

# 2024-2025 AP Environmental Science Book Report

## 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Project (optional summer)

This project may be completed over the summer to decrease students' workload during the school year. If the project is not completed over the summer, students will be required to complete it during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter (for fall semester students) or the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter (for spring semester students).

Choose **one** of the following books. If you are unsure of which book would interest you, they can be easily researched at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). There are a limited number of books available from the APES room (316) and the school and public libraries also have several copies of these books. However, it may be necessary for you to purchase one.

The Product: Write a short paragraph summarizing each chapter. Label each chapter clearly at the beginning of each summary paragraph. The entire report should be **2,000 words minimum** regardless of the number of chapters (ie. **books with more chapters should have smaller chapter summaries while books with less chapters will have larger summaries**). This will be submitted to Canvas as a google document with history intact by the announced due date. A culminating activity will also be completed in class.

Final thoughts: A few of these books bring up the topics of spirituality or minor instances of human sensuality or foul language within the context of Environmental Science. This is a college level class and the maturity to handle this is assumed.

### APES BOOK REPORT OPTIONS

Bloomberg, Michael and Carl Pope. *Climate of Hope: How Cities, Businesses and Citizens Can Save the Planet*. 2017. ISBN#978-1250142078  
(this book has 16 chapters including a Preface)

Carson, Rachel. *Silent Spring*. 1962. ISBN#978-0618249060  
(this book has 18 chapters including an Introduction)

Corwin, Jeff. *100 Heartbeats: The Race to Save Earth's Most Endangered Species*. 2010.  
ISBN#978-1605294148  
(this book has 8 chapters including an Introduction)

Kimmerer, Robin Wall. *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*. 2013. ISBN#978-1571311771  
(this book has 33 chapters including a Preface and Epilogue)

Knecht, G. Bruce. *Hooked: Pirates, Poaching and the Perfect Fish*. 2006. ISBN#978-1594866944  
(this book has 25 chapters including an Epilogue)

Preston, Richard. *The Wild Trees: A Story of Passion and Daring*. 2007. ISBN#978-0812975598  
(this book has 28 chapters)

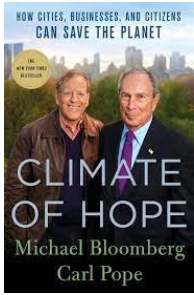
Quinn, Daniel. *My Ishmael*. 1997. ISBN#978-0553379655  
(this book has 36 chapters)

Wilson, Edward O. *Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life*. 2016. ISBN#978-1631490828  
(this book has 22 chapters including a Prologue)

Browse below to choose a book you will enjoy...

**Bloomberg, Michael and Carl Pope. *Climate of Hope: How Cities, Businesses and Citizens Can Save the Planet*. 2017. ISBN#978-1250142078**

**What Amazon says**



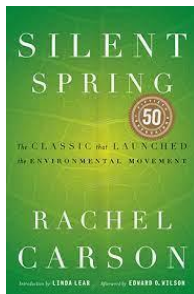
In *Climate of Hope*, Bloomberg and Pope offer an optimistic look at the challenge of climate change, the solutions they believe hold the greatest promise, and the practical steps that are necessary to achieve them. Writing from their own experiences, and sharing their own stories from government, business, and advocacy, Bloomberg and Pope provide a road map for tackling the most complicated challenge the world has ever faced. Along the way, they turn the usual way of thinking about climate change on its head: from top down to bottom up, from partisan to pragmatic, from costs to benefits, from tomorrow to today, and from fear to hope.

**What Mr. Rush says**

Tired of climate change doom and gloom? Written by a former Republican mayor and a former Sierra Club Democrat, this book provides practical solutions to climate change that can begin to be implemented today.

**Carson, Rachel. *Silent Spring*. 1962. ISBN#978-0618249060**

**What Amazon says**



Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* is now 35 years old. Written over the years 1958 to 1962, it took a hard look at the effects of insecticides and pesticides on songbird populations throughout the United States, whose declining numbers yielded the silence to which her title attests. "What happens in nature is not allowed to happen in the modern, chemical-drenched world," she writes, "where spraying destroys not only the insects but also their principal enemy, the birds. When later there is a resurgence of the insect population, as almost always happens, the birds are not there to keep their numbers in check." The publication of her impeccably reported text helped change that trend by setting off a wave of environmental legislation and galvanizing the nascent ecological movement. It is justly considered a classic, and it is well worth rereading today.

**What Ms. Magee says**

This is often considered the most important environmental book of all time and a "must read" for environmentalists. It can be dry and repetitive, but the things you learn from this book will help you throughout the course. It is always a good book to refer back to when taking the AP Exam.

**Corwin, Jeff. *100 Heartbeats: The Race to Save Earth's Most Endangered Species*. 2010. ISBN#978-1605294148**



**What Amazon says**

Popular television host Jeff Corwin takes readers on a gripping journey around the world to meet the animals threatened by extinction. It's no secret that our planet is in crisis. Environmental threats such as climate change, pollution, habitat loss, and land degradation threaten the survival of thousands of plant and animal species. In *100 Heartbeats*, Jeff Corwin provides an urgent portrait of the wildlife teetering on the brink. From the forests slipping away beneath the stealthy paws of the Florida panther, to the giant panda's plight to climb ever higher in the mountains of China, Corwin takes you on

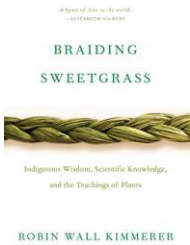
a global tour to witness firsthand the critical state of our natural world. Along the way, he shares inspiring stories of battles being waged and won by the conservationists on the front lines of defense. The race to save the planet's most endangered wildlife is under way. Every heartbeat matters.

### **What Mr. Rush says**

An easy-to-read book by a well-known conservationist that describes the fight to save endangered species. It can be depressing, but does offer solutions and success stories as well.

## **Kimmerer, Robin Wall. *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants.* 2013. ISBN#978-1571311771**

### **What Amazon says**



As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Kimmerer brings these two lenses of knowledge together to take us on "a journey that is every bit as mythic as it is scientific, as sacred as it is historical, as clever as it is wise". In reflections that range from the creation of Turtle Island to the forces that threaten its flourishing today, she circles toward a central argument: that the awakening of ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. For only when we can hear the languages of other beings

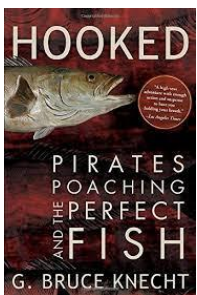
will we be capable of understanding the generosity of the earth, and learn to give our own gifts in return.

### **What Ms. Magee says**

This book does a phenomenal job examining both the academic view of the natural world and the indigenous view. There are so many APES concepts in this book that you'll find yourself referring back to its examples throughout the entire class.

## **Knecht, G. Bruce. *Hooked: Pirates, Poaching and the Perfect Fish.* 2006. ISBN#978-1594866944**

### **What Amazon says**



The Patagonian toothfish—which can live up to 50 years and grow to six feet long—is an ugly creature considered too bland for eating by most South Americans. Its high fat content, codlike texture and lack of a fishy taste convinced a Los Angeles fish merchant who found the toothfish in Chile in 1977 that, given an exotic new name, it would do quite well in America. By 1998, "Chilean sea bass" had become the hottest restaurant craze: "[e]veryone had to have it." Knecht (*The Proving Ground*) weaves a parallel plot, which takes place in the South Indian Ocean in 2003, where an Australian patrol boat is hunting down a pirate vessel for stealing toothfish. The chase takes them thousands of nautical

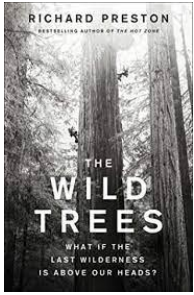
miles away to dangerous Antarctic waters and involves South African mercenaries and a dramatic boarding in dangerous seas. Knecht's gripping book flips between the commercial history of the toothfish—just the latest of many culinary fads that end up threatening an ocean species—and the chase, which illuminates the practically lawless world of commercial fishing, where factory boats with vast dragnets can devastate a population in just a couple of years, a practice the author calls "the marine equivalent of strip mining."

### **What Mr. Rush says**

As a Marine Biologist, this is my favorite on the list. The author bounces back-and-forth between a pirate chase and the perils of overfishing, with a focus on the obscure fish known as Chilean Seabass.

**Preston, Richard. *The Wild Trees: A Story of Passion and Daring*. 2007. ISBN#978-0812975598**

**What Amazon says**



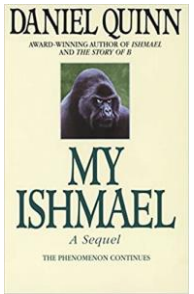
Richard Preston, whose previous nonfiction thrillers include *The Hot Zone* and *The Demon in the Freezer*, takes a botanical detour in *The Wild Trees*. Most critics praised this noteworthy, if somewhat less sensational, effort. Yet while some relished the offbeat characters, the action-packed sequences, and Preston's personal climbing experiences, others found fault with Preston's detailed descriptions of his subjects' personal lives, his overdramatization of mundane stories for effect, and his self-important account of going "native".

**What Ms. Magee says**

Fast in many spots, a little slow in others, this book makes you want to go climb trees – really BIG trees! It's a great tale about regular people that are passionate about trees: playing in them and ultimately saving them.

**Quinn, Daniel. *My Ishmael*. 1997. ISBN#978-0553379655**

**What Amazon says**



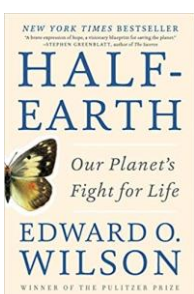
Another irresistible rant from Quinn, a sequel to his Turner Tomorrow Fellowship winner, *Ishmael* (1992), concerning a great, telepathic ape who dispenses ecological wisdom about the possible doom of humankind. Once more, Quinn focuses on the Leavers and Takers, his terms for the two basic, warring kinds of human sensibility. The planet's original inhabitants, the Leavers, were nomadic people who did no harm to the earth. The Takers, who have generally overwhelmed them, began as aggressive farmers obsessed with growth, were the builders of cities and empires, and have now, in the late 20th century, largely run out of space to monopolize. Quinn's books have not featured many memorable characters, aside from *Ishmael*. This time out, though, he invents a lively figure, 12-year-old Julie Gerchak, who is tough and wise beyond her years, having had to deal with a self-destructive, alcoholic mother. Julie responds to *Ishmael's* ad seeking a pupil with an earnest desire to save the world (a conceit carried over from the earlier novel). Once again, the gentle ape shares his wisdom in a series of questions and answers that resemble, in method, a blend of the Socratic dialogues and programmed learning.

**What Mr. Rush says**

This is a concurrent story to *Ishmael* (The first in the series, which is not needed to understand this book), and this one is about the telepathic gorilla teaching a 12-year-old girl. The environmental ideas are not as fleshed out in this one, but the story is a little better.

**Wilson, Edward O. *Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life*. 2016. ISBN#978-1631490828**

**What Amazon says**



Edward O. Wilson possesses a rare, almost unique, combination of immense scientific knowledge and deep humane intelligence. Looking around him at the beloved natural world he has done so much to understand and taking the measure of the massive damage to it caused by human stupidity and greed, he has every reason to succumb to despair.

But Half-Earth is not a bitter jeremiad. It is a brave expression of hope, a visionary blueprint for saving the planet.

**What Mr. Rush says**

This book is about the importance of biodiversity on Earth and gives a grand plan to save the Earth's biodiversity from extinction. Written by one of the most important ecologists ever, this book hypothesizes that putting aside half the Earth's surface would save the vast majority of species.