

## Trout Books to Hook Kids into Reading!

**“Trout are Made of Trees” by April Pulley Sayre:** How can a leaf become a fish? Join two young children and their dads to find out, as they observe life in and around a stream. Energetic collage art and simple, lyrical text depict the ways plants and animals are connected in the food web. Back matter provides information about the trout life cycle as well as conservation efforts that kids can do themselves.

*Ages 4-8      32 pages*

**“Tobias Catches a Trout” by Ole Hertz:** Tobias, a young Greenlander, goes on a trout fishing expedition with his family. Follow his adventure with his family as they harvest fish for themselves and the townsfolk.

*Ages 4-8      32 pages*

**“Lightning’s Tale – The Story of a Wild Trout” by Hugh Campbell:** Just as the right mix of riffles, runs and pools make a perfect trout stream, so the story line, educational content and appealing graphics in Lightning's Tale make this the perfect book to introduce a youngster to the lifelong pleasures of responsible fishing.

*Ages 9-12      40 pages*

**“Trout, Trout, Trout – A Fish Chant” by April Pulley Sayre:** Wacky, bold illustrations add more humor, yet accurately depict dozens of freshwater fish. This unique concept teaches kids the names of fish in an entertaining way. This picture book is more than just laugh-out loud fun. Four pages of fact-filled end matter provide lots of information to satisfy teachers, parents and kids who want more, more, more! The interactive chant and repetition of words is perfect for classrooms, story time read-alouds or for bedtime!

*Ages 4-8      32 pages*

**“Animals Called Fish” by Kristina Lundblad & Bobbie Kalman:** This is a great book on the biology of fish. It covers their biology – from gills to tail, talks about their foods and safety mechanisms, eggs, bony fish, etc. A great introduction into general fish biology.

*Ages 4-8      32 pages*

**“A Good Day’s Fishing” by James Prosek:** Here, Prosek offers young readers a beautifully illustrated, simple story about a good day's fishing. In a simple, descriptive text that contains a few humorous surprises, a child describes the many bobbers, hooks, lures, and other paraphernalia he finds as he searches through his tackle box for the one thing he needs to guarantee a successful catch. In the end, though, the boy's lucky item isn't the hooks in his box--it's the hat on his head. The appended lure and fly glossary is well done, but it is probably too detailed for the younger range of the book's audience. Nonetheless, young fishing enthusiasts will certainly learn more about which tackle works best to catch particular kinds of fish, while the wonderfully detailed, gentle watercolor illustrations of fish and gear offer a lovely introduction.

*Ages 4-8      40 pages*

**“Fly Fishing with Trout-tail – A Child’s Journey” by K. H. Lucas:** If you have any positive thoughts about introducing a child to the beautiful and life-long quiet sport of fly fishing, this new book achieves the mission of introducing the sport through wonderful on the water pictures of a young person, called Trout-tail, fly fishing. The pictorial story introduces

the beauty of the sport by showing many of the charming attributes of enjoying the beauty of the places where fly fishing is pursued. The written story works well with the photos and talks about the traditional culture of the sport, such as carry out what you carry in, and catch and release etc. The story journey then goes on to introduce the equipment utilized, as well as picturing and talking about flies and the new hobby of young Trout-tail actually tying his own flies!

*Ages 9-12      40 pages*

**“There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Trout” by Teri Sloat:** Sloat's version of the popular rhyme has a Pacific Northwest setting; a salmon, otter, seal, porpoise, walrus, whale, and an ocean are also consumed. The verse concludes with the woman opening her mouth, freeing the ocean and the various creatures she has ingested. Ruffins's colorful illustrations reflect both the zaniness of the rhyme and the coastal locale.

*Ages 4-8      32 pages*

**“Olive the Little Woolly Bugger” by Kirk Werner:** How can a leaf become a fish? Join two young children and their dads to find out, as they observe life in and around a stream. Energetic collage art and simple, lyrical text depict the ways plants and animals are connected in the food web. Back matter provides information about the trout life cycle as well as conservation efforts that kids can do themselves.

*Ages: 9-12      32 pages*

**“In the Swim” by Douglas Florian:** Even the most educated marine biologist could learn something from this whimsical, beautifully illustrated collection of 21 poems about sea life. Some of the poems are pure silly fun ("There are uglier fish than a blennie-- / But not many."), and others are gracefully infiltrated with animal facts ("Did you know the ocean's oysters / Sometimes change from girls to boysters?"). Douglas Florian accompanies each of his delightful poems with a stunning watercolor painting. In addition to capturing the liquid blur of an underwater world, the illustrations incorporate subtle visual jokes; for example, the salmon are doing the high jump, and the seahorses are wearing saddles. It's no fish story-- Florian's combination of intelligent, funny rhymes and rich, irresistible paintings will make a splash in your home!

*Ages 4-8      48 pages*

**“Olive and the Big Stream” by Kirk Werner:** Join Olive, the little-streamer-fly-that-could, Gilbert the Gold-Ribbed Hare's Ear, Polly the Partridge and Orange, and the rest of the Camp Tightloops gang as they follow their dreams down The Big Stream. Zip and dart along with Olive as the importance of catching and releasing a wild trout finally sinks in. Fly-fishing fans young and old will agree that Olive is the real "keeper" in this action-packed, fact-filled sequel to *Olive The Little Woolly Bugger*.

*Ages 9-12      39 pages*

**“Follow the Water from Brook to Ocean” by Arthur Dorros:** Water is always flowing, from a brook to a stream, to a river to the ocean. Read and find out more about how water shapes the earth and why it is important to keep our water clean.

*Ages 5-10      32 pages*

**“A Few Thoughts on Trout” by Harold Cole:** A young fisher shows two greedy adults his secrets of catching trout in his favorite unspoiled brook, only to regret it when they abuse the privilege.

*Ages 9-12      35 pages*

**“A Fish Hatches” by Joanna Cole and Jerome Wexler:** Describes the life cycle of a trout from the laying of eggs in a hatchery to maturity.

*Ages 7-12      39 pages*

**“The Brook Book – Exploring the Smallest Streams” by Jim Arnosky:** A babbling brook may seem peaceful on the surface, but look closer—it’s full of life! A crayfish pokes among the pebbles for food. A salamander sits on a smooth stone. Over there, a small catfish darts around in a slow pool. Acclaimed naturalist and author Jim Arnosky offers this informative guide—a field trip in book form—to brooks and streams that is perfectly pitched to young explorers and scientists. Through simple, respectful language and lively, engaging illustrations, readers are encouraged to touch and discover—instilling a lifelong appreciation for the natural world.

*Ages 4-8      32 pages*

**“Who-Paddled-Backward-With-Trout” by Howard Norman:** In a Cree tale told to the author by an 82-year-old Canadian Indian, a boy who is named Trout-with-Flattened-Nose doesn't like his name and decides to try out new ones, but his father tells him he must earn a new name. He decides he will be called Who-Paddles-a-Canoe-Better-Than-Anyone; but after some trouble with two beavers, a trout tows him toward dangerous rocks, so he paddles his canoe backwards and so ends up with the name Who-Paddled-Backward-with-Trout. This slight, rather aimless tale is told in lively prose that should read aloud well. The bold black-and-white silhouette illustrations, which resemble woodcuts or block prints, are enclosed within aqua frames. They are dynamic and humorous and convey a real sense of motion, even spilling off the page at times. One or two, however, may be a bit obscure to younger children.

*Ages 4-8      32 pages*

**“The Case of the Missing Cutthroats” by Jean Craighead George:** More than anything else, 13- year-old Spinner Shatter wants to catch a fish then she will never have to fish again. Ever. Born into a highly competitive family of fishermen, she would rather be at home in New York City practicing her dance steps than at the family cabin in Jackson Hole, WY. But it is obvious that her father would rather raise a fisher than a dancer. Even his nickname for her, "Spinner," refers to a type of lure. As the story opens, Spinner, in an effort to please her father, is fishing the icy Snake River with little hope of catching anything, let alone winning back the family fishing medal. Her surprise at catching a record-breaking cutthroat trout is nothing compared to the suspenseful adventure that follows as she sets out with her cousin "Alligator" to determine how the rare, large fish came to live in a pool where, by all appearances, it never should have been. Nature's delicate balance is carefully woven into a thoroughly engrossing mystery-adventure. Both Spinner and readers are slowly drawn deeper and deeper into the unfamiliar beauty and power of the natural world. Like the tiny midges that grow up underwater, Spinner emerges with wings and with the understanding that she can be both a fisher and a dancer.

*Ages 9-12      160 pages*

**“Trout Summer” by Jane Leslie Conley:** When their father leaves them, Shana, 13, and Cody, 12, move with their mother to Maryland, as much to escape their small Southern town's gossip as to earn a better living. Unhappy with the urban sterility of their new home, however, the kids convince Mama that they should stay in an abandoned cabin along the Leanna River for the summer. There they meet Henry, an irascible old man who professes to be a ranger. Ill and difficult but an

excellent canoeist, he teaches Cody his skills. The exciting climax reveals that Henry wants to run the dangerous rapids one last time. Cody and Shana sensibly refuse to help him, but when he is injured making the attempt alone they navigate downstream in time to get help. Shana's fast-paced, first-person narrative is enhanced by Henry's quirky character and revealing dialogue. The theme that "Families change, just like people" is well integrated into the story. Henry's advice, "Don't count on anybody," rings true. At summer's end, Cody returns to the South to live with an uncle, but Shana joins her mother in wanting to explore the possibilities wrought by all the unforeseen and unwelcome changes. Helping one another cope with loss; learning to take necessary risks; and becoming independent, kind, and caring individuals help this family face their conflicts.

***Ages 9-12 240 pages***

**"Fishing in A Brook – Angling Activities for Kids" by Lawson Drinkard:**

Children's activity book that teaches fishing skills in a fun, interesting way.

***Ages 4-8 64 pages***

**"The Biggest Fish in the Lake" by Margaret Carney:** Lovely watercolor illustrations decorate this sweet story about the special times a young girl has fishing with her grandfather. The child's first-person narrative describes her experiences, fishing first with an old bamboo pole and later with a real fishing rod Grandpa buys her for her birthday. Then comes another surprise: Grandpa promises to take her on her first fishing trip. After a disappointing first day, the girl wakes up at dawn and heads for the lake on her own. In an exciting climax, she snags a powerful muskie and must use all her skill to make the catch. It's clear from the smartly written text that Carney has been fishing; her authentic language and detailed descriptions will thrill young fishing enthusiasts. Other children will like this, too, for the exciting story line, the well-developed characters, and the superb nature scenery.

***Ages 5-8 32 pages***