



Teaching Notes & Resources

Key Stage 2-3

Themes: The Environment | Activism | Inspirational Figures | Biographies

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SCAN ME

INTRODUCING THE TOPIC!

Celebrate the eco-heroes around the world building a better tomorrow.

Eco Stories for Those Who Dare to Care is the perfect introduction to environmentalism and the world-changing lives that have fought for our planet's future. From Greta Thunberg to David Attenborough, Rachel Carson to Wangari Maathai, activists of all ages, from all corners of the planet, will inspire readers to think and take action on the most important issues of our era.

Answer the following questions in preparation for learning about the themes and ideas introduced in the book: *Eco Stories for Those Who Dare to Care*.

- What are some of the current issues facing the environment today?
- Which of these environmental issues interest you most? Why?
- What is 'climate change'? Do you see any of the effects of climate change in your local area?
- Can you name any famous environmental activists?
- Who inspires you to learn more about the environment?

KEY TERMS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS

Before you read *Eco Stories for Those Who Dare to Care*, create a glossary of key vocabulary and environmental terms. Find a starter list below; add more words to your glossary as you read.

Environmentalism; Eco-Warrior; Deforestation; Climate Change; Conservationist; Fossil fuels; Global Warming; Greenhouse Effect; Pollution; Recycling; Ecosystem; Plastic; Pollution.

CHALLENGE!

Create an 'Eco Friendly Alphabet' – an A-Z of environmental terms! See if you can think of a term for every letter of the alphabet. You might also want to include famous climate activists, inspirational figures, environmental issues or endangered species.

Design your A-Z on a large sheet of A3 paper; you can draw different pictures to represent each letter. Alternatively, complete this challenge as a class, with each member of the class choosing a different letter to focus on.



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PEEK INSIDE: CASE STUDY – GRETA THUNBERG

Read page 7 in which we learn more about a very famous climate activist, Greta Thunberg.
Before you start reading: what do you already know about Greta Thunberg? Have you ever seen her on the news, on social media, or in books about the environment?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Where was Greta born? How old is she?
2. Why did Greta skip school to protest outside the Swedish Parliament in 2018?
3. What did Greta continue to do every Friday? What was the impact of this?
4. Where does Greta speak regularly? What sorts of things does she speak about?
5. ***“I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if our house is on fire. Because it is.”*** What does Greta mean by this? What is her message to the world?
6. How can you take inspiration from Greta to follow in her footsteps?

CHALLENGE!

In the book we meet over twenty world-changing activists who have fought for our planet's future. Choose another of these activists. Create an illustrated portrait of your chosen activist along with a short summary.

The summary should include: brief biographical information; any issues the activist is passionate about; how the activist has changed the world; and why the activist inspires you.



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REFLECTION ACTIVITIES

- Consider why so many people care about our planet. Why is it a place worth looking after? Write a poem entitled *Why I Dare to Care*, inspired by the stories you have read in the book.
- What everyday things can you do to become an Eco Warrior? Create a diary of actions (e.g. eat vegetarian food; avoid plastics; recycle; cycle or walk to school; rewild a local green space; check for sustainability labels on packaging; donate old clothes; turn lights out... can you think of more?). What are the impacts of each of these actions?
- Decide on an environmental issue that you feel especially passionate about. On a large piece of paper, write your chosen issue in the centre of the page. Draw a circle around your chosen issue; in it, write a list of ways that you can become an activist for your issue at home. Then, draw a larger circle, this time write how you can become an activist for your issue at school. Draw three more circles: one for the local community, the country, and finally the world. Can you see how your actions might start small, but end up very big?
- Create a school campaign to raise awareness of your chosen environmental issue. You might want to include posters and presentations to help persuade your audience that your chosen issue is very important
- Identify any inspirational quotes or ideas that you have read in *Eco Stories for Those Who Dare to Care*. Use them to create a classroom display to remind you to become an activist of the future!



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