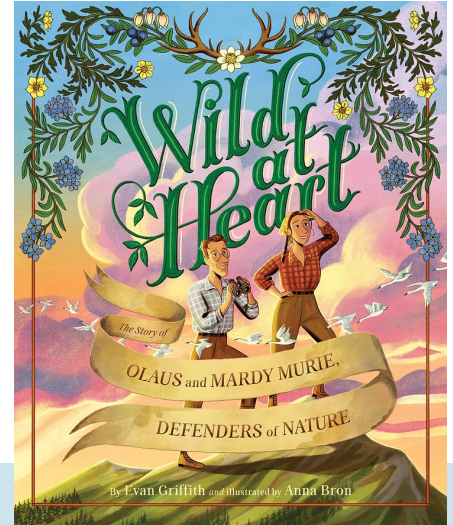


EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

Activities, tools & resources for learning with this book!



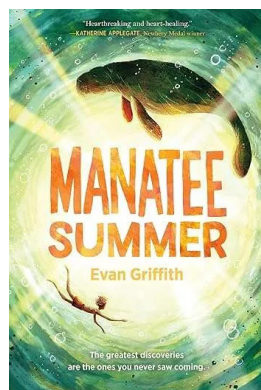
Meet Evan Griffith

Evan Griffith is an award-winning author who studied creative writing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and received his MFA in Writing for Children at the Vermont College of Fine Arts where he now serves as faculty. He often teaches writing classes and enjoys mentoring writers of all ages. He lives in Austin, Texas with a mischievous tuxedo cat and several overflowing bookshelves.

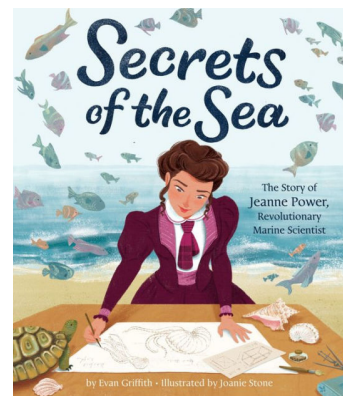
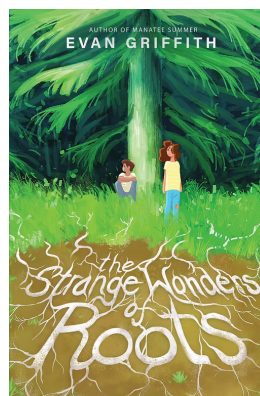
Learn more about Evan [ONLINE](#).

Read more from Evan:

Click the Explore More Book Guide icon below selected titles to view its resources on our website.



EXPLORE
MORE BOOK
GUIDE



EXPLORE
MORE BOOK
GUIDE

EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

LET'S BEGIN!

Before reading the book...

Use the Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) below to orient readers, and to help guide a group discussion. Begin by taking a quiet moment to look closely at the book jacket, allowing time for observation and contemplation of the images.

- What is going on in this picture?
- What do you see that makes you say that? (provide evidence)
- What more can we find?

Watch this [VIDEO](#) for a quick VTS demo. If you have any questions please email Alison Johnson at Island Readers & Writers, ajohnson@islandreadersandwriters.org.

LET'S BUILD BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE!

What knowledge and experiences will help students better understand these texts?

Before reading, explore vocabulary through discussion and activities to help students build understanding and prepare for the texts.

- Conservationist
- Radical
- Environment
- Refuges
- Allies
- Biologist
- Data
- Resources
- Glaciers
- Kaleidoscope
- Generation
- Politicians
- Telegram
- Legacy

Try These Activities!

- **Act-it-Out-** Act it out.
- **Quick Sketch-** Draw the meaning.
- **Guess the Word-** Give clues.
- **Vocabulary Hunt-** Find words in text.
- **Word Map-** Connect ideas.
- **Word Builder-** Draw • Define • Use.

STANDARDS

Covered throughout this
Explore More Book Guide:

SL.1. Prepare for and participate in conversations across a range of topics, types, and forums, building on others' ideas and expressing their own.

SL.2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

SL.3. Present information and supporting evidence appropriate to task, purpose, and audience so listeners can follow the line of reasoning and incorporate multimedia when appropriate.

R.4. Read various texts closely to determine what each text explicitly says and to make logical inferences; cite specific textual evidence to support conclusions drawn from the texts.

R.5. Provide an accurate summary of various texts; determine the central idea(s) or theme(s) and analyze its development throughout each text.

R.6. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

R.8. Analyze the structure of various texts, including how the features and components relate to each other and the whole.

R.9. Assess how perspective or purpose shapes the content and style of various texts.

A2. Literary Texts

Earth and Space Sciences

Life Science

LET'S TALK!

Discussion Questions

1. On the first page, both Mardy and Olaus share their thoughts about nature. How do you feel about the natural world, and what place do you think you have in it?

EXTENSION: Write your own nature statement and frame it with an illustrated border inspired by the outdoors.

2. In the dedication, Evan writes, “*For the next generation of conservationists, drawing inspiration from the past while forging new trails into the future.*” How do the events and people from the past help shape the present in this book?

3. Throughout the book, illustrator Anna Bron uses the **gutter** to connect the stories of the two explorers. As you read, what do you notice about the way the gutter is used? Discuss your observations.

Gutter: the empty space or inner margin where two facing pages meet near the spine.

4. Why are biographies important? Do they help you better understand or become more interested in a person's story? After reading the back matter to learn more about Olaus and Margaret, discuss what you discovered. **EXTENSION:** Write a biography about yourself.

LET'S CREATE!

Book-Inspired Art

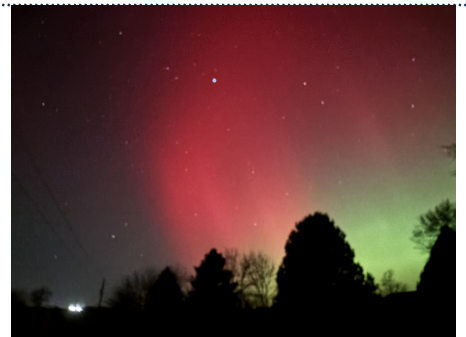
Create an Aurora Borealis Nightlight:

Materials Needed:

- Clear mason jar
- Water
- Glow-in-the-dark paint (green, blue, and purple)
- Fine iridescent glitter
- Spoon for stirring

Directions:

1. **Prepare the Jar:** Fill a clear mason jar about 3/4 full with water.
2. **Add Paint:** Add a few tablespoons of glow-in-the-dark paint in shades of green, blue, and purple. Stir until the paint is evenly mixed into the water.
3. **Add Glitter:** Sprinkle in a small amount of fine iridescent glitter to create a sparkling effect, like stars in the night sky.
4. **Seal & Charge:** Secure the lid tightly. Place the jar in a bright, well-lit area to charge the glow-in-the-dark paint. Once charged, take it into a dark room and enjoy your glowing aurora-inspired nightlight!



Watch this [VIDEO](#) to learn what an aurora is and discover the beautiful colors and patterns these natural light displays create in the sky.

Follow these **STEPS** to create and color your own Aurora. Use this example as inspiration.



Make Your Own Constellation:

Directions:

1. Use a pencil to draw the outline of your own constellation on a piece of dark-colored paper. Your constellation can be an animal, a person, or any other recognizable shape.
Note: Keep your design simple, as curved lines can be more difficult to create.
2. Use a push pin to carefully poke holes along the outline of your drawing.
3. Turn off the lights and shine a flashlight behind your design to project your constellation onto a wall. If you can't darken the room, tape your design to a window and let the sunlight shine through to reveal your constellation.

Teacher Tip: Display students' constellations by taping them to classroom windows. As sunlight shines through the holes, your classroom will be transformed into a sky filled with student-created constellations!

Check out the constellation activity on page 3 of IRW's *Skywatcher* **[EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE](#)**.

Research Projects:

Plan your Adventure

Is there a place you've always dreamed of visiting? Choose a destination and research what makes it unique. Include information about its:

- Geography
- Climate
- Culture
- Landmarks and attractions
- Wildlife or natural features
- Any other interesting facts

Next, plan the details of your trip. Consider:

- How will you get there?
- Where will you stay?
- What will you pack?
- What activities will you do?

Art Extension:

Share your research by creating a travel brochure, a slideshow, or a series of journal entries documenting your adventure.

Animal Investigation

Choose an animal you would like to learn more about. Research its habitat, diet, behavior, adaptations, and any other interesting facts. Then, create a nature journal inspired by Olaus and Mardy's journey. Include illustrations, photographs, or magazine cutouts along with your research and observations.

Creative Writing

Write a letter to your future self describing the kind of world you hope to live in when you're older. Share what you love about the natural world, any concerns you have for the future, why those concerns matter to you, and what positive changes you hope to see.

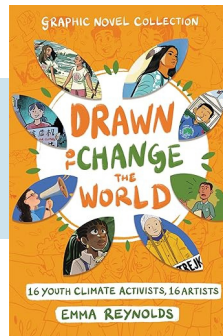
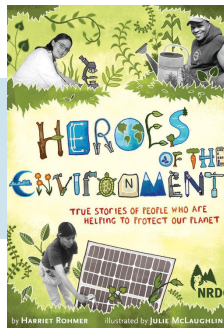
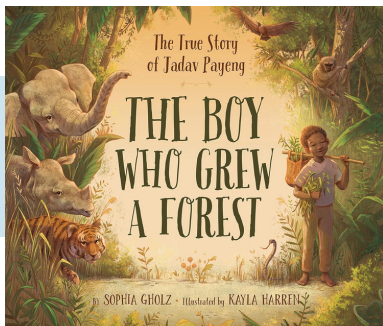
LET'S DIVE DEEPER!

Explore More

- What is a **conservationist**? Learn how conservationists help protect nature, the ways they create positive change, and how you can make a difference in your own backyard.
- Explore the publisher's **TEACHER'S GUIDE** for additional vocabulary, discussion questions, and engaging activities.

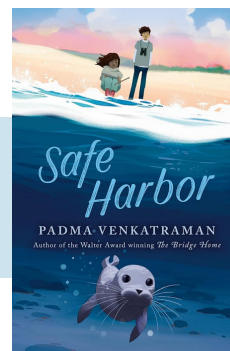
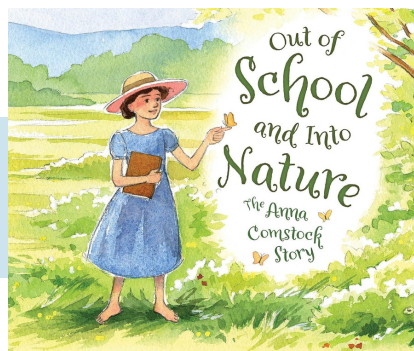
LET'S READ MORE!

Text to Text Connections



Click logo for
book resources

EXPLORE
MORE BOOK
GUIDE



Click logo for
book resources

EXPLORE
MORE BOOK
GUIDE

