

Something Happened to Our Planet: Kids Tackle the Climate Crisis
Discussion Guide
Grades Pre-K – 3rd

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

- Begin by introducing climate change to students by watching [this video](#).
- Use [RIF's Titles Can Be Telling Graphic Organizer](#) individually or as a class to begin making inferences and connections prior to starting the book (note: students will revisit this chart throughout the story).
- **Purpose for reading:** As we read today, think about how the characters are working together to overcome a challenge.

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

- How are the characters like ants? Use details from the story.
- In what ways are the characters working together to try to help the earth?
- What idea does their teacher have for them? *Make a connection: Has a teacher ever helped you with your schoolwork?*
- How did the meeting with the principal help them think of a new idea? Was the idea successful? Use details from the story.
- **Be sure to have students revisit their graphic organizer throughout the story.**

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- Ask: How did the characters work together to overcome a challenge? In what ways can we tackle the climate crisis?
- **Extension:** Check out the American Psychological Association's [Educator Resource Guide](#) to find tips, tools, and story related activities to extend student learning.

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, characters, or content.
- Read other books about ways to help the earth such as [This Class Can Save the Planet](#).
- Check out RIF's [Sustainable Futures](#) center to learn more about environmental justice with related books and resources.