

This resource list was assembled to help you research and develop exhibitions and programming around the themes of the **WATER/WAYS** exhibition. Work with your local library, schools, and daycare centers to introduce age-appropriate water-themed books. Help libraries and bookstores to host book clubs, discussion programs or other learning opportunities in conjunction with the exhibition, or develop a display with books on the subject. This list is not meant to be exhaustive or even all-encompassing – it will simply get you started. A quick search of the library card catalogue or internet will reveal numerous titles and lists compiled by experts and children's librarians. Many of the favorites have companion resources for teachers and homeschoolers available on line. Also listed here are some of the animated short film adaptations of childhood classics. See the Film List for longer feature film versions.

**Hans Christian Andersen. Illustrated by Lisbeth Zwerger. *The Little Mermaid*.** Minedition. 2004. 48 pages.

Many versions of Andersen's ageless fairy tale first published in 1837 have appeared in print, stage and screen. This is just one of the many editions and beautifully illustrated by Zwerger. This is the story of a young mermaid willing to give up her life in the sea and her identity as a mermaid to gain a human soul and the love of a human prince.

**Margaret Wise Brown. *The Little Island*.** Dragonfly Books, Reissue edition, 1993. 48 pages.

Once there was a little island in the ocean. That little island changes as the seasons come and go. The storm and the day and night change it. So do the lobsters and seals and gulls that stop by. Then one day a kitten visits the little island and learns a secret that every child will enjoy.

**Eric Carle. *A House for Hermit Crab*.** Simon Spotlight: Reissue edition, 2014. 32 pages,

In this classic story from Eric Carle, Hermit Crab grows out of one house after another as he searches for the perfect home. Children who must change schools, move to a new town, or even graduate to a new grade in school will relate to Hermit Crab's situation and take heart as they see that growing up isn't really so scary after all. Filled with whimsy and wisdom—and based on the true behaviors of the hermit crab—this modern classic features Eric Carle's trademark vibrant collage illustrations and lively text.

**Eric Carle. *Mister Seahorse*.** Philomel, 2004. 32 pages.

When Mrs. Seahorse lays her eggs, she does it on Mr. Seahorse's belly! She knows he will take good care of them. While he swims waiting for the eggs to hatch, he meets other underwater fathers caring for their babies. Brimming with bright, colorful sea life, this new board book will be irresistible to young children everywhere.

**Joanna Cole. *Magic School Bus Ocean Floor*.** Scholastic, 1994. 32 pages.

With updated scientific information, the bestselling science series ever is back! When Ms. Frizzle drives the Magic School Bus full speed ahead into the ocean, the class takes a submarine expedition that's anything but ordinary. With a well-meaning lifeguard in tow, the class takes a deep breath and learns about hot water vents, coral reefs, plant and animal life on the ocean floor, and more!

**Michael Garland. *Miss Smith under the Ocean.*** Dutton Books for Young Readers, 2011. 32 pages.

Miss Smith books are a favorite of preschoolers and new readers. Miss Smith's class can't wait for story time. When their teacher reads from her incredible storybook, the worlds she describes come alive-literally! So when the class takes a field trip to the local aquarium, reading magic brings favorite nautical characters to life, including Long John Silver and the Swiss Family Robinson. From swimming with the Little Mermaid to rescuing their treasured storybook from scurvy pirates, it's another rollicking reading adventure Miss Smith's class - and readers - won't soon forget.

**Hardie Gramatky. *Little Toot.*** Grosset & Dunlap; Abridged edition, 2000. 32 pages.

Written in 1929, this remains a favorite with preschoolers and up. Little Toot is a tugboat who does not want to tug. Instead, he wants to make figure eights in the harbor and bother all the other tugboats. But when he ends up all alone on the open water as a storm is rolling in, it's up to him to save a stuck ocean liner. This classic story is sure to delight a whole new generation of readers! Also available on DVD, 46 minutes.

**Holling C. Holling. *Paddle-to-the-Sea.*** HMH Books for Young Readers, 1980. 64 pages.

Originally written in 1941 this book continues to find new audiences in grades 3 – 5. A young Indian boy carves a little canoe with a figure inside and names him Paddle-to-the-Sea. Paddle's journey, in text and pictures, through the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean provides an excellent geographic and historical picture of the region. Grades 5 – 7 enjoy Holling's *Minn of the Mississippi*, the story of the Mississippi as told in text and pictures through the adventure of Minn, a snapping turtle as she travels downstream. *Seabird* is Holling's history of America at sea through the travels of a carved ivory bird.

**Deborah Hopkinson. *Titanic: Voices from the Disasters.*** Scholastic Paperbacks; Reprint Edition, 2014. 304 pages.

Younger readers can enjoy the Titanic story here. This moving, exciting history of the 1912 disaster reads like an action movie with cliffhangers at the end of each chapter. The additional material, ranging from the only surviving photos of the inside of the boat during its journey to diagrams and timelines to accounts of what happened to the survivors afterwards, is exhaustive and meticulously researched.

**Homer. *The Odyssey.*** DK Children; 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, 2000. 64 pages.

In this captivating retelling of this ancient yet timeless tale of war, jealousy, loyalty, and love author Adrian Mitchell and illustrator Stuart Robertson capture Homer's tale. Accompanying fact boxes put the poem in context with information on the Trojan War, Greek mythology and the time period. Enjoyed by children and adults.

**Rudyard Kipling. *Captains Courageous.*** Signet Classics. 2014. 244 pages.

One of Rudyard Kipling's most enduringly popular works, originally written in 1897, *Captains Courageous* is both a stirring tale of the sea and a classic coming-of-age story. Harvey Cheyne, the pampered fifteen-year-old son of an American millionaire, is sailing to Europe when he falls overboard. Saved from drowning by a New England fishing schooner, he finds his rough new companions unimpressed by his wealth and shocked by his ignorance. He will have to prove his worth in the only way the captain and crew will accept: through the slow and arduous mastery of skills upon which their common survival depends. . This edition is suitable for grades 5 and up. Also a 1937 family film favorite (see Film List.)

**Ruth Kraus, author; Crockett Johnson, Illustrator. *The Carrot Seed Board Book.***

HarperFestival, 1993. 12 pages.

This is a board book edition which shows the motivation and determination of a little boy trying to grow his own carrot by keeping the plant fed and watered. For ages 3 -4.

**Kevin Kurtz. *A Day in the Salt Marsh.*** Sylvan Dell Publishing, 2007. 32 pages.

Young readers can enjoy a day in one of the most dynamic habitats on earth: the salt marsh. Fun-to-read, rhyming verse introduces readers to hourly changes in the marsh as the tide comes and goes. Watch the animals that have adapted to this ever-changing environment as they hunt for food or play in the sun, and learn how the marsh grass survives even when it is covered by salt water twice a day. An activity on adaptations is included in the For Creative Minds section.

**Leo Lionni. *Swimmy.*** Dragonfly Books; Reprint edition, 1973. 32 pages.

Deep in the sea there lives a happy school of little fish. Their watery world is full of wonders, but there is also danger, and the little fish are afraid to come out of hiding . . . until Swimmy comes along. Swimmy shows his friends how—with ingenuity and team work—they can overcome any danger. This Caldecott Honor Book is a childhood classic for preschoolers on up with its graceful text and stunning artwork. An animated version of *Swimmy* and other Lionni classics are available on DVD.

**Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, illustrated by Susan Jeffers. *Hiawatha.*** Picture Puffins.

Reprint edition, 1996. 32 pages.

The Song of Hiawatha is an 1855 epic poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, featuring a Native American hero. Rich in imagery and detail, this exquisitely rendered book introduces young readers to one of America's classic poems. The book weaves together oral tradition of Native American culture and presents a charming tale and hypnotic account of Hiawatha's boyhood. Also a 1997 family film.

**Robert McCloskey. *Burt Dow, Deep-Water Man.*** The Viking Pres; Library Binding edition, 1963. 63 pages.

McCloskey (1914 – 2003) wrote and illustrated some of the most honored and enduring children's books ever published, many set near water. Whenever Burt Dow, who lives in a snug little house on the Maine coast, sets out to sea, his pet giggling gull goes along. But this time, it will take all his might and some plain old ingenuity to save him and the gull from a raging storm.

**Marcus Pfister. *The Adventures of Rainbow Fish: A Collection (The Rainbow Fish).*** North South, 2014. 144 pages.

A beautiful, conceited fish lives in the deep part of the ocean. His scales sparkle and shine as he swims through the ocean - alone. The other fish attempt to befriend him, but he ignores them until one day when a small blue fish approaches him. The small blue fish tells the Rainbow Fish how beautiful his scales are, and asks for one of them. Horrified, the Rainbow Fish refuses and swims on, puzzling aloud over his loneliness. A crab directs him to an octopus, whose advice is simple: give away his scales to the other fish and he will be happy. After some thought, and a second request from the small blue fish, the Rainbow Fish takes the octopus's advice and finds friendship and happiness. This is the first in a series of Rainbow Fish stories in this collection. Five *Rainbow Fish* favorites are now available in one place in this collection that includes — *Rainbow Fish to the Rescue, Rainbow Fish and the Big Blue Whale, Rainbow Fish and the Sea*

*Monster's Cave, Rainbow Fish Finds His Way, and Rainbow Fish Discovers the Deep Sea.* Children will love helping Rainbow Fish in each story as he follows his heart, summons his courage, makes new friends! *Rainbowfish – Tales from the Sea* is available on DVD.

**Rod Philbrick. *The Young Man of the Sea.*** Greater Sources; 1st Edition, 2009. 192 pages. This is story of determination and survival from the acclaimed author of *Freak the Mighty*. Twelve-year-old Skiff Beaman's mom just died, and his fisherman dad is too depressed to drag himself off the couch and go to work. So these days Skiff has to take care of everything himself. But when his dad's boat sinks, Skiff discovers it will cost thousands to buy a new engine. Skiff's lobster traps won't earn him enough, but there are bigger fish in the sea -- Bluefin Tuna. If he can catch one of those monster fish, Skiff just might save the boat -- and his family. This channels Hemingway but adds a more conventional happy ending in this mesmerizing boy-meets-big-fish tale.

**Arthur Ransome. *Swallows and Amazons.*** David R. Godine; Revised edition, 2010. 352 pages.

The *Swallows and Amazons* is the first in a series of twelve children's books by English author Arthur Ransome. Set between the two World Wars, the twelve books involve adventures by groups of children, almost all during the school holidays and mostly in England, but including four sailing trips that go outside England. The stories revolve around outdoor activities, especially sailing.

**Maurice Sendak. *Where the Wild Things Are.*** HarperCollins, 1984. 48 pages.

Let the wild rumpus begin! When Max puts on his wolf suit and makes mischief, his mother calls him 'Wild Thing' and sends him to bed without any supper. Alone in his room, Max enters a magical world and sets sail across the sea to the place where the wild things are. The wild things roar their terrible roars and gnash their terrible teeth and roll their terrible eyes and show their terrible claws ...But Max tames the wild things and is made their king. Maurice Sendak's 1964 iconic Caldecott Medal winner inspired films, an opera and many generations. Ages 4 – 8 and well beyond.

**Dr. Seuss. *The Cat in the Hat.*** Random House, First Edition 1957. 61 pages.

Poor Dick and Sally. It's cold and wet and they're stuck in the house with nothing to do ... until a giant cat in a hat shows up, transforming the rainy day into a madcap adventure and almost wrecking the place in the process! A classic book for preschoolers and new readers. *The Cat in the Hat* was the first Random House Beginner Book and no doubt changed the way children learn how to read. There is an animated film version and a feature length film as well.

**Hildegard H. Swift (author), Lyn Ward (Illustrator). *The Little Red Lighthouse and the Great Gray Bridge.*** HMH Books for Young Reader; Reprint edition, 2003. 64 pages.

Published in 1942, this remains a favorite with preschoolers and up. The book uses the story of the building of the George Washington Bridge next to the small lighthouse to affirm the idea that even the small are important. The book begins by introducing the lighthouse and its job of warning the boats on the busy Hudson River of the rocks nearby. The lighthouse is pleased with and proud of its important job. In the middle section of the book, the lighthouse watches, mystified, as men build a great gray bridge right next to it. When the bridge is finished, it towers above the lighthouse, which now feels small and unimportant. Even worse, one night a light begins to flash atop the

bridge's tower, and the lighthouse is convinced that it is no longer needed. *Picture Book Classics* has this and many other children's favorites available on DVD.

**Jeff Weigel. *Thunder from the Sea: The Adventures of Jack Horton and the H.M.S.***

***Defender.*** Putnam Juvenile, 2010. 48 pages.

Illustrated in comic-book format with detailed informational sidebars, this is a fast-paced action-adventure much like a C.S. Forester novel for kids! Jack Hoyton is just a boy when he enlists in the Royal Navy and is assigned to the HMS Defender, a mid-sized frigate defending the British Isles from invasion by the French emperor Napoleon. Little could have prepared him for the hard work and danger of life on the high seas, or for the strict military discipline aboard the ship during wartime. While blockading a French port, the crew of the Defender gets into more trouble than they planned for when they are betrayed during an excursion ashore. It is up to Jack to free his imprisoned shipmates and warn the Defender that they are headed into a deadly trap. Suitable for ages 7 – 10.

**Johann David Wyss. *Swiss Family Robinson.*** Simon & Brown, 2011. 348 pages.

Originally written to entertain his four young sons, Johann David Wyss based *The Swiss Family Robinson* on Daniel Defoe's classic shipwreck story, *Robinson Crusoe* (1719). Following a wild and raging storm, a family is stranded at sea. But the thundering waves have swept them off to a tropical island, where a new life awaits them. Their ship is laden with supplies and the island is packed with treasures, so they soon adapt and discover new dangers and delights every day. Upon its initial publication in 1812, *The Swiss Family Robinson* was received with great enthusiasm not only as a first-rate adventure story, but also as a practical guide to self-sufficiency. This is also a Disney family film favorite.

## Children's Non-fiction

***Eyewitness Books.*** Dorling Kindersley Publishers.

*Eyewitness Books* (or *Eyewitness Guides*) is a series of nonfiction books intended for children and young adults. They were first published in England by Dorling Kindersley in 1988. The series, each filled with detailed images, now has over one hundred titles on a variety of subjects many related to water including: Pirates, fish, boats, explorers, the ocean, the Titanic and a retelling of Verne's *20,000 Leagues under the Sea* and much more.

**David Macaulay. *Mill.*** HMH Books for Young Readers, 1989. 128 pages.

Author/Illustrator David Macaulay pays tribute to the historically important mills of 19th-century New England. Using close-up pen-and-ink illustrations, Macaulay thoroughly explains the Yankee ingenuity that went into the elaborate process of running machines that were generated by the flow of water. In the case of this cotton mill in the imaginary town of Wicksbridge, Macaulay demonstrates in story-book fashion how important the mill was to a community's economic and social viability.

**Walter Wick. *A Drop of Water: A Book of Science and Wonder.*** Scholastic Press; 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, 1997. 40 pages.

Photographer and author of the popular *Eye Spy* books, here Wick's striking color photographs of water in various states and stages of movement capture moments of change in beautiful patterns that cannot be observed without the advantages of stop

action and magnification. These pictures present water drops; soap bubbles; water condensing and evaporating; snowflakes, frost, and dew; and water as a prism. The paragraphs of text that accompany the images read like extended captions; they describe what is being pictured and briefly comment on the phenomenon taking place. A set of short directions for doing the observations and experiments appears at the end. Suitable for pre-school to age eight and a fun way to enhance scientific observation and description skills.