



# Student Reading List

This list includes titles that provide content-related, grade-appropriate reading opportunities for your students as they participate in the MinnAqua Leader's Guide lessons and activities. These recommended titles support the lesson concepts and learning objectives of each chapter.

## Chapter 1: Aquatic Habitats

### *All Night Near the Water*

Jim Arnosky, 1999

**Grades:** PreK-2

**Summary:** A charming story of a family of ducks surviving a night at a pond.

### *Around the Pond: Who's Been Here?*

Lindsay Barrett George, 1996

**Grades:** PreK-5

**Summary:** Join two children on a discovery walk along a path to a pond. A page of text discusses clues left an unseen animal, and asks readers to figure out "Who's been here?" Opposing pages present this information in illustrations, with a follow-up double-page spread revealing the animal.

### *Exploring Freshwater Habitats*

Diane Snowball; Cynthia A. Belcher, 1994

**Grades:** 2-5

**Summary:** Young readers can explore a variety of freshwater habitats worldwide, including Africa's Nile River, Russia's Lake Baikal, a Maryland cypress swamp, the Florida Everglades, and a Canadian stream.

### *In the Small, Small, Pond*

Denise Fleming, 1993

**Grades:** PreK-2

**Summary:** Even the youngest child will enjoy this introduction to the seasons, presented through a frog's-eye view of a small pond.

### *Jump, Frog, Jump!*

Robert Kalan; illustrated Byron Barton, 1981

**Grades:** PreK-3

**Summary:** "This is the turtle that slid into the pond and ate the snake that dropped from a branch and swallowed the fish that swam after the frog—Jump, Frog, Jump!" This catchy, cumulative tale introduces the concept of food chains and refers to people's place in them.

### *Life in the Pond*

Eileen Curran; Elizabeth Ellis, 1985

**Grades:** PreK-2

**Summary:** Take a round-the-clock look at plants and animals in and around a pond. Excellent, accurate watercolor illustrations and simple text make this book a fine introduction to aquatic habitats.

### *Minn of the Mississippi*

Holling C. Holling, 1978

**Grades:** 3-6

**Summary:** The history of the Mississippi River Valley is told in text and pictures featuring the adventures of Minn, a snapping turtle, as she travels downstream.

### *Nim's Island*

Wendy Orr, 2002

**Grades:** 2-5

**Summary:** Nim lives on the most beautiful island in the world (its location is a closely guarded secret) with a marine iguana, a sea lion, and her scientist

dad, Jack. When he goes off to explore the world of plankton, the child occupies herself with typical Swiss Family Robinson-like chores and keeping her dad's batteries charged so she can check his e-mail on the laptop computer . . . Children will love this unshakable, strong female character and the zany things that happen to her. They'll also enjoy the way adults seem to bungle everything. There are plenty of sketches to add visuals to this wild tale, which never loses its momentum. Teachers can springboard many geographic or scientific studies off this novel as they read it aloud, but kids can just enjoy the fun." (Debbie Whitbeck, West Ottawa Public Schools, Holland, Michigan, © 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.)

*The Salamander Room*

Anne Mazer; Steve Johnson, 1991

**Grades:** K-3

**Summary:** A little boy finds an orange salamander in the woods and thinks about the many things he can do to turn his bedroom into a perfect salamander home. In the process, the habitat requirements of a forest floor dweller are nicely described.

*Song of the Water Boatman & Other Pond Poems*

Joyce Sidman; Beckie Prange, 2005

**Grades:** PreK-5

**Summary:** A Minnesota author and illustrator have compiled an excellent pond book with accurate images and text, described on the book's jacket as, "From spring's first thaw to autumn's chill, the world of the pond is a dramatic place. Though seemingly quiet, ponds are teeming with life and full of surprises. Their denizens—from peepers to painted turtles, duckweed to diving beetles—lead secret and fascinating lives. A unique blend of whimsy, science, poetry, and hand-colored woodcuts, this collection invites us to take a closer look at our hidden ponds and wetlands . . ."

*Squish! A Wetland Walk*

Nancy Luenn, Ronald Himler, 1994

**Grades:** PreK-2

**Summary:** In simple, poetic language, this book defines a wetland, introduces the animals that call it home, explains the importance of wetlands, and entices readers with the promise of a marvelous, muddy adventure.

*The Raft*

Jim LaMarche, 2002

**Grades:** 1-5

**Summary:** Nicky isn't a bit happy about spending the summer with his grandmother in the Wisconsin woods. But when a raft appears, everything changes. As Nicky explores, the raft evokes its subtle magic and Nicky begins to see wonders everywhere—the animals of the river and woods, his grandmother's humor and wisdom, and his own special talent as an artist.

*What's in the Pond?*

Anne Hunter, 1999

**Grades:** PreK-2

**Summary:** What would you see if you sat at the edge of a pond and looked into the water? In this hand-sized book, Anne Hunter illustrates with loving detail the creatures of the pond, including a water spider, tadpole, red-winged blackbird, painted turtle, and others. Simple, yet detailed text describes each animal's habits and characteristics.

*Where the River Begins*

Thomas Locker, 1993

**Grades:** PreK-3

**Summary:** Two young boys and their grandfather embark on a camping trip to find the source of the river that flows past their home.

*Willa in Wetlands* (a play)

Peyton Lewis and Rory Chalcraft, 1991

**Grades:** PreK-2 (view performance of play); 3-5 (view performance and read)

**Summary:** This is a very creative, funny, and engaging play with catchy, upbeat songs. The cast includes Willa the student, Sherman and Shirley Shrimp, Johnny Rockfish, Wild Rice, Blue Heron, and many other wetland dwellers. The play begins with Willa setting off to find a "wetland treasure" mentioned by her teacher. She soon discovers that "looking for a treasure in a swamp or marsh is a hard job. I see nothing that looks the least bit priceless." The treasures she finds aren't what she expects, and her search leads her to a bald eagle, a muskrat lodge, some fiddling fiddler crabs, and much more. Willa concludes, "I came here looking for gold and silver but I think I've learned what the real treasure is. Everyone I met was a jewel." Scripts for *Willa in Wetlands* are available at no charge from

the Wetlands Information Hotline, which can be reached toll-free at **1-800-528-7828**. A teacher's guide is also available.

## Chapter 2: Minnesota Fish

### *A Million Fish . . . More or Less*

Patricia C. McKissack; Dena Schutzer, 1996

**Grades:** K-3

**Summary:** A boy learns that, on the Bayou Clapateaux, the truth is often stretched. But he gets a chance to tell his own version of a bayou tale when he goes fishing.

### *Big Al*

Andrew Clements, 1988

**Grades:** PreK-2

**Summary:** A big, ugly fish has trouble making the friends he longs for because of his appearance—until the day his scary looks save them all from a fishing net.

### *The Biggest Fish in the Lake*

Margaret Carney, 2001

**Grades:** 1-4

**Summary:** The author remembers how childhood fishing with her grandfather created a special bond between them.

### *Classifying Fish*

Richard A. Spilsbury, 2003

**Grades:** 3-6

**Summary:** This book defines fish, explains how they differ from other animals, and discusses freshwater fish, sea fish, deep-sea fish, shallow-water fish, sharks, and others.

### *The Cod's Tale*

Mark Kurlansky; S.D. Schindler, 2001

**Grades:** 3-6

**Summary:** The life story of the cod—to be driven by insatiable hunger—is interwoven with the insatiable hunger of people from the Viking Age to the present day. The illustrations are both informative (a cross-section of the Continental Shelf, a map of the Atlantic) and humorous (New Englanders comically dancing in joy at the invention of frozen fish fingers). Along the way, readers incidentally learn a great deal about Vikings, Basques, the American

Revolution, and the slave trade, as well as the current prospect, formerly deemed impossible, of cod being fished to extinction.

### *Elephants Swim*

Linda Capus Riley; Steve Jenkins, 1995

**Grades:** PreK-2

**Summary:** This book introduces a variety of animals from around the world that are adapted to live in large bodies of water.

### *Fish*

Ann Heinrichs, 2003

**Grades:** 3-5

**Summary:** An introduction to physical characteristics, how fish move, habitats, feeding habits, life cycles, and different types of fish.

### *Fish*

Rod Theodorou, 2001

**Grades:** 1-3

**Summary:** An introduction to young fish, including hatching, development, characteristics, care, and feeding habits.

### *Fish Eyes*

Lois Ehlert, 1990

**Grades:** PreK - 1

**Summary:** Easy to understand, this book is written for the very young reader learning to count the brilliantly colored fish that swim through its pages. The story actively involves the reader in the lives of fishes, and teaches the child to count the fish as they begin their life cycles in wetlands. Readers are asked to imagine donning scales, fins, and tail for a downriver swim.

### *Fish is Fish*

Leo Lionni, 1974

**Grades:** PreK-2

**Summary:** A minnow and a tadpole are inseparable until the tadpole turns into a frog. The minnow wants to see the world as the frog does, and jumps out of the water. But when the frog returns him to the water, the minnow learns that water is the most beautiful of all worlds.

*The Fisherman and His Wife*

Brothers Grimm; translated by Elizabeth Shub, 1978, 1992

**Grades:** 2-4

**Summary:** A classic tale of a fisherman's greedy wife who isn't satisfied with the wishes granted to her by an enchanted fish.

*Fishing for Methuselah*

Roger Roth, 1998

**Grades:** PreK-3

**Summary:** Ivan and Olaf are best friends and share an ambition to out-do one other while ice fishing. But the fish they want, Methuselah, is the smartest fish in the lake. Ivan and Olaf share many adventures.

*Fishing in the Air*

Sharon Creech, 2000

**Grades:** 2-4

**Summary:** A nicely-illustrated book about a young boy and his father discovering the power of imagination on a fishing trip.

*Fishing With Dad: Lessons of Love and Lure from Father to Son*

Michael Rosen, 1996

**Grades:** 2-5

**Summary:** In a lyrical story told in blank verse, the author shares a true account of Sundays spent with Dad at a favorite fishing hole.

*Life Cycle of Fish*

Louise A. Spilsbury and Richard Spilsbury, 2003

**Grades:** 3-5

**Summary:** A discussion of how fish differ from other animals, including topics such as habitat, development, feeding, reproduction, and life expectancy.

*Minnesota Seasons—Classic Tales of Life Outdoors*

Scott Bestul, editor, 1998

**Grades:** 3 and up

**Summary:** There is much good reading in this collection of stories that are short, but quite different from one another. Some highlights include: "Buster" (about a sunfish and a three-year-old, by Denis Anderson); "Seasons, Of Ice, Eelpout, and Men" (by Richard Behm); "Tin Fins and Lead Bellies" (a tale of spearfishing by Ted Nelson Lundrigan); and "Far Back" (a poem about trout in winter by Orval Lund).

*My Five Senses*

Aliki, 1962, 1989

**Grades:** PreK-2

**Summary:** This book helps readers explore the five human senses.

*What is a Fish?*

Bobbie Kalman and Allison Larin, *Science of Living Things* Series, 1998.

**Grades:** PreK-2

**Summary:** This book introduces various fishes, including freshwater and saltwater species. It discusses habitat, anatomy, reproduction, and feeding.

*What is Fish?*

Robert Snedden, 1997 (reprint)

**Grades:** 2-5

**Summary:** A description of types of fish, as well as respiration, movement, senses, feeding, defensive behavior, growth and development.

*KidPub*

[www.kidpub.com](http://www.kidpub.com)

**Summary:** This site offers culturally diverse fishing stories written by girls and boys from various parts of the nation.

### Chapter 3: Water Stewardship

*A Cool Drink of Water*

Barbara Kerley, 2002

**Grades:** PreK-2

**Summary:** Gorgeous full-page illustrations and minimal text provide a global perspective on water's critical role in human life. Photos depict people collecting, transporting, and drinking water, as poetic text reminds readers that "everyone everywhere" enjoys a "nice, cool drink of water." The book's type is visually interesting, and a picture index offers thumbnail versions of the illustrations, and captions, as well as a map.

*A Drop Around the World*

Barbara McKinney, Michael S. Maydak, 1998

**Grades:** PreK-2

**Summary:** Presents the water cycle through a raindrop's journey through the sky, on land, underground, and in the sea, in its liquid, solid, and vapor forms.

*A River Ran Wild*

Lynne Cherry, 2002 (reprint)

**Grades:** 1-4

**Summary:** Almost six centuries ago, on the banks of a clear, clean, sparkling river, a group of Indian people found an idyllic home. Soon English settlers joined them. Inspired by the vision of those who fought to restore the river to its original state, Lynne Cherry has created an engrossing, richly illustrated history that encourages us to reconsider the value of natural resources and what we can do to restore them.

*The Case of the Missing Cutthroats*

Jean Craighead George, Suzanne Duranceau, 1999 (reprint)

**Grades:** 3-6

**Summary:** After Spinner Shafter catches a cutthroat trout in the Snake River, she and her cousin Alligator search nearby mountains to determine where the endangered fish came from and how it survived.

*Frog Girl*

Paul Owen Lewis, 1999

**Grades:** 3-6

**Summary:** This is a tale from Pacific Northwest Native Americans. It is about a young girl who journeys to the world beneath her village's lake after all of the lake's frogs disappear. There she meets "Grandmother," who asks where all of her frog "children" have gone? The girl must return the frogs to save her village.

*I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Trout!*

Teri Sloat, Reynold Ruffins, 1998

**Grades:** PreK-3

**Summary:** "There was an old lady who swallowed a trout that splished and splashed and thrashed about. It wanted out!" So begins this cumulative rhyme based upon the tried-and-true nonsense verse "I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly." Sloat's version has a Pacific Northwest setting—salmon, otter, seal, porpoise, walrus, whale, and an ocean are consumed. The verse concludes with the Old Lady opening her mouth to free the ocean and everything else she has swallowed.

*Life in a River*

Valerie Rapp, 2003

**Grades:** 4-7

**Summary:** The complex ecosystems of rivers, tributaries, and the lands through which they flow provide excellent examples of biodiversity and interdependence. In one chapter, the author concentrates on a single species, the salmon, using it to illustrate the ease with which people interrupt the fish's life cycle and the entire ecosystem in a variety of unforeseen ways. Color photographs of creatures that live in and near the river predominate. Drawings illustrate the key scientific concepts of water cycle and watershed. A map of the Columbia River watershed as it evolved naturally is juxtaposed against a map of the river as it is today with its various dams and impoundments.

*The Lorax*

Dr. Seuss, 1971

**Grades:** PreK- 3

**Summary:** This Dr. Seuss book considers the impact of environmental pollution. In the days when the grass is green and the ponds still wet, Once-ler comes to the glorious places and sees the glorious Truffula Trees growing mile after mile with their bright-colored tufts. Dr. Seuss is perhaps the most popular and best-loved children's book author of all time. Most of us have grown up with his unique characters and stories indelibly imprinted on our minds. *The Lorax* is his stunning and deeply felt cautionary tale for youngsters that teaches the value and importance of doing our best to preserve and protect our environment.

*The Magic School Bus at the Waterworks*

Joanna Cole; Bruce Degan, 1986

**Grades:** K-6

**Summary:** When Ms. Frizzle, the strangest teacher in the school, takes her class on a field trip to the waterworks, everyone experiences the interior of a water purification system. Evaporation, the water cycle, and filtration are but a few of the concepts explored in this whimsical trip.

*Marshes and Swamps*

Gail Gibbons, 1999

**Grades:** PreK-3

**Summary:** Ms. Gibbons shows where both freshwater and saltwater wetlands are found, how they developed and are maintained, the plants, animals, invertebrates, plants and insects who live there, and why human activities threaten them. The book explains a bit about freshwater marshes, saltwater marshes, freshwater swamps, and mangrove swamps.

*The Mississippi River*

Maria Mudd-Ruth, 2000

**Grades:** 5-8

**Summary:** Flowing from Lake Itasca in northwestern Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico, the Mississippi River traverses approximately 2,350 miles. This majestic river bisects the United States and serves as both an amazing source of resources and a diverse ecosystem. In this science text, the complex elements of the multiple ecosystems comprising the Mississippi River Way are presented in an understandable and comprehensive manner. The environmental effects of dams, dredging, flood control levees, and pollution are presented in a balanced fashion. Plants and wildlife that use the Mississippi as their homes are described in a way that affords an in-depth glimpse of this wonderfully complicated natural resource.

*One Less Fish*

Kim Michelle Toft, Allan Sheather, 1998

**Grades:** PreK-2

**Summary:** Tropical fish shimmer across the pages in this cautionary tale of a countdown that warns of threats to a fragile ecosystem. Fish disappear one by one—where have they gone? Will they come back? Set in Australia's Great Barrier Reef, *One Less Fish* offers straightforward suggestions for preserving underwater environments and shows how to prevent the countdown from becoming reality. Stunning silk paintings portray the beauty of an environmental treasure in this unique counting book. (Adapted from Minnesota State University, Mankato © 2001 Cahners Business Information.)

*Our Wet World*

Sneed B. Collard, James N. Needham, 1998

**Grades:** 4-7

**Summary:** Water is by far the most abundant and valuable liquid on earth. Not only do all plants and animals need water to live and grow, it's home to many living things. In this fact-filled book, Collard explores thirteen different aquatic eco-systems, from gentle streams and mighty rivers to the rich continental shelf. In an age where environmental issues are at the forefront of public debate, this book's lucid explanations about the value of the aquatic ecosystems is a worthy read. A glossary at the end of the book provides useful explanations of key terms. Realistic illustrations support the text nicely.

*Paddle-to-the-Sea*

Holling C. Holling, 1980

**Grades:** 3-5

**Summary:** A young Indian boy from Nipigon country in the Canadian wilderness carves an Indian figure in a twelve-inch canoe and names it Paddle-to-the-Sea. Wishing that he could undertake a journey to the Atlantic Ocean, the boy sends the toy carving instead. Paddle-to-the-Sea begins on a snow bank near a river that eventually leads to the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence River, and the Atlantic Ocean. Along the way, Paddle-to-the-Sea's journey is fraught with dangers, including wild animals, saw mills, fishing nets, and a shipwreck. Paddle-to-the-Sea receives help staying on course from people who read the carved message, "Put me back in the water. I am Paddle-to-the-Sea." Four years later, Paddle-to-the-Sea reaches his destination, an incredible story complete with geography, nature, drama, and adventure.

*Rain Drop Splash*

Alvin Tresselt. Lothrop, 1965, 1990

**Grades:** K-2

**Summary:** This picture book tells a simple story: raindrops begin to fall, forming a puddle that eventually becomes a pond with water lilies and fish. Raindrops continue to fall as the pond spills over into a lake containing bigger fish, pickerelweed, and red-winged blackbirds. The raindrops flood farms, roads, and cities and impact many things, including the lives of people.

*The Snowflake: A Water Cycle Story*

Niel Waldman, 2003

**Grades:** K-3

**Summary:** This is a simple and elegantly presented picture book showing the cycle of water, from earth to cloud and back again, as well as how this process continues throughout the year. Waldman's beautiful pastel illustrations add a gentle touch to this enriching, informative, and entertaining work, which is especially recommended for young readers ages six through eight.

*The Wartville Wizard*

Don Madden, 1999

**Grades:** PreK-4

**Summary:** A tidy old man spent his time cleaning up the litter left behind by the thoughtless slob of Wartville. One day, tired of his lot, he gives up, and Mother Nature gives him "power over trash." He then commands litter to "go back and stick to the person who threw you." The townspeople are dismayed, and a wizard agrees to release them from their trash if they promise not to litter again.

*Washing the Willow Tree Loon*

Nancy Carpenter, 1995

**Grades:** 2-4

**Summary:** This book stresses the importance of wildlife rescue by focusing on the fate of an oil-slicked loon. When a barge hits a bridge on Turtle Bay, many birds are caught in the resultant spill. People from all walks of life work together to save the birds. The loon is washed, rinsed, medicated, fed, and allowed to recover its natural waterproofing before it's released back into the wild. Each stage in the loon's recovery is illustrated with large, softly expressive oil paintings in glowing blues and yellows.

*Water Insects*

Sylvia A. Johnson, Photographer Modoki Masuda, 1990

**Grades:** 3-7

**Summary:** Well-designed and illustrated in a style that appeals to children without oversimplifying or sacrificing accuracy. *Water Insects* focuses predominantly on insects occurring in ponds and wetlands, with photographs highlighting every aspect of insect life.

*Waterways*

Gail Radley, Jean Sherlock,

Jean Matheny, 2001

**Grades:** 3-6

**Summary:** This book offers interesting juxtapositions of factual information about endangered species with short poems. Each book provides basic facts about ten animals from various parts of the world and outlines the threats to their survival. Conservation efforts and results are noted, but the impact of human destruction of habitat continues to compromise long-term survival prospects for most of the animals. The poems are well-positioned on full-page, full-color paintings of the animals. Together, they evoke an emotional response that facts alone often fail to provide. The same introduction in each volume presents an overview of the severity and complexity of the problem and encourages action. Suggestions at the end of each book offer concrete ideas. A map of animal ranges rounds out the volumes. (Kathy Piehl, School Library Journal, Minnesota State University, Mankato, Minnesota Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.)

*Chapter 4: Fish Management**A Fish Out of Water*

Helen Palmer, 1961

**Grades:** PreK-2

**Summary:** "This little fish," I said to Mr. Carp, "I want him." This cautionary tale tells how a boy overfeeds his fish, which grows and grows. With help from a man at a pet store, the boy learns a lesson. Comical illustrations show how the fish rapidly outgrows its bowl, a vase, a cook pot, and a bathtub.

*A River Dream*

Allen Say, 1988

**Grades:** 1-3

**Summary:** Breathtaking color illustrations complement this fun tale of Mark, a boy whose dreams merge with reality as he lies in bed with a fever and opens a prize box from an uncle. Mayflies flutter out of the box and Mark follows them outdoors to find a river has replaced his street. He climbs into a boat. Rowing, he sees his uncle fishing, joins him, catches magnificent trout in the shallow waters, and faces a tough choice. Should he keep the trout or release it and leave the river as he found it?

*Fish Watching with Eugenie Clark*

Michael Elsohn Ross, Wendy Smith, 2000

**Grades:** 3-6

**Summary:** This book describes the life and career of ichthyologist Eugenie Clark, who began her research by observing freshwater aquarium fishes before undertaking an underwater study of sharks and other marine animals. The book includes observation tips and related activities.

*Fishing*

Ann Love, Jane Drake, Pat Cupples, 2002

**Grades:** 2-5

**Summary:** The America at Work series introduces young children to the people, equipment, and environmental concerns involved in two leading resource-based industries. Fishing explains how fish farmers in Maine raise salmon and halibut, and traces the fascinating life journey of a wild salmon in Alaska. In Mining, kids explore an underground mine, a surface coalmine, and an oil-drilling site. Combining fact and fiction with colorful illustrations, these stories deliver lessons about appreciating and protecting natural resources.

*For a Living*

George Travis, 1998

**Grades:** 3-5

**Summary:** This introduction to commercial fishing includes information on boats and equipment, the dangers of pollution and overfishing, selling the catch, the nutritional value of fish, and laws governing commercial fishing.

*Loon Lake Fishing Derby*

Kathleen Cook Walden, Dean Griffiths, 1999

**Grades:** K-3

**Summary:** Wally goes into business selling worms. When his friends also enter the bait business, problems arise as everyone digs up all the gardens for worms. Then the fish take the bait without being caught.

*Lord of the Deep*

Graham Salisbury, 2003

**Grades:** 3-6

**Summary:** Working for his stepfather on a charter fishing boat in Hawaii teaches thirteen-year-old Mikey about fishing, taking risks, making sacrifices, and facing some of life's difficult choices.

*The Magic School Bus Goes Upstream*

Joanna Cole

**Grades:** 2-5

**Summary:** "It says here that some animals that migrate travel thousands of miles!" said Dorothy Ann. Travel with Ms. Frizzle on the Magic School Bus to learn about salmon migration.

*The Shape of Betts Meadow*

Meghan Nuttall Sayres, Joanne Friar, 2002

**Grades:** PreK-3

**Summary:** This picture-book account of the renewal of a dry meadow in Washington State begins when a local doctor decides to purchase the land and restore it to its original wetland state. Watercolor illustrations show the doctor first mapping the area from the air to establish where streams once flowed, and working with heavy equipment to dig holes for ponds. Other illustrations show the gradual return of birds, fish, frogs, and large mammals.

*Chapter 5: Fishing Equipment & Skills**Buck Wilder's Small Fry Fishing Guide*

Tim Smith and Mark Herrick, 1995

**Grades:** PreK-4

**Summary:** A factual book with cartoon-like illustrations. The authors tell you everything you need to know about catching common game fish, including where to find them.

*Fishing Day*

Andrea Pinkney, Shane W. Evans, 2003

**Grades:** K-4

**Summary:** Reenie and her mom are having fun and great success fishing in Jim Crow River, while Peter and his father are fishing for food and have nothing to show for it. Distanced by race and fear of change, Reenie and Peter watch each other surreptitiously, but their parents firmly prevent their interaction. When Peter is left alone for a few moments, Reenie takes the opportunity to help him.



*Freshwater Fish and Fishing*

Jim Arnosky, 1982

**Grades:** 3-6

**Summary:** This accurately illustrated book about freshwater fish and fishing skills provides hands-on activities and excellent information on where to find fish.

*Go Fish*

Mary Stolz, Pat Cummings, 1991

**Grades:** 1-3

**Summary:** Eight-year-old Thomas and his grandfather go fishing in the Gulf of Mexico. Grandfather is a collector of shells, petrified wood, and even sandstone containing fossil fish. In Chapter 2, their fishing gear is listed, including a record book for noting large specimens caught. They observe herons, pelicans, minnows, and jellyfish, as well as the blowfish, flounder, and other fish they seek. Back at Grandfather's, they share a card game of Go Fish! and an African folk tale. The book provides a wonderful model of friendship between generations and affirms the value of observing and questioning the world around us. The regional focus is refreshing, offering African-American characters in a non-urban setting.

*Gone Fishing*

Earlene Long, Richard Eric Brown 1984.

**Grades:** PreK-2

**Summary:** In this 180-word book, a child leaves a note for Mom on the refrigerator and is thrilled about planning a fishing day with Dad.

*Island of the Loons*

Dayton O Hyde, 1984

**Grades:** 4-7

**Summary:** This book tells the captivating and exciting adventure of Jimmy, an orphan who is captured by a convict and taken to an uninhabited island in Lake Superior where they fend together during the winter. Jimmy senses the convict's unfamiliarity with wilderness and realizes that, the more useful he is, the greater his chances of survival. Wetland settings described include sphagnum mosses and leatherleaf bogs. Jimmy's resourcefulness extends to creating brews from wetland plants such as pitcher plants, cattails, and lady's slippers.

*Lost Island: Isle Royale Fishing*, Minnesota's Twentieth Century: Stories of Extraordinary Everyday People

D. J. Tice, 1999

**Grades:** 3-6

**Summary:** An interesting and true story on pages 103-111 describes the family of famed artist Howard Sivertson fishing on Isle Royale and discusses fishing as a business.

*Today, I'm Going Fishing With My Dad*

N. L. Sharp, 1993

**Grades:** K-2

**Summary:** In this humorous book for readers aged five through eight, a boy doesn't like to fish or camp due to buzzing insects, wiggly worms, and smelly fish. But he does enjoy being with his father, so he goes along.

*Where the Big Fish Are*

Jonathan London, Adam Gustavson, 2001

**Grades:** 1-4

**Summary:** Two young boys refuse to give up when a fierce storm almost destroys their attempt to build a raft to take them "where the big fish are."

*Chapter 6: Safety & the Fishing Trip**The Broken Blade*

William Durbin, 1998

**Grades:** 3-6

**Summary:** Thirteen-year-old Pierre is the son of a voyageur, one of the French-Canadian canoemen who plied the fur trade in Canada during the past two centuries. The bulk of the novel concerns the Pierre's first canoe trip to the wilderness outpost of Grand Portage. The work is grueling and the food monotonous, but the men enjoy a rough camaraderie and savor the natural beauty that surrounds them. Middle school students will be attracted to this enjoyable, fast-moving story.

*Chasing Bears*

Earl Fleck, 1999

**Grades:** 5-8

**Summary:** Twelve-year-old Danny Forester is apprehensive as he embarks on a week-long canoe trip with his father and college-aged brother near the Minnesota-Canada border. While the three of them share great experiences fishing, canoeing, and camping, they also face threatening weather, dangerous waterfalls, and aggressive bears.

*Chasing Fire*

Earl Fleck, 2002

**Grades:** 5-8

**Summary:** This book is an enthralling young adult novel about thirteen-year-old Danny Forester, who sets out with his family for a grand canoe adventure. But in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, a deadly forest fire places all lives in jeopardy and forces them to make harsh choices in this gripping, highly-recommended adventure.

*Ely Echoes*

Bob Cary, 2000

**Grades:** 3 and up

**Summary:** Chapters of interest include: “There’s Nothing Wrong with a Fish Dinner” (a true canoeing story that observes autumn beauty and ends with a fish supper); “Speckled Trophies of Tiny Brooks” (trout-catching strategies revealed in a setting near Isabella, Minnesota); and “Some Thoughts on Fishing” (the author fishes with children aged five to fifteen).

*Fish*

Elizabeth A. Clark, John Yates, 1990

**Grades:** 1-4

**Summary:** This book discusses the role of fish in history and how they’re caught, processed, and prepared for food.

*Fish, Volume 3*

Jillian Powell

**Grades:** 3-5

**Summary:** This book describes how people have used fish as food throughout history, the ways in which fish have been raised and prepared, and the nutritional value of fish. The book includes recipes for baked haddock and shrimp-filled baked potatoes.

*Fishing*

Lisa Klobuchar

**Grades:** 3-6

**Summary:** Part of the fun of fishing is the mystery. As your line disappears into the water, you try to imagine what’s going on under the surface. Is your hook and bait just dangling unnoticed in deep water? Or is a hungry fish eyeing it and getting ready to snap it up?

*Hatchet*

Gary Paulsen, 1988

**Grades:** 6-12

**Summary:** After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian must survive alone in the Canadian wilderness. He slowly learns how to provide shelter, fire, and food for himself. By following some birds to a bush full of berries, he learns how valuable it is to observe the animals around him and adapt to his new environment. In several parts of the story, Brian is plagued with clouds of mosquitoes, but devises ways to avoid them. He also learns about fish as he works on catching some for food.

*Kid’s Incredible Fishing Stories*

Shaun Morey, editor; Elwood Smith, 1996

**Grades:** 3-6

**Summary:** The author of *Incredible Fish Stories* turns his attention to young anglers who have their own stories to tell. Each tale, verified by Morey, works both as exciting entertainment and as a you-can-do-it-too lesson for kids who are just starting to take their fishing—and reading about fishing—seriously.

*My Side of the Mountain*

Jean Craighead George, 2001

**Grades:** 2 and up

**Summary:** Sam Gribley is terribly unhappy living in New York City with his family, so he runs away to the Catskill Mountains to live in the woods—all by himself. With only a penknife, a ball of cord, forty dollars, and some flint and steel, he intends to survive on his own. Sam learns about courage, danger, and independence during his year in the wilderness, a year that changes his life forever.

*Once Upon an Isle: The Story of Fishing Families*

Howard Sivertson, 1992

**Grades:** 3 and up

**Summary:** This nonfiction book contains beautiful paintings and stories, including: “Winter on the North Shore” (families wait for the ice-out on the lake); “Picking Baits” (a woman helps her husband prepare for a day of picking 500 herring from nets to use for bait); “The Fish House” (a flurry of activity as men and boys pack fish into boxes of ice and grandmother selects fish for supper); and “Emergency Repairs” (a fisherman fears the worst as winds pound his small boat).

*Up North (Outdoor Essays and Observations)*

Sam Cook, Bob Cary, 2003 (reprint)

**Grades:** 3 and up

**Summary:** Organized by time of year, *Up North* describes each season’s pleasures—sled dog racing in winter, hooking a northern pike on the first spring fishing trip, building a summer campfire, watching the aurora borealis in fall. This book is an invitation to explore canoe country through Sam Cook’s eyes and your own.

*Up North at the Cabin*

Marsha Wilson Chall, 1992

**Grades:** 1-5

**Summary:** This book of true recollections of childhood is a Minnesota-based story of a mother observing her children enjoying the birch trees, fishing, swimming, watching moose and other animals, as she did when she was young.

*Winter Rescue*

W. D. Valgarson, Ange Zhang, 1995

**Grades:** PreK-2

**Summary:** While helping his grandfather, an ice fisherman on Lake Winnipeg, Thor spots a man who drives a snowmobile through a weak patch of ice and makes a dramatic attempt to rescue the drowning man.

*Wintering*

William Durbin, 2000

**Grades:** 4-8

**Summary:** Fourteen-year-old Pierre La Page, originally introduced in *The Broken Blade*, works for the North West Company as a voyageur, a member of an expedition that transports goods and furs by canoe. Pierre is realistically depicted as a young man coming of age, who looks to the captain of the expedition as a father figure. Historical and cultural information is nicely woven into the plot, and the story never loses momentum. Scenes that include Pierre and the son of an Ojibwe chief tracking in the forest are nicely written, juxtaposing the beauty and quiet of the natural world with the life created by crew members during their winter stay.