporary novels continue to influence public debate and advocacy.

Q: Is environmental fiction suitable for younger readers?

A: Many environmental fiction books cater to young adults and children, providing age-appropriate narratives that foster ecological awareness.

Q: What impact can environmental fiction books have on society?

A: They promote environmental literacy, encourage personal and collective reflection, and can inspire societal change toward sustainability and conservation.

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environmental fiction books: American Environmental Fiction, 1782-1847 Matthew Wynn Sivils, 2016-04-15 While Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau are often credited with inventing American environmental writing, Matthew Wynn Sivils argues that the works of these Transcendentalists must be placed within a larger literary tradition that has its origins in early Republic natural histories, Indian captivity narratives, Gothic novels, and juvenile literature. Authors such as William Bartram, Ann Eliza Bleecker, and Samuel Griswold Goodrich, to name just a few, enabled the development of a credibly American brand of proto-environmental fiction. Sivils argues that these seeds of environmental literature would come to fruition in James Fenimore Cooper's *The Pioneers*, which he argues is the first uniquely environmental American novel. He then connects the biogeographical politics of Cooper's *The Prairie* with European anti-Americanism; and concludes this study by examining how James Kirke Paulding, Thomas Cole, and James Fenimore Cooper imaginatively addressed the problem of human culpability and nationalistic cohesiveness in the face of natural disasters. With their focus on the character and implications of the imagined American

landscape, these key works of early environmental thought contributed to the growing influence of the natural environment on the identity of the fledgling nation decades before the influences of Emerson's *Nature* and Thoreau's *Walden*.

environmental fiction books: The Literature and Politics of the Environment John Parham, 2023 Essays exploring interrelated strands of material ecologies, past and present British politics, and the act of writing, through a rich variety of case studies. Much as the complexities of climate change and the Anthropocene have queried the limits and exclusions of literary representation, so, too, have the challenges recently presented by climate activism and intersectional environmentalism, animal rights, and even the power of material forms, such as oil, plastic, and heavy metals. Social and protest movements have revived the question of whether there can be such a thing as an activist ecocriticism: can such an approach only concern itself with consciousness, or might it politicise literary criticism in a new way? Attempting to respond, this volume coalesces around three interrelated strands: material ecologies, past and present British politics, and the act of writing itself. Contributors consider the ways in which literary form has foregrounded the complexities of both matter (in essays on water, sugar, and land) and political economics (from empire and nationalism to environmental justice movements and local and regional communities). The volume asks how life writing, nature writing, creative nonfiction, and autobiography - although genres entrenched in capitalist political realities - can also confront these by reinserting personal experience. Can we bring a more sustainable planet into being by focusing on those literary forms which have the ability to imagine the conditions and systems needed to do so?

environmental fiction books: Challenging Anthropocentrism in Eco-Science Fiction Novels Fatma Gamze Erkan, 2024-01-03 This book explores the relationship between humanity and nature while challenging the notion that anthropocentric behaviour causes the environmental catastrophes depicted in the four selected British eco-science fiction novels. These novels are John Christopher's *The Death of Grass* (1956), J. G. Ballard's *The Drought* (1965), Brian Aldiss's *Earthworks* (1965), and John Brunner's *The Sheep Look Up* (1972), all of which fictionalise the fact that the consequences of environmental problems can be diverse but equally serious. This book examines how even the smallest damage caused by human beings to the environment negatively affects them, other living beings, and the ecosystem they need to live and flourish. In conjunction with these, the factors and conditions that push characters in the novels to ignore and harm the environment are also scrutinised. While examining how and why the environmental problems in the novels have arisen, it is evaluated whether the authors propose solutions to these problems and, if so, what they are.

environmental fiction books: Eco-Literature and Environmental Advocacy Nasser Dasht Peyma,

environmental fiction books: Environmental Thought in Contemporary Pakistani Fiction Sonia Irum, 2025-03-11 This book looks at Pakistani fiction from an environmental perspective, focusing on the novels of the internationally renowned author Uzma Aslam Khan. It explores the rich environmental landscapes of Khan's works and their distinctive contribution to developing Pakistani ecocriticism. The book examines the discourse on the environment in contemporary Pakistani fiction in English and the contribution of Khan's fiction, such as *The Story of Noble Rot*, *Trespassing*, *Thinner than Skin*, and others, towards developing ecological thinking in Pakistani literature and literary criticism. In her novels, Khan gives voice to the nonhuman or the 'Other', highlights the harmonious connections between humans and nature, and reflects on the far-reaching ecological, social, and health effects of climate change. The author showcases literary activism and analyses how the 'state' engages with the ecopolitical discourses in Pakistani society by studying the intersections of Western imperialism, militarism, state policies, capitalism, consumerism, and global climate change. The book will be of interest to students and researchers of English literature, environmental studies, ecocriticism, literary and critical studies, postcolonial studies, and indigenous studies.

environmental fiction books: *The Routledge Handbook of Ecofeminism and Literature*

Douglas A. Vakoch, 2022-09-19 The Routledge Handbook of Ecofeminism and Literature explores the interplay between the domination of nature and the oppression of women, as well as liberatory alternatives, bringing together essays from leading academics in the field to facilitate cutting-edge critical readings of literature. Covering the main theoretical approaches and key literary genres of the area, this volume includes: Examination of ecofeminism through the literatures of a diverse sampling of languages, including Hindi, Chinese, Arabic, and Spanish; native speakers of Tamil, Vietnamese, Turkish, Slovene, and Icelandic Analysis of core issues and topics, offering innovative approaches to interpreting literature, including: activism, animal studies, cultural studies, disability, gender essentialism, hegemonic masculinity, intersectionality, material ecocriticism, postcolonialism, posthumanism, postmodernism, race, and sentimental ecology Surveys key periods and genres of ecofeminism and literary criticism, including chapters on Gothic, Romantic, and Victorian literatures, children and young adult literature, mystery, and detective fictions, including interconnected genres of climate fiction, science fiction, and fantasy, and distinctive perspectives provided by travel writing, autobiography, and poetry This collection explores how each of ecofeminism's core concerns can foster a more emancipatory literary theory and criticism, now and in the future. This comprehensive volume will be of great interest to scholars and students of literature, ecofeminism, ecocriticism, gender studies, and the environmental humanities.

environmental fiction books: Encyclopedia of the Environment in American Literature

Geoff Hamilton, Brian Jones, 2014-01-10 This encyclopedia introduces readers to American poetry, fiction and nonfiction with a focus on the environment (broadly defined as humanity's natural surroundings), from the discovery of America through the present. The work includes biographical and literary entries on material from early explorers and colonists such as Columbus, Bartolome de Las Casas and Thomas Harriot; Native American creation myths; canonical 18th- and 19th-century works of Jefferson, Emerson, Thoreau, Whitman, Hawthorne, Twain, Dickinson and others; to more recent figures such as Jack London, Ernest Hemingway, Norman Mailer, Stanley Cavell, Rachel Carson, Jon Krakauer and Al Gore. It is meant to provide a synoptic appreciation of how the very concept of the environment has changed over the past five centuries, offering both a general introduction to the topic and a valuable resource for high school and university courses focused on environmental issues.

environmental fiction books: Ecogothic in Nineteenth-Century American Literature

Dawn Keetley, Matthew Sivils, 2017-11-15 First Published in 2017. The first of its kind to address the ecogothic in American literature, this collection of fourteen articles illuminates a new and provocative literacy category, one that exists at the crossroads of the gothic and the environmental imagination, of fear and the ecosystems we inhabit.

environmental fiction books: Where the Wild Books Are Jim Dwyer, 2010-04-01

As interest in environmental issues grows, many writers of fiction have embraced themes that explore the connections between humans and the natural world. Ecologically themed fiction ranges from profound philosophical meditations to action-packed entertainments. *Where the Wild Books Are* offers an overview of nearly 2,000 works of nature-oriented fiction. The author includes a discussion of the precursors and history of the genre, and of its expansion since the 1970s. He also considers its forms and themes, as well as the subgenres into which it has evolved, such as speculative fiction, ecodefense, animal stories, mysteries, ecofeminist novels, cautionary tales, and others. A brief summary and critical commentary of each title is included. Dwyer's scope is broad and covers fiction by Native American writers as well as ecofiction from writers around the world. Far more than a mere listing of books, *Where the Wild Books Are* is a lively introduction to a vast universe of engaging, provocative writing. It can be used to develop book collections or curricula. It also serves as an introduction to one of the most fertile areas of contemporary fiction, presenting books that will offer enjoyable reading and new insights into the vexing environmental questions of our time.

environmental fiction books: Building STEM Skills Through Environmental Education

Schroth, Stephen T., Daniels, Janese, 2020-09-18 Environmental studies provide an ideal opportunity

for children of any age to build critical and creative thinking skills while also building skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Exploring issues related to sustainability and environmental concerns permits learners to identify problems, develop research questions, gather and analyze data, develop possible solutions, and disseminate this information to others. Despite the advantages of green education and its ability to improve student achievement, there is a gap in understanding the interplay between curriculum and instruction and how this affects teaching and learning. *Building STEM Skills Through Environmental Education* is an essential publication that addresses gaps in the understanding of green education and offers educators meaningful and comprehensive examples of environmental and sustainability education in the Pre-K through secondary grade levels. The book offers a unique combination of foundational understanding of green education and chapters that illustrate the principles and impact of green education across grade levels, content areas, assessment systems, instructional strategies, technology, and other related topics. It is ideally designed for educators, curriculum developers, instructional designers, advocates, policymakers, researchers, academicians, and students.

environmental fiction books: *Resistance and Identity in Twenty-First Century Literature and Culture* Navleen Multani, 2023-10-12 *Resistance and Identity in Twenty-First Century Literature and Culture: Voices of the Marginalized* is a compendium of reflections on literary texts, politics of literature and culture. The book proffers ruminations on the pivotal role of constructive and positive resistance to reconstruct identities for meaningful human existence. The disciplinary power and dominance coerce the natural body to resist and yearn for freedom. One can establish unique identity by refusing to conform to pressures of society that deform the natural body. Dominant forces and oppressive structures evoke resistance that can range from 'polite demurrals' to 'refusal'. Resistance comes from the 'will' that refuses to be controlled and governed. The 'refusal' of the ordinary illuminates ordinary lives/ bodies. Language and literary texts contain essential truths of such human existence. Words and imaginary worlds in literary works reveal truth and suggest possibilities for reconfiguring the order.

environmental fiction books: *Ecocriticism and Chinese Literature* Riccardo Moratto, Nicoletta Pesaro, Di-kai Chao, 2022-03-10 Focusing on ecocritical aspects throughout Chinese literature, particularly modern and contemporary Chinese literature, the contributors to this book examine the environmental and ecological dimensions of notions such as *qing* (情) and *jing* (景). Chinese modern and contemporary environmental writing offers a unique aesthetic perspective toward the natural world. Such a perspective is mainly ecological and allows human subjects to take a benign and nonutilitarian attitude toward nature. The contributors to this book demonstrate how Chinese literary ecology tends toward an ecological-systemic holism from which all human behaviors should be closely examined. They do so by examining a range of writers and genres, including Liu Cixin's science fiction, Wu Ming-yi's environmental fiction, and Zhang Chengzhi's historical narratives. This book provides valuable insights for scholars and students looking to understand how Chinese literature conceptualizes the relationship between humanity and nature, as well as our role and position within the natural realm.

environmental fiction books: *Caribbean Children's Literature, Volume 1* Betsy Nies, Melissa García Vega, 2023-05-18 Contributions by María V. Acevedo-Aquino, Consuella Bennett, Florencia V. Cornet, Stacy Ann Creech, Zeila Frade, Melissa García Vega, Ann González, Louise Hardwick, Barbara Lalla, Megan Jeanette Myers, Betsy Nies, Karen Sanderson-Cole, Karen Sands-O'Connor, Geraldine Elizabeth Skeete, and Aisha T. Spencer The world of Caribbean children's literature finds its roots in folktales and storytelling. As countries distanced themselves from former colonial powers post-1950s, the field has taken a new turn that emerges not just from writers within the region but also from those of its diaspora. Rich in language diversity and history, contemporary Caribbean children's literature offers a window into the ongoing representations of not only local realities but also the fantasies that structure the genre itself. Young adult literature entered the region in the 1970s, offering much-needed representations of teenage voices and concerns. With the growth of local competitions and publishing awards, the genre has gained

momentum, providing a new field of scholarly analyses. Similarly, the field of picture books has also deepened. *Caribbean Children's Literature, Volume 1: History, Pedagogy, and Publishing* includes general coverage of children's literary history in the regions where the four major colonial powers have left their imprint; addresses intersections between pedagogy and children's literature in the Anglophone Caribbean; explores the challenges of producing and publishing picture books; and engages with local authors familiar with the terrain. Local writers come together to discuss writerly concerns and publishing challenges. In new interviews conducted for this volume, international authors Edwidge Danticat, Junot Díaz, and Olive Senior discuss their transition from writing for adults to creating picture books for children.

environmental fiction books: Teaching Postcolonial Environmental Literature and Media Cajetan Iheka, 2021-12-28 Provides strategies for teaching postcolonial environmental literature by writers from the Global South and indigenous peoples. Topics and approaches include environmental justice, queer ecofeminism, animal studies, migration, anticolonialism, petrofiction, sea level rise, environmental humanities, and environmental justice organizations. Works from Africa, Latin America, East Asia, and the Caribbean are discussed.

environmental fiction books: Poetic Environmental Activism and Education Amanda Fulford, Victoria Jamieson, 2025-03-25 This book brings together the works of the nineteenth and twentieth century writers Henry David Thoreau and Anna Shepherd. Finding in their work a common approach of poetic forms of writing that enact kinds of environmental activism, the book re-positions them in the context of current environmental crises by offering an original resource for supporting poetic environmental activism in educational contexts. Bringing together scholarship from North America and Europe, the book draws on Thoreau and Shepherd's literary and philosophical sources to support a conceptual understanding of education's role in how we think about, understand, and tackle the climate crisis. Chapters trace the idea of poetic environmental activism in Thoreau and Shepherd, applying literary and environmental thought to educational practice and contexts. The book is timely in taking a scholarly approach that explores educational engagements with climate change and focuses on education for environmental sustainability. Advocating for engagement with the climate emergency through the lens of poetic environmental activism, this volume will appeal to postgraduate students, researchers, and scholars involved with sustainability education, philosophy of education, poetic inquiry, and literary theory for environmental action.

environmental fiction books: A History of Ecology and Environmentalism in Spanish American Literature Scott M. DeVries, 2013-09-05 A History of Ecology and Environmentalism in Spanish American Literature undertakes a comprehensive ecocritical examination of the region's literature from the foundational texts of the nineteenth century to the most recent fiction. The book begins with a consideration of the way in which Argentine Domingo Faustino Sarmiento's views of nature through the lens of the categories of "civilization" and "barbarity" from *Facundo* (1845) are systematically challenged and revised in the rest of the century. Subsequently, this book develops the argument that a vital part of the cultural critique and aesthetic innovations of Spanish American modernismo involve an ecological challenge to deepening discourses of untamed development from Europe and the United States. In other chapters, many of the well-established titles of regional and indigenista literature are contrasted to counter-traditions within those genres that express aspects of environmental justice, "deep ecology," the relational role of emotion in nature protectionism and conservationism, even the rights of non-human nature. Finally, the concluding chapters find that the articulation of ecological advocacy in recent fiction is both more explicit than what came before but also impacts the formal elements of literature in unique ways. Textual conventions such as language, imagery, focalization, narrative sequence, metafiction, satire, and parody represent innovations of form that proceed directly from the ethical advocacy of environmentalism. The book concludes with comments about what must follow as a result of the analysis including the revision of canon, the development of literary criticism from novel approaches such as critical animal studies, and the advent of a critical dialogue within the bounds of Spanish American environmentalist literature. *A History of Ecology and Environmentalism in Spanish American Literature* attempts to develop a

sense of the way in which ecological ideas have developed over time in the literature, particularly the way in which many Spanish American texts anticipate several of the ecological discourses that have recently become so central to global culture, current environmentalist thought, and the future of humankind.

environmental fiction books: *Routledge Handbook of Ecocriticism and Environmental Communication* Scott Slovic, Swarnalatha Rangarajan, Vidya Sarveswaran, 2019-02-01 Ecocriticism and environmental communication studies have for many years co-existed as parallel disciplines, occasionally crossing paths but typically operating in separate academic spheres. These fields are now rapidly converging, and this handbook aims to reinforce the common concerns and methodologies of the sibling disciplines. The Routledge Handbook of Ecocriticism and Environmental Communication charts the history of the relationship between ecocriticism and environmental communication studies, while also highlighting key new paradigms in information studies, diverse examples of practical applications of environmental communication and textual analysis, and the patterns and challenges of environmental communication in non-Western societies. Contributors to this book include literary, film and religious studies scholars, communication studies specialists, environmental historians, practicing journalists, art critics, linguists, ethnographers, sociologists, literary theorists, and others, but all focus their discussions on key issues in textual representations of human-nature relationships and on the challenges and possibilities of environmental communication. The handbook is designed to map existing trends in both ecocriticism and environmental communication and to predict future directions. This handbook will be an essential reference for teachers, students, and practitioners of environmental literature, film, journalism, communication, and rhetoric, and well as the broader meta-discipline of environmental humanities.

environmental fiction books: *Speech and Silence in Contemporary Children's Literature* Danielle E. Price, 2023-10-31 *Speech and Silence in Contemporary Children's Literature* brings a fresh perspective to a central literary question— Who speaks?— by examining a variety of represented silences. These include children who do not speak, do not yet speak effectively, or speak on behalf of others. A rich and unexamined literary archive explores the problematics of children who are literally silent or metaphorically so because they cannot communicate effectively with adults or peers. This project centers children's literature in the question of voice by considering disability, gender, race, and ecocriticism. Children's literature rests on a paradox at the root of its own genre: it is produced by an adult author writing to a constructed idea of what children should be. By reading a range of contemporary children's literature, this book scrutinizes how such texts narrate the child's journey from communicative alterity to a place of empowered adult speech. Sometimes the child's verbal enclosure enables privacy and resistance. At other times, silence is coerced or imposed or arises from bodily impairment. Children may act as intermediaries, speaking on behalf of species that cannot. Recently, we have seen children exercise their voices on the world stage and as authors. In all cases, the texts analyzed here reveal speech as a minefield to be traversed. Children who talk too much, too little, or with insufficient expertise pose problems to themselves and others. Implicitly and sometimes explicitly, they attempt to hold adults to account— inside and outside the text. *Speech and Silence in Contemporary Children's Literature* addresses this underconceptualized subject in what will be an important text for scholars of children's literature, childhood studies, English, disability studies, gender studies, race studies, ecopedagogy, and education.

environmental fiction books: *Ethical Literacies and Education for Sustainable Development* Olof Franck, Christina Osbeck, 2017-05-06 This book explores the ethical dimensions surrounding the development of education for sustainable development within schools, and examines these issues through the lens of ethical literacy. The book argues that teaching children to engage with nature is crucial if they are to develop a true understanding of sustainability and climate issues, and claims that sustainability education is much more successful when pupils are treated as moral agents rather than being passive subjects of testing and assessment. The collection

brings together a range of fresh and creative perspectives on how issues around ethical literacies can be elaborated and expanded with regard to democratic sustainability education. The use of children's books in teaching about sustainability is carefully explored, as are the ethical and aesthetic dimensions of environmental education. Including an afterword by Arjen Wals, Professor of Transformative Learning for Socio-Ecological Sustainability, the book will be of great interest to students and researchers in the field of sustainability education.

environmental fiction books: *The Routledge Handbook of Trans Literature* Douglas A. Vakoch, Sabine Sharp, 2024-04-30 The Routledge Handbook of Trans Literature examines the intersection of transgender studies and literary studies, bringing together essays from global experts in the field. This volume provides a comprehensive overview of trans literature, highlighting the core topics, genres, and periods important for scholarship now and in the future. Covering the main approaches and key literary genres of the area, this volume includes: Examination of the core topics guiding contemporary trans literary theory and criticism, including the Anthropocene, archival speculation, activism, BDSM, Black studies, critical plant studies, culture, diaspora, disability, ethnocentrism, home, inclusion, monstrosity, nondualist philosophies, nonlinearity, paradox, pedagogy, performativity, poetics, religion, suspense, temporality, visibility, and water. Exploration of diverse literary genres, forms, and periods through a trans lens, such as archival fiction, artificial intelligence narratives, autobiography, climate fiction, comics, creative writing, diaspora fiction, drama, fan fiction, gothic fiction, historical fiction, manga, medieval literature, minor literature, modernist literature, mystery and detective fiction, nature writing, poetry, postcolonial literature, radical literature, realist fiction, Renaissance literature, Romantic literature, science fiction, travel writing, utopian literature, Victorian literature, and young adult literature. This comprehensive volume will be of great interest to scholars and students of literature, gender studies, trans studies, literary theory, and literary criticism.

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