2020 RESOURCE GUIDE

"THE BOOK ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVELS THAT WAS MISSING."
—CHICAGO TRIBUNE

RISING
DISPATCHES from the
NEW AMERICAN SHORE
ELIZABETH RUSH
Welcome to the 18th Year of Reading Across Rhode Island!

Reading Across Rhode Island, the statewide community read, kicks off its 18th year with *Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore* by Elizabeth Rush. Reading Across Rhode Island is a project of the Rhode Island Center for the Book, made possible through a vibrant collaboration of librarians, teachers, book group leaders and readers from across the State. Janet Coit, Director, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and Mark Searles, NBC 10 Chief Meteorologist serve as the program’s Honorary Chairs. Reading Across Rhode Island is a program of the Rhode Island Center for the Book.

The 2020 program runs from January to June with readers in Rhode Island classrooms, libraries, and bookstores joining discussions and participating in lectures, art exhibits, poetry readings and dramatic interpretations focused on this year’s selection.

**GET THE BOOK**
Pick up a copy of Rising at your local public library or bookstore and start up a conversation with your family, friends, coworkers, or even the person sitting next to you as you ride the bus. This is your chance to take a moment to have a great conversation with an old friend or to make a new one.

**JOIN IN**
Join thousands of Rhode Islanders at one of the many book discussions and related programs around the state from January to June.

If you’re out and about, you might find copies of *Rising* in unexpected places. Our wandering books appear in public spaces such as parks, buses, malls and doctor’s offices. If you find a copy, it’s yours for a short time. Register the book online and see how far it travels (instructions are included in the book), read it, review it and release it for someone else to enjoy.
ABOUT THIS YEAR’S BOOK

RISING
DISPATCHES FROM THE NEW AMERICAN SHORE
ELIZABETH RUSH

FINALIST FOR THE PULITZER PRIZE
WINNER OF THE NATIONAL OUTDOOR BOOK AWARD
A GUARDIAN BEST BOOK OF 2018
A CHICAGO TRIBUNE TOP TEN BOOK OF THE YEAR
A LIBRARY JOURNAL BEST BOOK OF 2018
A PUBLISHERS WEEKLY BEST BOOK OF 2018
A LIT HUB ULTIMATE BEST BOOK OF 2018

Hailed as “deeply felt” (New York Times), “a revelation” (Pacific Standard),
and “the book on climate change and sea levels that was missing” (Chicago
Tribune), Rising is both a highly original work of lyric reportage and a
haunting meditation on how to let go of the places we love.

With every passing day, and every record-breaking hurricane, it grows
clearer that climate change is neither imagined nor distant—and that rising
seas are transforming the coastline of the United States in irrevocable ways.
In Rising, Elizabeth Rush guides readers through some of the places where
this change has been most dramatic, from the Gulf Coast to Miami, and
from New York City to the Bay Area. For many of the plants, animals, and
humans in these places, the options are stark: retreat or perish in place.

Weaving firsthand testimonials from those facing this choice—a Staten Islan-
der who lost her father during Sandy, the remaining holdouts of a
Native American community on a drowning Isle de Jean Charles, a neigh-
borhood in Pensacola settled by escaped slaves hundreds of years ago—
with profiles of wildlife biologists, activists, and other members of these
vulnerable communities, Rising privileges the voices of those too often
kept at the margins.
What an incredible honor it is to have RISING chosen as Rhode Island’s One Book, One State community read selection for 2020. Five years ago, my husband and I relocated to the Ocean State, and it is here that I finished writing this book. During that time, the climate crisis has heated up calling us to new conversations about what it means to be a human on planet earth today. I so look forward to sharing RISING and the conversations it will spark with you all.

– Elizabeth Rush

Elizabeth Rush is the author of Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore — which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and winner of the National Outdoor Book Award — and Still Lifes from a Vanishing City: Essays and Photographs from Yangon, Myanmar. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in the Washington Post, Harpers, Guernica, Granta, Orion, and the New Republic, among others. She is the recipient of fellowships and grants including the Howard Foundation Fellowship, awarded by Brown University; the Society for Environmental Journalism Grant; the Metcalf Institute Climate Change Adaptation Fellowship; and the Science in Society Award from the National Association of Science Writers. She lives in Rhode Island, where she teaches creative nonfiction at Brown University.

Elizabeth Rush author website: http://elizabethrush.net/
Elizabeth Rush on Twitter: https://twitter.com/ElizabethaRush
SUGGESTIONS FOR STUDENT RESPONSE

Created by Cynthia Skelton, Chariho High School (Some projects/papers have been aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Look for opportunities to enhance your students’ experience with this novel.)

1. The book opens with quotations by Simone Weil and John Bear Mitchell. What tone does this set and why might have Rush chosen to open the book with these thoughts? Does Rush refer back to these quotations elsewhere in the book? CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.2; CCRA.R.3; CCRA.R.4; CCRA.R.5

2. As a state with a high percentage of coastline, Rhode Island has a lot of tidal wetlands. Over the past 200 years the state has lost more than 50% of its tidal marshes to development. What do Rhode Islanders need to know about the local environment, and what are residents, local governments, and organizations doing to educate locals and deal with the consequences of the loss of these wetlands? CCRA.W.7; CCRA.W.8; CCRA.W.9

3. On page 4 Rush recalls her experience in Bangladesh, where she toured farming land that is 150 miles away from the Bay of Bengal. What effects do rising waters have on inland ecology? CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.3

4. In the opening chapter of this book, Rush describes the tupelo trees of Jacob’s Point in Rhode Island. These trees also seem to serve as a metaphor. Examine Rush’s language about these trees over the course of the chapter and determine what they may be meant to symbolize or show to the reader. CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.2; CCRA.R.4; CCRA.R.5

5. The groundskeeper of Jacob’s Point, Cameron McCormick, describes the accretion process and how that is changing and affecting Jacob’s Point. He says that “It’s a terrifying and wonderful time to do the work I do” (9-10). What do you think he means? How can it be terrifying and wonderful at the same time? CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.6; CCRA.W.9

6. Rush chronicles some of the disagreements among scientists about future predictions, as well as the problems with some of the tools they use to make these predictions. How do disagreements among scientists affect people’s attitudes toward climate change? CCRA.R.6; CCRA.R.8; CCRA.W.9

7. Rush’s writing is descriptive, even poetic. Pick a passage for close reading, noting figurative language and literary devices. CCRA.R.4

8. The chapter titled “Persimmon” (19-45) takes readers to Isle de Jean Chartes, which served as the inspiration for the film Beasts of the Southern Wild, which was also filmed there. Conduct research into this island and how the lives of the people have changed in the last 30 years. Compare this research to the information provided by “Persimmon” and to the film. CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.6; CCRA.R.7; CCRA.W.7; CCRA.W.8; CCRA.W.9

9. The Isle de Jean Chartes was heavily affected by oil companies digging out access routes in the marsh, which were supposed to be backfilled when rigs left but weren’t. What are the legal responsibilities of companies whose activities have deep environmental impacts? What systems do we have in place to hold companies accountable? CCRA.W.7; CCRA.W.8; CCRA.W.9

10. Rush sometimes interjects personal details or experiences that don’t seem
connected to the subject of the chapter; for example on pages 3, 22, 27, and 142. Why do you think she’s included these interludes? What is the effect on the reader? CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.3; CCRA.R.5; CCRA.R.6; CCRA.W.9

11. Rush reports that by 2050 there will be 200 million people who are climate refugees. Examine Rush’s source (see the notes at the back of the book for the citation) and compare this prediction to other predictions about climate refugees. How credible and reliable is this information? CCRA.R.8; CCRA.W.7; CCRA.W.8; CCRA.W.9

12. People have tried to control natural river cycles through dams and locks in order to make settlement easier (29). What are the positive effects of these interventions? What are the negative effects? How do we weigh the benefits with the problems? CCRA.R.1; CCRA.W.7; CCRA.W.8; CCRA.W.9

13. Chris Brunet, who lives on Isle de Jean Chartes, claims that the $13 billion of infrastructure projects designated to protect the Louisiana coast doesn’t include his community because they are Native Americans (31). What role do you think racism plays in projects designed to protect people from the catastrophic effects of sea level rise? CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.3; CCRA.W.9

14. On page 39 Rush uses a simile to compare a community to an organism. Why does she use this simile and what does it help us to understand about the strength of communities and the process of change in a community? CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.2; CCRA.R.3; CCRA.R.4; CCRA.W.9

15. Scientific research cited in the book comes from organizations such as Bates University, the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, and many others. Who is responsible for doing environmental research in the United States, and how is their work funded and shared? What different roles do universities, federal government, local government, nonprofit organizations, and other groups play in funding, generating, and sharing information? CCRA.R.3; CCRA.R.8; CCRA.W.7; CCRA.W.8; CCRA.W.9

16. Some of the chapters in this book depict local people and their observations, while other chapters focus on specific research projects conducted by scientists and professors. How does Rush organize the book to provide access to these different voices and experiences and understandings? Is it effective? CCRA.R.2; CCRA.R.3; CCRA.R.5; CCRA.R.6; CCRA.R.8; CCRA.W.9

17. Throughout this book (i.e. 11-12, 55) assertions are made about global sea levels and what that means for humanity. In an age of pseudo-science, partisan politicization of science, climate change denial, and accusations of climate change hysteria, how can a non-scientist critically evaluate the evidence and weigh competing claims? CCRA.R.8; CCRA.W.9

18. Rush describes several interventions taken by the US Fish and Wildlife service in the saltwater marshes of the East Coast (56-57). Each intervention led to unintended consequences that resulted in new environmental problems. Consider such proposals as seawalls, levees, and hurricane barriers. How can we best evaluate interventions to determine potential consequences on the environment? CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.2; CCRA.W.7; CCRA.W.8; CCRA.W.9

19. On page 58 there is an arresting image of “dead trees sprinkled along the shore like so much confetti.” Explain why Rush may have chosen specific words and this specific simile. CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.4; CCRA.W.9

20. Rush asserts that tidal marshes need space and that this will likely mean relocating
some of seafront communities. However, she also has a lot of empathy for the residents who face losing their homes. How can we balance the importance of taking care of humans with the importance of taking care of the environment? CCRA.R.2; CCRA.R.3; CCRA.W.9

21. On page 66 Rush describes “endsickness,” which is a manifestation of climate anxiety. Watch Greta Thunberg’s speech at the September 2019 United Nations Climate Summit. Does she demonstrate “endsickness?” Do you and your friends have “endsickness?” CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.7; CCRA.W.9; CCRA.SL.3

22. In the chapter titled “Pulse,” Rush intersperses the story of Noah’s flood with a discussion of the work of Harold Wanless. How does Rush’s religious allusion help us interpret and understand Wanless’s message? CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.5; CCRA.W.9

23. Throughout Rising, Rush uses religious allusions, imagery, and language. Find examples of this. Then read Josef Joffe’s provocative piece in Commentary Magazine (October 2019) titled “The Religion of Climatism: A New Faith Emerges.” Consider his arguments in the context of Rush’s reliance on religious references. CCRA.R.4; CCRA.R.6; CCRA.R.7; CCRA.W.9

24. Nicole Hernandez Hammer asserts that “people of color are often the most vulnerable” to climate change (86-88). How does she support this argument, and what kind of policies would address this? CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.3; CCRA.R.8; CCRA.W.9

25. In a conversation with Harold Wanless, Chair of the Geology Department at the University of Miami, Elizabeth Rush considers the Biblical story of Noah (90-97). For the flood that Wanless predicts is upon us, Rush asks: who will get to enter the ark? If we cannot save every person, animal, plant, landscape, etc. from the effects of climate change, how do we choose which things get to board the boat? CCRA.R.3; CCRA.W.9

26. In Part II, the chapter “On Storms” details the story of Nicole Montalto of Staten Island, whose father died in Hurricane Sandy. Although she says that others blame her family because they bought a home in the hazard zone, she blames the developers who build the houses and the city which allows the development of land in hazard zones. What are the responsibilities of cities, developers, and buyers? CCRA.W.9

27. Research the Federal Government Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), which buys homes in hazard areas, demolishes them, and then leaves the land undeveloped in perpetuity (121). How does this program work? What have been the results of this program? Do you think this program should continue? CCRA.W.7; CCRA.W.8; CCRA.W.9

28. The National Flood Insurance program is meant to help homeowners in flood zones. Rush noted several problems with this program that threaten its sustainability (140, 144, 150). What has happened to this program since January 2018, when the book went to press? Did congressional reauthorization (scheduled for March 2018) address any of the core problems identified by Rush? CCRA.R.1; CCRA.W.7; CCRA.W.8; CCRA.W.9

29. On pages 152-155 Rush is contacted by her student, who is being sexually harassed. Rush describes the experiences of other female researchers in the field as well as the inappropriate conduct she herself faced from a colleague. How does she connect these situations to the vulnerable communities facing sea level rise? CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.3; CCRA.R.5; CCRA.R.6
30. The chapter titled “Goodbye” depicts the differing responses of two Isle de Jean Charles residents to the resettlement program offered by HUD (167). What does Chris decide? What about Edison? Which factors help each man make his decision? What do you think you would do in their situation? CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.3; CCRA.W.9

31. Reflect on Rush’s realization that she has become habituated to the idea of extinction, that it has become so common that it no longer astonishes her (192-193). What do we lose when we lose a species? CCRA.R.2; CCRA.W.9

32. In Oregon Rush explores the consequences of a judge’s decision to stop logging in some old-growth forests. The timber jobs that were lost to these communities were replaced by opportunities in the outdoor recreation industry (200-201). Could conservation be a viable solution in other communities as well? Where else has this been tried, and how effective was it in preserving jobs, communities, and the environment? CCRA.W.7; CCRA.W.8; CCRA.W.9

33. Reread the words of Wendell Berry, quoted on page 228. Rush asks a series of rhetorical questions based on Berry’s words. How does Rush answer these questions? How would you answer these questions? CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.2; CCRA.R.3; CCRA.R.5; CCRA.W.9

34. In the chapter “Looking Backward and Forward in Time,” Rush intersperses stories of the efforts to restore wetlands with the stories of Harriet Tubman, Robert Moses, and Robert Oppenheimer. How does she connect these different people, times, and places? CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.3; CCRA.R.5

35. On page 249 Rush says that we cannot stop rising waters, nor can we solve our way out of this problem. Instead, our only choice is to retreat. What is your response to this? CCRA.R.2; CCRA.R.3; CCRA.W.9

36. What conclusions has Rush reached by the end of the book? Do you believe she has made a convincing case for these conclusions, based on the research she has done and the presentation of her argument? CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.2; CCRA.R.3; CCRA.R.8; CCRA.W.9

BOOKS ON RELATED THEMES FOR ADULTS

FICTION
Compiled by Cheryl Stein, Retired Librarian, Rogers Free Library

COASTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE

American War by Omar El Akkad
Sarat Chestnut, born in Louisiana, is only six when the Second American Civil War breaks out in 2074. But even she knows that oil is outlawed, that Louisiana is half underwater, and that unmanned drones fill the sky.

Annihilation by Jeff VanderMeer
Area X has been cut off from the rest of the continent for decades. Nature has reclaimed the last vestiges of human civilization. First of a trilogy.

Depth by Lev AC Rosen
Combines hardboiled mystery and dystopian science fiction in a future where the rising ocean levels have left New York twenty-one stories under water and cut off from the rest of the United States.
Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver
Kingsolver delivers a passionate novel on the effects of global warming.

Mr. Eternity by Aaron Thier
Key West, 2016. Sea levels are rising, coral reefs are dying. In short, everything is going to hell. It’s here that two young filmmakers find something to believe in.

The Rising Sea: A Novel from the NUMA Files by Clive Cussler and Graham Brown
An alarming rise in the world’s sea levels—much larger than could be accounted for by glacier melt—sends Kurt Austin, Joe Zavala, and the rest of the NUMA scientific team rocketing around the globe in search of answers.

The Wall by John Lanchester
Ravaged by the Change, an island nation in a time very like our own has built the Wall—an enormous concrete barrier around its entire coastline. Joseph Kavanagh, a new Defender, has one task: to protect his section of the Wall from the Others, the desperate souls who are trapped amid the rising seas outside and are a constant threat

CATASTROPHIC WEATHER/HURRICANES/STORM

Category 7 by Bill Evans
Hurricane Katrina was a Category 4 when she made landfall. Hurricane Simone is a Category the biggest, strongest storm in recorded history.

Let Me Be Frank with You by Richard Ford
In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, Frank Bascombe travels to the site of his former home on the shore.

Moon Tide by Dawn Tripp
Follows the lives of three women in a small fishing town on the Massachusetts coast, from 1913 to the Great New England Hurricane of 1938.

Yellow Sky, Emerald Sea by Sally Ann Sims
A story honoring the survivors of the hurricane of 1938 in Rhode Island.

NON-FICTION

Compiled by Nicolette Baffoni, Adult Services Coordinator Office of Library & Information Services Rhode Island Department of Administration

Climate Justice: Hope, Resilience, and the Fight for a Sustainable Future by Mary Robinson
At the birth of her first grandchild, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson’s fight for climate change became deeply personal. Her travels led to a heartening revelation: that an irrepressible driving force in the battle for climate justice could be found at the grassroots level, mainly among women, many of them mothers and grandmothers like herself. Now she presents a stirring manifesto on one of the most pressing humanitarian issues of our time, and a lucid, affirmative, and well-argued case for hope.

The Death and Life of the Great Lakes by Dan Egan
The Great Lakes hold 20 percent of the world’s supply of surface fresh water and provide sustenance, work, and recreation for tens of millions of Americans. But they are under threat as never before, and their problems are spreading across the continent. Prize-winning reporter Dan Egan presents a portrait of an ecological catastrophe happening
right before our eyes, blending the epic story of the lakes with an examination of the perils they face and the ways we can restore and preserve them for generations to come.

**The End of Ice: Bearing Witness and Finding Meaning in the Path of Climate Disruption**
by Dahr Jamail

Follow acclaimed journalist Dahr Jamail as he scales Denali, the highest peak in North America, dives in the warm crystal waters of the Pacific only to find ghostly coral reefs, and explores the tundra of St. Paul Island where he meets the last subsistence seal hunters of the Bering Sea and witnesses its melting glaciers. Accompanied by climate scientists and people whose families have fished, farmed, and lived in the areas he visits for centuries, Jamail begins to accept the fact that Earth, most likely, is in a hospice situation. Ironically, this allows him to renew his passion for the planet’s wild places, cherishing Earth in a way he has never been able to before.

**Great Tide Rising: Toward Clarity and Moral Courage in a Time of Planetary Change**
by Kathleen Dean Moore

Philosopher and nature essayist Kathleen Dean Moore asks the essential questions: Why is it wrong to wreck the world? What is our obligation to the future? What is the transformative power of moral resolve? How can clear thinking stand against the lies and illogic that batter the chances for positive change? What are useful answers to the recurring questions of a storm-threatened time – What can anyone do? Is there any hope? And always this: What stories and ideas will lift people who deeply care, inspiring them to move forward with clarity and moral courage?

**Inconspicuous Consumption: The Environmental Impact You Don’t Know You Have**
by Tatiana Schlossberg

As we become a more digital society, the gains that have been made for the environment by moving toward a paperless world with more and more efficient devices will soon be or already have been offset by the number of devices in our lives that are always using energy. But many don’t think about the impact on the environment of the "Internet of things." Whether it’s a microwave connected to the internet, use of Netflix, or online shopping, these technological advances have created new impacts that the people who are most well-versed in these issues haven’t considered. Tatiana Schlossberg reveals the complicated, confounding and even infuriating ways that we all participate in a greenhouse gas-intensive economy and society, and how some of the biggest and most consequential areas of unintended emissions and environmental impacts are unknowingly part of our daily activities.

**Losing Earth: A Recent History**
by Nathaniel Rich

By 1979, we knew nearly everything we understand today about climate change — including how to stop it. Over the next decade, a handful of scientists, politicians, and strategists, led by two unlikely heroes, risked their careers in a desperate, escalating campaign to convince the world to act before it was too late. Losing Earth is their story, and ours.

**No One is Too Small to Make a Difference**
by Greta Thunberg

In August 2018 a fifteen-year-old Swedish girl, Greta Thunberg, decided not to go to school one day in order to protest the climate crisis. Her actions sparked a global movement, inspiring millions of students to go on strike for our planet, forcing governments to listen, and earning her a Nobel Peace Prize nomination. This collection of her speeches provides a rallying cry for why we must all wake up and fight to protect the living planet, no matter how powerless we feel.
Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History by Elizabeth Kolbert
Over the last half-billion years, there have been five mass extinctions, when the diversity of life on earth suddenly and dramatically contracted. Scientists around the world are currently monitoring the sixth extinction, predicted to be the most devastating extinction event since the asteroid impact that wiped out the dinosaurs. This time around, the cataclysm is us. Interweaving research in half a dozen disciplines, Kolbert provides a comprehensive account of the disappearances occurring before our very eyes. The sixth extinction is likely to be mankind’s legacy, compelling us to rethink the fundamental question of what it means to be human.

This Radical Land: A Natural History of Dissent by Daegan Miller
Daegan Miller is our guide on a revelatory trip across the continent during which we encounter radical thinkers, settlers, and artists who grounded their ideas of freedom, justice, and progress in the very landscapes around them, even as the runaway engine of capitalism sought to steamroll everything in its path. At every turn, everyday radicals looked to landscape for the language of their dissent—drawing crucial early links between the environment and social justice, links we’re still struggling to strengthen today.

The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming by David Wallace-Wells
In his travelogue of our near future, David Wallace-Wells brings into stark relief the climate troubles that await—food shortages, refugee emergencies, and other crises that will reshape the globe. But the world will be remade by warming in more profound ways as well, transforming our politics, our culture, our relationship to technology, and our sense of history. It will be all-encompassing, shaping and distorting nearly every aspect of human life as it is lived today. Just as the world was brought to the brink of catastrophe within the span of a lifetime, the responsibility to avoid it now belongs to a single generation.

The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities, and the Remaking of the Civilized World by Jeff Goodell
By century’s end, hundreds of millions of people will be retreating from the world’s shores as our coasts become inundated and our landscapes transformed. From island nations to the world’s major cities, coastal regions will disappear. Engineering projects to hold back the water are bold and may buy some time. Yet despite international efforts and tireless research, there is no permanent solution—no barriers to erect or walls to build—that will protect us in the end from the drowning of the world as we know it.

MEDIA ON RELATED THEMES

Compiled by Ben Hanley, Digital Services Librarian, Barrington Public Library

Documentaries
Before the Flood (2016; 96 min)
Chasing Coral (2017; 93 min)
Chasing Ice (2012; 75 min)
Climate Refugees: The Global Human Impact of Climate Change (2010; 86 min)
Cool It (2010; 87 min)
The 11th Hour (2007; 95 min)
Home (2009; 120 min)
How to Let Go of the World and Love All the Things Climate Can’t Change (2016; 127 min)
Ice on Fire (2019; 88 min)
An Inconvenient Truth (2006; 97 min)
An Inconvenient Truth: Truth to Power (2017; 99 min)
Merchants of Doubt (2014; 96 min)
Shored Up: Rising Sea Levels and Climate Change (2013; 87 min)
This Changes Everything (2015; 89 min)

Feature Films
The Age of Stupid (2009; 89 min)
Beasts of the Southern Wild (2012; 93 min)
The Day after Tomorrow (2004; 124 min)
Downsizing (2018; 136 min)
First Reformed (2018; 113 min)
Interstellar (2014; 169 min)
Snowpiercer (2013; 126 min)
Soylent Green (1973; 97 min)
WALL-E (2008; 97 min)

Interviews & Discussions
Author Elizabeth Rush on her book, "Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore" (2019; 75 min) https://youtu.be/VRUeOEwYyVs

Series & Episodes
Curious Minds (Season 3, Episode 2): Climate Change (2015; 22 min; Curiosity Stream)
NASA Climate Change (YouTube channel)
Our Changing Climate (YouTube channel)
Understanding Climate Change (YouTube channel)

Podcasts
America Adapts (2016-); Social Good Fund; The Climate Change Podcast
Climate Cast (2019-); Minnesota Public Radio
Climate Connections (2019-); Yale Center for Environmental Communication
Climate Conversations (2017-); MIT Climate
Climate One (2014-); The Commonwealth Club; #letstalkclimate
Costing the Earth (2010-); BBC Radio 4
Mothers of Invention (2018-); Doc Society
No Place Like Home (2016-)
Warm Regards (2016-)

Podcast Episodes
BOOKS ON RELATED THEMES FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Compiled by Joan Glazer, Professor Emerita, Rhode Island College

FICTION

*Exodus* by Julie Bertagna
Set in 2100, this futuristic fantasy presents an earth almost completely submerged in water after years of melting ice and storms caused by global warming. Fifteen-year-old Mara attempts to guide her community to an elevated city, but denied entry must seek other means of survival.

*The Highest Tide* by Jim Lynch
Miles O’Malley, age thirteen, slips out of his house one night to explore the flats of Puget Sound and finds a beached giant squid. This and his other discoveries get him labeled as an environmental prophet, adding to his basic teenage concerns.

*The Last Boy and Girl in the World* by Siobhan Vivian.
When government officials announce that the town must be evacuated because of flooding, high school senior Keeley Hewitt and her friends decide to engage in pranks and parties to raise the spirits of their friends. Not all goes as planned, however, and loss is not easy to accept.

*Ruby’s Imagine* by Kim Antieau
In her New Orleans neighborhood, Ruby communes with nature and her animal friends let her know that a Big Spin is coming. When Hurricane Katrina arrives, Ruby and her grandmother must shelter in the attic, and Ruby learns many family secrets. The language is rich and lyrical.

*The Twilight Zone: the Midnight Sun adapted from Rod Serling’s original script* by Mark Kneece, illustrated by Anthony Spay
This graphic novel re-imagines episodes from the television show by Rod Serling. In Midnight Sun, climate change has caused the temperature to rise so dramatically that just surviving is a struggle.

NON-FICTION

*Climate Changed: A Personal Journey Through the Science* by Philippe Squarzoni, translated by Ivanka Hahnenberger.
This graphic novel about climate change weaves together scientific research, interviews with experts, personal reactions and a call for action at the grassroots level. The author notes that we must recognize our personal responsibility first in order to address the problem culturally and politically.

*Geoengineering Earth’s Climate: Resetting the Thermostat* by Jennifer Swanson
This book succinctly introduces ideas proposed for geoengineering, or “engineering Earth,” to counteract climate change. The author emphasizes that some of the proposed ideas may be cost prohibitive, impractical, or have uncertain outcomes but appends practical ways young people can help to reduce climate change.

*A Global Warming Primer: Answering Your Questions About the Science, the Consequences, and the Solutions* by Jeffrey Bennett
In a conversational style question and answer format, the author presents research on
global warming and climate change, addresses common misconceptions and skepticism about the subject and discusses possible solutions to the problem. Graphs and charts help clarify the concepts.

**Tideland Treasure: A Naturalist’s Guide to the Beaches and Salt Marshes of Hilton Head Island and the Southeastern Coast** by Todd Ballantine.
This illustrated guide describes seashores and wetlands of the Eastern United States from Ocean City, New Jersey, to Cape Canaveral, Florida. Salt marshes, plants, and animals of the region are described, with common names making the text easy to understand.

**Unstoppable: Harnessing Science to Change the World** by Bill Nye, edited by Corey S. Powell
Yes, this is “Bill Nye, the Science Guy.” Here he makes the present environmental issues seem less insurmountable and depressing and more of a time when society could create a cleaner and smarter world.

**We Rise: The Earth Guardians Guide to Building a Movement That Restores the Planet** by Xiuhtezcati Martinez with Julian Spizman
Martinez is a young climate activist, hip-hop artist, and leader in a global youth-led movement, the Earth Guardians, who believe that today’s youth will play an important role in shaping our future. The book explores aspects of effective activism and provides information on how to start and join such a movement.

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**NOMINATE THE NEXT READING ACROSS RHODE ISLAND BOOK!**

The general criteria for book selection includes:
- A good story with a universal theme
- Appealing to a wide range of readers, from age 14 and up
- Accessible in language and content
- Available in different formats
- Written by an author who is available to visit and speak with Rhode Islanders about the book
- Over time, the titles selected should reflect diversity in content, culture and genre

Title & Author:

Or email your book nomination to kate@ribook.org.
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