

Unit of Inquiry Recommended Reading List

Sharing the Planet

Below you will find a list of books related to the Unit of Inquiry “Sharing the Planet” for Bellevue Children’s Academy. Each book is related to the Central Idea. Included with each book title is a summary and a link to the book at King County Library. If there is no link to King County Library System (KCLS) then KCLS does not carry it. If there is a star at the end of the book citation then the library at Bellevue Children’s Academy also carries it.

2nd Grade

- Jenkins, Steve. “Creature Features.” Boston : Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014.*
 - Steve Jenkins and Robin Page have published a lot of books together about animals. All of them are excellent as Page’s illustrations are clear and concise while Steve Jenkins’ words are straightforward, and sometimes funny. This title is the one that is closest to the central idea, but all are worth a read.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Beck, W.H. “Glow : Animals with Their Own Night Lights.” New York : Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016.*
 - With real pictures this book relates how animals in the deepest part of the ocean adapt to their environment. The black background really makes the animals pop, and the text includes information from biologists.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Heos, Bridget. “Shell, Beak, Tusk.” Boston : Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017.
 - Photographs help explain how evolution has helped some animals survive in their environment. It even has some similarities that animals have with humans.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Peters, Lisa Westberg. “Our Family Tree.” San Diego : Harcourt, 2003.
 - A picture book that explains how animals and humans have grown from single celled organisms to who we are today. While a picture book, it does provide a good introduction to deep time.
 - [KCLS](#)
- George, Jean Craighead. “Galapagos George.” New York : HarperCollins Publishing, 2014.*
 - A moving tale about the last Galapagos Tortoise who died in 2012. This book is written by a well known author and includes a look at evolution through one animal. Includes a glossary in back.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Schnazer, Rosalyn. “What Darwin Saw.” Washington D.C. : National Geographic, 2009.*
 - This is a good book for a second grader looking for a challenge. It chronicles Charles Darwin’s work on the theory of evolution. The picture book has large text and engaging illustrations to still make it accessible.
- Fox, Karen C. “Older than the Stars.” Watertown, Massachusetts : Charlesbridge, 2010.

- A bright book about deep time and how the universe orders itself. It has uniquely organized itself with free verse text alongside more informative text in boxes.
- [KCLS](#)

4th Grade

- Murphy, Jim. “Breakthrough! How Three People Saved “Blue Babies” and Changed Medicine Forever.” Boston : Clarion Books, 2015.*
 - An excellent biography on how three different doctors experimented and worked to save babies who were born with a dangerous heart defect. At the same time it explores why one of those doctors’ contributions was completely ignored.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Freedman, Russell. “The Wright Brothers.” New York : Holiday House, 1991.*
 - Newbery winner Freedman is a pro at biographies. His clear text focuses on aviation history while still making the Wright Brothers more human.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Kamkwamba, William. “The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind Young Readers Edition.” New York : Dial Books for Young Readers, 2015.
 - A memoir about how a teenager helped save his village from starvation by creating renewable wind energy. There are several editions of this title. 4th grade should focus on the edition that has 293 pages, but is still the Young Readers’ edition.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Harness, Cheryl. “The Groundbreaking, Chance-taking Life of George Washington Carver and Science & Invention in America.” Washington D.C. : National Geographic, 2008.
 - An inspiring story about how George Washington Carver catapulted to worldwide fame as a plant doctor. There is a worldwide scientific timeline and black and white illustrations as well.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Bender, Lionel. “Invention.” New York : DK Publishing, 2013.
 - A large colorful book explains inventions like wheels, gears, light bulbs, etc. DK is a well known publishing company for non-fiction titles, and this is a good volume to browse and become inspired.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Asst. Authors. “How the _____ Changed History.” Minneapolis, Minnesota : Abdo Publishing, 2016.*
 - A series of books by Abdo publishing that focus on inventions that have changed how we live. There are titles on automobiles, the light bulb, even on safe food and sanitation. They have a lot of information and are a great read for 4th graders who are looking for a challenge.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Thimmesch, Catherine. “Girls Think of Everything.” Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2000.*
 - A colorful collection of biographies of women who have invented items like disposable diapers, space helmets, and correction fluid.
 - [KCLS](#)