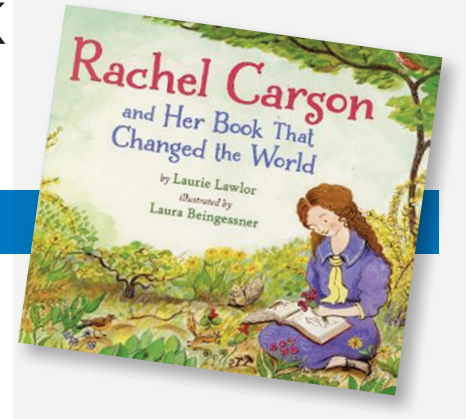


Rachel Carson and Her Book That Changed the World



A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

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 Beingsner

Content Connections:
Science, Math, Social Studies

TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: "What information do the cover illustration and title give us about Rachel Carson?"

The Pictures: "Look through the pictures. Can you summarize this story? How do the pictures add to your comprehension?"

Prior Knowledge: Introduce the term *environmentalist*. Have students brainstorm what they think this person might do.

Vocabulary: biologist, environmentalist, The Great Depression, insecticides, refuge

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, think about questions you would want to ask Rachel Carson that would deepen your understanding of what motivated her to do research and write."

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ How would you describe her childhood?
- ◆ What traits best describe Rachel during college?
- ◆ What impact does her family situation have on her studies and career?



LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: "What questions would you have for Rachel Carson if she were alive today?"

Extending Our Thinking: How does where you live influence your beliefs? Explain. Think of another title that could describe this story. What does the term *environmentalist* mean to you now after reading the story? Brainstorm with a partner about a time when Rachel felt the most discouraged. How did she overcome that feeling? Discuss whether Rachel's true gift was as a writer or as a scientist. Explain your answer.

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



Reading Is
Fundamental