Thank You, Earth: A Love Letter to Our Planet
By April Pulley Sayre

Thank You, Earth: A Love Letter to Our Planet is a beautifully photographed thank you to the many wonders our Earth provides us. Readers will be encouraged to remember the Earth in their actions and to do what they can to protect the planet and be an advocate for conservation.

READ

Before: Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, what do you think this story is about? Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an “I wonder” statement based on the cover illustration.

I wonder what the photographs for each letter represent?

During: Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out “rare words” (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in everyday conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words

- float – something that is able to rest in or on the surface of a fluid
- seaweed – plants that grow in the sea
- jumbles – a mixed up group or mass of things

After: Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Have you ever thought about saying thank you to the Earth?
- What are some of your favorite things to notice when you are out in nature?
- What happens if our water sources become polluted? How would polluted water impact life on Earth?
- Do you think about the quality of the air you breathe? Why is the quality of our air important?
- Have you ever held a ladybug or spider? What do you think their role is on Earth?
- Have you ever noticed a repeating or similar pattern on a leaf, shell or animal?
- What are some of your favorite foods that our Earth grows?
- Do you have any favorite colors that you see in nature? Where do you see those colors?
- Have you ever noticed things that crawl on leaves or buzz on flowers? What is their role here on Earth?
Class Discussion & Activation

As a class, discuss things that you can do together to help protect the Earth. Select one or two from your discussion and put them into action.

Here are a few examples:

Start a “Skip the Straw Day” at your school. Encourage everyone on your campus to skip using a straw and help educate them why this might be something they consider doing every day.

Organize or participate in a local cleanup of a park, beach or lake in your area. Families and friends can join together and really make a difference in just a couple of hours.

Learn about the quality of water and air in your community. Ask your city, or check online for state reports that detail the quality of water and air in your area. Share the facts with others to help facilitate changes if needed.

Plant trees and native plants. Both help shelter and feed birds, butterflies and a lot of other creatures.

If you have a local nature habitat or state park, invite their resource officer to come and share their knowledge and insight to help grow awareness on your campus.

Remember, by working together you can make a change!