

# Rachel Carson and Her Book That Changed the World

## A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

**Themes:** Ecology, Environment, Biography

**Book Brief:** At an early age, Rachel developed a love of nature. As she grew up, she became a writer and a biologist. Her book *Silent Spring* helped begin today's environmental movement.

**Author:**

Laurie Lawlor

**Illustrator:**

Laura Beingessner



## TIME TO READ!

**Before reading, build background knowledge:**

Based on the cover, what do you already know about Rachel Carson?

**While reading, analyze the characters:** How did Rachel's mother influence her? What motivated

Rachel to keep working toward her interests? What role did her siblings play in her success?

**After reading, ask questions:** What was the greatest challenge Rachel faced? How can one person make an impact on the entire world? Explain. Was Rachel more a scientist or a writer?

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### GO GREEN!

How many green fruits and vegetables can you think of? Prepare snacks to serve with a favorite dip for a healthy, earth-friendly, body-friendly green treat. Some suggestions: celery, green peppers, cucumbers, edamame, broccoli, zucchini, grapes, apple, kiwi.

### BOTTLE BIRDS

Materials: plastic bottles, scissors, tempera paint, paint brush, markers, paper scraps, glue

With an adult's help, cut two wings on each side of a recycled plastic bottle. Be sure they stay attached to the bottle. Paint the bottle for the bird's body. Once dry, add more paint or use markers to make lines and designs for your bird. Use scrap paper for beaks, legs and any other features you choose.

### FARM FIELD TRIP

Take a trip to a local farm or farmers' market. Ask about the products used to help protect the produce from bugs and disease. What challenges do farmers in your area face trying to protect their crops?



### TECHNOLOGY LINKS

Learn to identify chemicals in your home and the health and safety precautions you should be aware of when using them at [www.epa.gov/kidshometour/](http://www.epa.gov/kidshometour/).

Learn more about Rachel Carson at [www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/09212007/watch.html](http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/09212007/watch.html).

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT RACHEL CARSON

*Rachel: The Story of Rachel Carson*, Amy Ehrlich (2008), *Rachel Carson: Clearing the Way for Environmental Protection*, Mike Venezia (2010), *Rachel Carson: Preserving a Sense of Wonder*, Joseph Bruchac (2009).



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