

Rachel Carson and Her Book That Changed the World

A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

Themes: Ecology, Environment, Biography

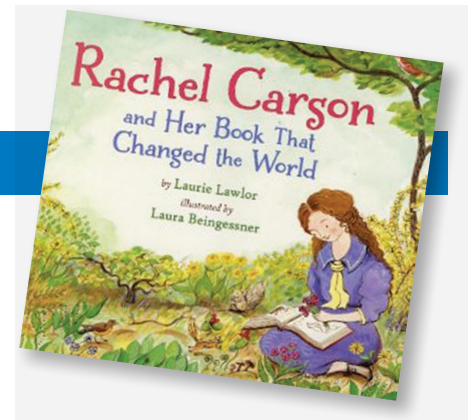
Book Brief: At an early age, Rachel developed a love of nature. As she grew up, she became a writer and a biologist. Her book *Silent Spring* helped begin today's environmental movement.

Author:

Laurie Lawlor

Illustrator:

Laura
Beingessner



TIME TO READ!

Before reading: Show children the title and cover illustration. Based on the picture, can they guess what Rachel was interested in? What do they think her book was about? How can a book change the world?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

POLLUTING OUR PLANTS (AGES 5-12)

Materials: water, red food coloring, celery stalks, large cups

Pollution in the ground can contaminate our food sources. This experiment shows how. Fill cups with water. Add 5 drops of red food coloring to simulate polluted water. Have children examine celery stalks and record observations; then place celery stalks in water. At the end of the day, have children observe the celery. Any changes? Record observations and talk about what happened.

NATURE WALK (AGES 5-12)

Carson said, "Once you are aware of the wonder and beauty of the earth, you will want to learn about it." Take children on a nature walk. Ask them to look for at least one item in nature that they have never noticed before. Have them share their observations.

NUTRITIOUS NATURE (AGES 5-12)

Provide children with snacks directly from nature: for example, grapes, apples, fresh berries, orange slices, cucumbers, carrots, celery sticks. Stress the importance of keeping the earth clean so we can continue to enjoy these tasty treats.



TECHNOLOGY LINK

Play computer games and learn about our environment at the same time at <http://ecologygames.org/>.

Learn more about Rachel Carson at www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/09212007/watch.html.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT RACHEL CARSON

Rachel: The Story of Rachel Carson, Amy Ehrlich (2008), *Rachel Carson: Clearing the Way for Environmental Protection*, Mike Venezia (2010), *Rachel Carson: Preserving a Sense of Wonder*, Joseph Bruchac (2009).



Reading Is
Fundamental