

## Nature Books for Children

**Grandparents, parents—give gifts that will encourage future environmentalists.**

### **An Environmental Classic**

**Seuss, Dr., 1971 THE LORAX, Random House, NY.** A wonderfully rhymed tale of the demise of Swomee-Swans, Humming-fish, Barba-loots and the Truffula trees due to people's greed. Also available in video.

Although written in 1971, The Lorax tells what could happen to Calaveras County's forests in the coming years: A timber company clearcuts land to make a bigger profit "I had to grow bigger. So bigger I got. I biggered my factory. I biggered my roads. I biggered my wagons. I biggered the loads. I went right on biggering...and I biggered my money, which everyone needs."

The Lorax speaks for the trees, "for the trees have no tongues" and pleads for a healthy habitat. The company owner shouts back: "Business is business.... All you do is yap-yap, Bad! Bad! Bad! Bad. Well, I have my rights, sir, and I'm telling you I intend to go on doing just what I do!"

The final words: "Plant a new Truffula. Treat it with care. Give it clean water. And feed it fresh air. Grow a forest."

### **Other Recommendations**

**Baylor, Byrd, 1976 THE WAY TO START A DAY and ANOTHER WAY TO LISTEN, Charles Scribner's Sons, NY.** Two beautiful books that teach children how to be in touch with the earth.

**Cooney, Barbara, 1982 MISS RUMPHIUS, Penguin Putnam Books, NY.**

When Alice was a little girl her grandfather told her she must do something to make the world more beautiful. When she was old, she planted lupines everywhere and became known as the Lupine Lady.

**Gill, Shelley & Sharon Cartwright, 1997 THE LAST AMERICAN RAIN FOREST, Sasquatch Books, Seattle.** The Tongass is an intact **Gill, Shelley & Sharon Cartwright, 1997 THE LAST AMERICAN**wilderness ecosystem

undisturbed for the last 5000 years. Some of the ancient old growth trees are more than 800 years old. The authors ask us to keep this last Alaskan rainforest from road building, clearcut logging, and development.

**Luenn, Nancy, 1995 MOTHER EARTH, Aladdin Paperbacks, NY.** Reminds us that we must use her gifts well and return them with respect and love.

**Parnall, Peter, 1971 THE MOUNTAIN, Doubleday, Garden City, NY.** A good book to read after lunch on top of a hill or in an open field. Be sure all children can see illustrations. It tells a story of what happens when a wilderness area is turned into a park and non-caring people keep coming and coming!

**Peet, Bill, 1970 THE WUMP WORLD, Houghton Mifflin, NY.** The Wumps lived in peace until the Pollutians from the planet Pollutas took over, and then....

**Rose, Deborah Lee, 1990 THE PEOPLE WHO HUGGED THE TREES, Roberts Rinehart, Niwot, CO.** This legend tells about Amrita Devi and several hundred villagers in India who gave up their lives protecting their forest nearly three centuries ago.

**Silverstein, Shel, 1964 THE GIVING TREE, Harper & Row.** Excellent to read after lunch. Discuss who ate what part of a tree for lunch? Who is sitting in the tree's shade? Who used a tree to carry lunch? What if we chopped down all the trees in sight to make paper? Who knows how to save a tree?

### **For Teachers, Parents and Outdoor Educators**

**Carson, Rachel, 1965 THE SENSE OF WONDER, Harper & Row.** Words and pictures to help you keep alive your own childhood sense of wonder and renew your delight in the mysteries of earth, sea and sky.

**Cornell, Joseph Bharat, 1979 SHARING NATURE WITH CHILDREN, Ananda Publications, Nevada City, CA.** A delightful book for "those who experience nature's inspiring, transforming moments and who desire to share with others their love for the natural world."