

Fresh Air, Clean Water:
Our Right to a Healthy Environment
Discussion Guide
Grades 4th – 8th

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Preview the Table of Contents to examine the four major themes as well as the range of topics.
- Preview the Glossary to see the variety of vocabulary used throughout the book.
- Preview the Resources section for additional titles and websites for the many themes & topics of the book.

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- What topic in the book is of most interest to you? To the community where you live?
- What are you learning about pollution and contamination? Similarities? Differences?
- Explain how activists are using the legal system to fight for environmental justice?
- Explain the role of citizen scientists in helping to gather data, count birds & animals, and document problems & solutions in their own communities.

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- Ask: What are the most pressing environmental issues for the planet?
- Did you learn about a particular environmental issue that was new to you? If so, which one?
- **Extension:** How can you get involved in your community as an environmental activist? For younger students, encourage them to draw a picture to accompany their writing.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, or content.