

## Teen Reads: Green Fiction

Gilman, David. *Danger Zone: The Devil's Breath*. Doubleday Canada, 2008.

Max's explorer dad is missing in the Namibian desert and his own life has been threatened. When he discovers a clue his father left behind, Max travels to the desert to save his father and get to the bottom of a dangerous plot set in motion by the heartless business owner Shaka Chang. Knowing that his father had discovered secrets about Chang's plan, and knowing that he himself is being hunted down by Chang's people, Max makes an incredible journey through rough terrain, learning from the expertise of locals Koga and Kallie Van Reenen. He must recover his father and stop a major ecological disaster Chang is planning. Non-stop action and adventure with an ecological theme in an exotic locale.



Hughes, Monica. *The Crystal Drop*. HarperCollins Canada, 2005.

It's 2011 and global warming has turned Alberta into a desert. Megan's mother dies in childbirth and her father has deserted them. The young girl is left to care for her younger brother Ian and they set out to try and find an environmentalist community called "Gaia" which their uncle had settled years before. Megan, wearing her mother's crystal drop necklace, guides her young brother through a dangerous desert where survivalist groups guard their water with attack dogs and guns. In navigating this world turned ruthless, Megan and Ian grow closer. Readers learn from an older couple who nurse Megan back to health the story of the history of the region and how it collapsed. This scary sci-fi story, which ultimately ends on a hopeful note, will get young people thinking about the real value of water.

Hiaasen, Carl. *Hoot*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2002.

Roy is new to Florida and has attracted the attention of the school bully. But once he takes up with a strange barefoot boy named Mullet Fingers and starts out on a quest to save threatened burrowing owls, his life begins to change. A proposed construction site, soon to be the home of a new restaurant owned by Mother Paula's Pancake House, is going to disrupt the owls. Working with Mullet Fingers and his sister Beatrice, Roy begins to reveal the hypocrisy of the adults in his town and proves that youth really can make a difference. Strong, funny characters guide this adventure story that is sharply critical of an adult world that seems bent on destroying everything in its path. Teens will enjoy this complex and entertaining story. A Newbery Honor Book, 2003.

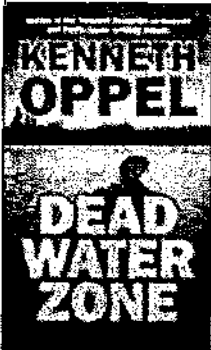


*Green Tip:* At holidays and birthdays, opt to give your family and friends a green gift. Consider donating to their favorite environmental group, foundation, or organization.



## Teen Reads: Green Fiction

Oppel, Kenneth. *Dead Water Zone*. HarperCollins, 2007.



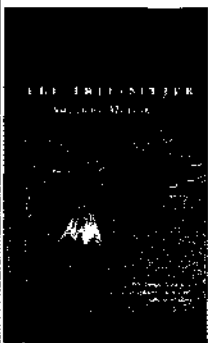
Paul searches for his runaway brother Sam in the dangerous slums of Watertown, an area afflicted by a deadly microorganism in the local lake. There he meets two young people, Monica and Armitage, whose genes have been mutated as a result of their mother's consumption of the filthy lake water. When Paul finally finds brother Sam, who was once a sickly young man, the boy is drastically changed. He has discovered that the toxic microorganism from the lake water can increase physical strength. As Paul witnesses his brother becoming addicted to the transformative lake water, he struggles to save him and come to terms with their relationship. A fast-paced adventure with high-tech and environmental themes. A complex and layered sci-fi adventure which eloquently explores the difficult emotions two brother face during a crisis.

Cowan, Jennifer. *Earthgirl*. Groundwood Books, 2009.

When Sabine confronts a driver who throws leftover junk from a "McFatty meal" out a minivan window at her, her friends post a video of the clash on YouTube. Sabine is quickly caught up in the environmental debate that follows and finds herself transforming into an eco-warrior, quitting her part-time job at the Gap in favour of a job with the local food co-op and devoting her life to earth-friendly practices. Most importantly, she meets the charming Vray Forest, whose music and activism win her over. While she at first makes many positive changes in her life, Vray begins to ask her to do some things that may lead her into danger and Sabine has to make some tough decisions. This story, told partly in blog format, is steeped in modern technology and trends reflecting the lives of teens. Earthgirl Sabine will be admired by readers for her conviction and her sharp attitude.



Matson, Suzanne. *The Tree-Sitter: a novel*. WW Norton, 2007.



Julie Prince is a conventional college student and a high achiever. Her mother, a successful lawyer, is encouraging her to spend every waking moment building her resume, but when Julie meets a radical environmental activist and grad student working on the issue of deforestation, her life begins to change dramatically. Under Neil's guidance, she decides to abandon her middle-class life and become a "tree-sitter" — or protester against logging practices — in the Oregon forests. At first life is peaceful and fulfilling in the forest; Julie lives on a platform in an Douglas fir tree that is hundreds of years old and her relationship with Neil is wonderful. But this perfect life doesn't last for long. Despite Julie's growing love for activism and environmentalism, she must struggle to think for herself when the man she loves moves from activism to illegal acts. A story about love and activism that teens will respond to.



## more Teen Reads: Green Fiction

Gratz, Alan. *Something Rotten*. Dial Books Young Rdrs, 2007.



Horatio Wilkes attempts to solve the murder of his friend's father, and the pollution in Denmark, Tennessee's river isn't the only thing that stinks. Denmark is a mill town in this modern retelling of Shakespeare's classic. Horatio and his friend Hamilton Prince must find the killer but are faced with a number of suspects. Activist Olivia has been after the Prince paper mill for years over the pollution it creates in the local river. Prince's mother Trudy has quickly married her husband's brother Claude following the murder. And then there's Ford F. Branff, Trudy's ex-lover, who wants the Prince mill for himself. Readers will enjoy finding Shakespeare's characters in Gratz's Olivia, Roscoe and Gilbert in this trendy retelling of Hamlet with a modern, eco- twist.

Thomas, Rob. *Green Thumb*. Simon and Schuster, 1999.

Grady Jacobs is a junior-high genius. And he is bored at school, where he always excels in his science experiments, but not in the area of making friends. When he gets a chance to work with a famous scientist, Dr. Carter, in the Brazilian jungle, he is over the moon. Unfortunately, once he arrives, Dr. Carter treats him badly, and saddles him with chores. When Grady does find time to himself, he discovers that the trees use a hidden language to communicate with each other. He also discovers that while Dr. Carter is seemingly working with the support of local native peoples and American people funding his research, he is in fact filling the rainforest with poisonous, genetically engineered trees. Can a junior high student take on the scheming Carter? With the help of a supernatural force and the support of the Native Urah-Wau Tribe, he can.



Speaking of books, here are some publishers and book lists that are going green:

The Green Press Initiative supports green publishers at <http://www.greenpressinitiative.org/>

The Pickering Public Library offers an Eco-Fiction booklist for last year's environmentalism summer reading club at <http://www.picnet.org/node/1649>

YALSA's 2010 booklists suggests titles to "Change Your World" at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/popularpaperback/nominations.cfm#change>

Libraries Unlimited offers a Crash Course in Teen Services Workshop. Details are available at <http://lu.com/crashcourse/teen.cfm>

