

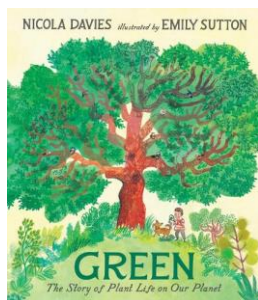
# The Reading Agency's April booklist – Nature and Conservation



The first [Earth Day](#) took place on April 22, 1970. Since then, the Earth Day organisation has been mobilizing over 1 billion people annually on Earth Day, and every other day, to protect the planet. To support any activity, you may want to run, we have collated a booklist with a mix of poetry, fiction and non-fiction books with strong themes of nature and conservation. We would love to hear what books you'd recommend on social media using #booklist and tagging [@readingagency](#). You can see our past booklists [here](#).

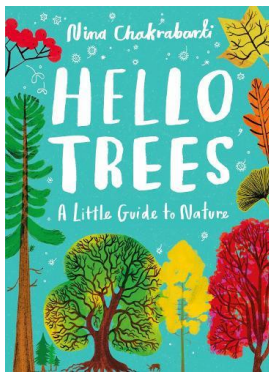
## Younger children

**Green: The Story of Plant Life on Our Planet by Nicola Davies (author), Emily Sutton (illustrator), Walker Books, ISBN: 9781406399998**



This tree doesn't look like it's doing very much: it just stands there in the sunlight, big and GREEN. But this tree is busy... Starting with the secret workings of a tree, this book transports readers billions of years into the past; back to the moment when plant life first appeared on our planet. Covering its evolution, the steady emergence of fossil fuels and the extraordinary communities of plants around the world today, Nicola Davies and Emily Sutton combine essential biology with a powerful message – a call to protect the most precious colour on Earth... GREEN.

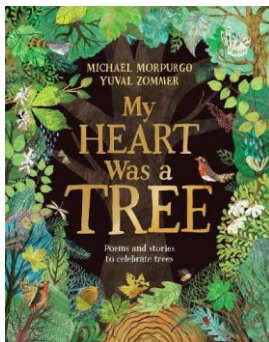
**Little Guides to Nature: Hello Trees by Nina Chakrabarti, Hachette Children's Group, ISBN: 9781510230477**



Get outside and explore the magnificent world of trees with this beautifully illustrated pocket guide.

Witness a tree's growth from seed to sapling and discover how trees come together to support each other in forests in this beautiful pocket guide to nature. Illustrated gallery-style pages show children how to identify a tree from its seeds and take a closer look at leaf function and shape, as well as highlight some of the oldest and the tallest trees from around the world.

**My Heart Was a Tree: Poems and stories to celebrate trees by Michael Morpurgo (author), Yuval Zommer (illustrator), Pan Macmillan, ISBN: 9781529094794**

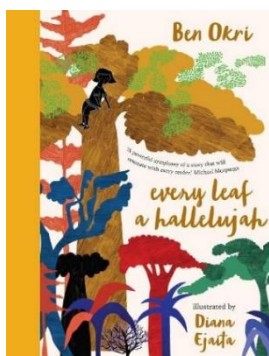


This extraordinary collection of poems and stories is based on Michael Morpurgo's passion for trees and what they mean to animals, humanity and the world around us. Inspired by the poem by Ted Hughes which gives this book its title, by the woods around his home, and by the mighty forests that support our life on Earth, this book is a celebration, and Michael's love letter to trees.

There are stories from an ancient olive remembering Odysseus and Penelope, and from a eucalyptus that gave shelter to a koala; from a piece of driftwood that was made into a chair, and from a tiny sapling carried by a refugee as a reminder of home – these are poems and stories that will amuse, move and energise families and readers of all ages to appreciate the beauty and wonder of trees.

### Older children

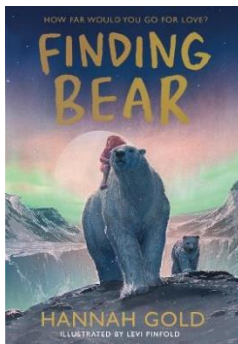
**Every Leaf a Hallelujah by Ben Okri, Bloomsbury Publishing, ISBN: 9781800241626**



In the forest near Mangoshi's village in Africa there grows a very special flower. Mangoshi knows that only this flower can save her mother's life. It can save her village too. All she has to do is find it.

Ben Okri and Diana Ejada have created a magical world of beauty and colour, an enchanting array of extraordinary trees, each with its own personality and voice. The chief among them, the great baobab, invites us into his branches to travel the world and see for ourselves the perils of not listening to nature. All around us, forests are vanishing, and no one is listening.

**Finding Bear** by Hannah Gold (author), Levi Pinfold (illustrator), HarperCollins Publishers, ISBN: 9780008582012

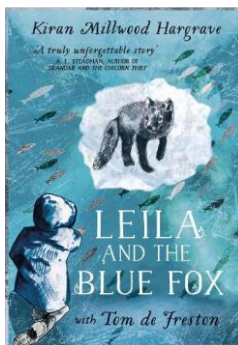


April Wood has returned from her adventure on Bear Island, but she can't stop thinking about Bear.

When April hears that a polar bear has been shot and injured in Svalbard, she's convinced it's her friend and persuades her dad to travel with her to the northernmost reaches of the Arctic to find him.

So begins an unforgettable journey across frozen tundra and through glaciers. But in Svalbard, April discovers more than she bargained for – a baby polar bear cub, desperately in need of her help. April must navigate the dangerous Arctic terrain and face her deepest fears if she's to save him.

**Leila and the Blue Fox**, Kiran Millwood Hargrave (author), Tom de Freston (illustrator), Hachette Children's Group, ISBN: 9781510110281



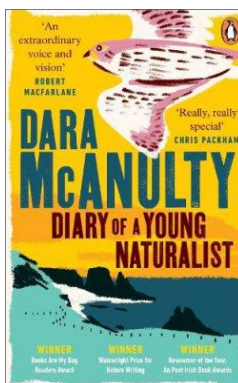
She was very tired.  
She lay down, her soft head on her soft paws.  
The sunset licked her face.  
The snow covered her like a blanket.

Fox wakes and begins to walk. She crosses ice and snow, over mountains and across frozen oceans, encountering bears and birds beneath the endless daylight of an Arctic summer, navigating a world that is vast, wild and wondrous.

Meanwhile, Leila embarks on a journey of her own - finding her way to the mother who left her. On a breathtaking journey across the sea, Leila rediscovers herself and the mother she thought she'd lost, with help from a determined little fox.

**Young people (14+) – please note these may have mature themes and you can find more specific age ratings on publisher websites**

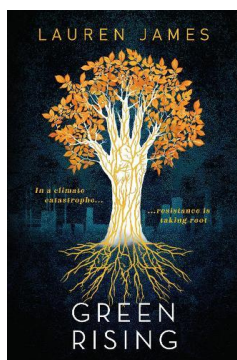
**Diary of a Young Naturalist** by Dara McNulty, Ebury Publishing, ISBN: 9781529109603



**Winner of the British Book Awards Non-Fiction Narrative Book of the Year 2021**

Diary of a Young Naturalist chronicles the turning of 15-year-old Dara McNulty's world. From spring and through a year in his home patch in Northern Ireland, Dara spent the seasons writing. These vivid, evocative and moving diary entries about his connection to wildlife and the way he sees the world are raw in their telling.

**Green Rising by Lauren James, Walker Books, ISBN: 9781406384673**

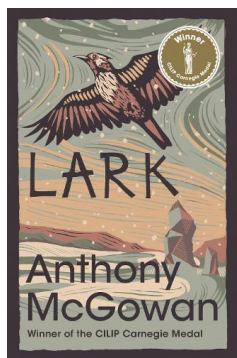


**Longlisted for The Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing 2023**

Gabrielle is a climate-change activist who shoots to fame when she becomes the first teenager to display a supernatural ability to grow plants from her skin. Hester is the millionaire daughter of an oil tycoon and the face of the family business. Theo comes from a long line of fishermen, but his parents are struggling to make ends meet.

On the face of it, the three have very little in common. Yet when Hester and Theo join Gabrielle and legions of other teenagers around the world in developing the strange new "Greenfingers" power, it becomes clear that to use their ability for good, they'll need to learn to work together. As they navigate first love and family expectations, can the three teenagers pull off the ultimate heist and bring about a green rising?

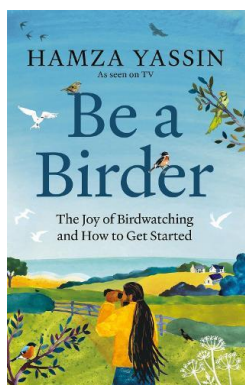
**Lark by Anthony McGowan (author), Nick Hayes (cover design/artwork), HarperCollins Publishers, ISBN: 9781781128435**



Things are tense at home for Nicky and Kenny. Their mum's coming to visit and it will be the first time they've seen her in years. A lot has changed since they were little and Nicky's not so sure he's ready to see her again. When they head for a trek across the moors to take their minds off everything, a series of unforeseen circumstances leaves the brothers in a vulnerable and very dangerous position. There might even be a chance that this time not everyone will make it home alive...

## Adults

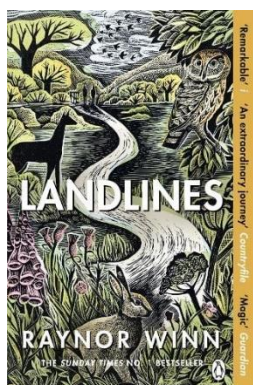
**Be a Birder by Hamza Yassin, Octopus Publishing Group, ISBN: 9781856755092**



Journey along with Hamza as he recounts stories of his birdwatching adventures and shares tips and tricks in this beautifully illustrated guide for beginning birders. With practical advice and personal anecdotes, you will learn how to get started in birdwatching and hone your identification skills to become an experienced twitcher.

Whether you need a companion on your next expedition or simply wish to dip in and out as you learn more, Be a Birder is fit for every purpose, and encourages us all to discover the joy of birdwatching. Inside you will learn how to quickly identify birds, what different bird behaviour means, the most useful birding equipment to take and the best places to see the most exciting birds, wherever you are.

**Landlines by Raynor Winn, Penguin Books Ltd, ISBN: 9781405947787**



**Longlisted for the James Cropper Wainwright Prize for Nature Writing 2023**

Raynor knows that her husband Moth's health is declining, getting worse by the day. She knows of only one cure. It worked once before. But will he - can he? - set out with her on another healing walk?

Being one with nature saved them in their darkest hour and their hope is that it can work its magic again. As they set out on their incredible thousand-mile journey back to the familiar shores of the South West Coast Path, Raynor and Moth map the landscape of an island nation facing an uncertain path ahead.

**Uprooting: From the Caribbean to the Countryside – Finding Home in an English Garden by Marchelle Farrell, Canongate Books, ISBN: 9781838858674**



**Winner of the Nan Shepherd Prize 2021**

What is home?

It's a question that has troubled Marchelle Farrell for her entire life. A longed-for career in psychiatry saw her leave behind the pristine beaches and emerald hills of Trinidad. Until, disillusioned, she uprooted again, this time for the peaceful English countryside.

The only Black woman in her village, Marchelle hopes to grow a new life. But when a worldwide pandemic and a global racial reckoning collide, the upheaval of colonialism that has led her to this place begins to be unearthed. Is this really home? And can she ever feel truly grounded here?

Drawn to her new garden, Marchelle begins to examine this complex and emotional question through the psychotherapeutic lens of her work. As her relationship with the garden deepens, she discovers that her two conflicting identities are far more intertwined than she had realised.

Full of hope and healing, Uprooting is a book about finding home where we least expect it, and which invites us to reconnect to the land - and ourselves.

### **Our monthly booklists**

The monthly themed booklists are co-ordinated in-house by the Reading Partners team. The aim of our booklist themes is to highlight a variety of titles which children, young people and adults will want to read themselves and to encourage reading for pleasure. We aim to create booklists that include titles that are written and illustrated by authentic voices and that include characters that reflect the diverse society of the UK. (Please note our monthly booklists are not part of our Book Selection Framework applied to programme content).