

**Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell  
&  
The New York Public Library**

# Green Reading Challenge

■ SPRING 2011 ■

Grades Pre-K – 8  
and  
Materiales en Español



*Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell & The New York Public Library  
Green Reading Challenge  
2011*

To  
Families



Dear Families,

Welcome to my Eighth Annual Community Reading Challenge. This year's challenge is staying green! Like last year, every book has a pro-environment or nature theme. And, as always, the reading lists include bilingual and Spanish titles for Spanish-speaking readers.

It's easy to participate—children read books of their choice and submit book reviews or drawings. Readers receive a special New York State Assembly certificate and a personalized invitation to a series of Book Festivals.

I strongly believe that reading plays a critical role in a child's education and I hope your family will participate in this fun event. I am always available to address any of your questions about the Reading Challenge or any other education-related issue. You can reach my community office at 212-866-3970.

Very truly yours,

Daniel O'Donnell  
Assembly Member

Queridas familias:

Bienvenidos a mi Octavo Reto Anual de Lecturas de la Comunidad. ¡El reto de este año se queda verde! Como el año pasado, todos los libros tienen un tema a favor del medio ambiente o la naturaleza. Y, como siempre, la lista de libros incluye títulos bilingües y en español para los lectores hispanoparlantes.

Es muy fácil participar—los niños leen libros de su predilección y someten una crítica literaria o dibujos. Los lectores reciben un certificado especial de parte de la Asamblea del Estado de Nueva York y una invitación personalizada para que asistan a una serie de Festivales de Libros.

Creo firmemente que la lectura juega una parte muy importante en la educación de un niño y espero que su familia participe en este divertido evento. Recuerden que siempre estoy disponible para contestar cualquier pregunta sobre el Reto de Lecturas o sobre cualquier otro asunto relacionado con la educación. Pueden comunicarse con mi oficina al 212-866-3970.

Su seguro servidor,

Daniel O'Donnell  
Miembro de la Asamblea



**Assembly Member O'Donnell's Community Office**

245 W. 104<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1-D • 212-866-3970 • [odonnell@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:odonnell@assembly.state.ny.us)



**Participating New York Public Library  
Branches**

**Bloomington Library**

150 W. 100<sup>th</sup> Street  
212-222-8030

**George Bruce Library**

518 W. 125<sup>th</sup> Street  
212-662-9727

**Morningside Heights Library**

2900 Broadway  
212-864-2530

[www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org)

All New Book Ideas

J PIC W

**A Beach Tail** by Karen Lynn Williams

When his father tells him not to leave the lion he is drawing on the beach, a little boy starts making a very, very long tail--and a trail to follow back.

J PIC C

**Big Rig Bugs** by Kurt Cyrus

Insects resemble heavy equipment as they clean up some litter.

J PIC C

**Clarice Bean What Planet are you From?**

by Lauren Child

Clarice Bean and her family gets involved in saving a tree on their street from being cut down.

J-Spa 513.21 P\*\*

**Cuenta los insectos** by Jerry Pallotta

The characteristics and activities of insects and other crawl creatures.

J PIC A

**A Gardener's Alphabet** by Mary Azarian

An alphabet book featuring words associated with gardening, including bulbs, compost, digging, insects, and weeds.

J PIC F

**In the Small, Small Pond** by Denise Fleming

Illustrations and rhyming text describe the activities of animals living in and near a small pond as spring progresses to autumn.

J 811.45 E

**In the Wild** by David Elliot

A woodcut-illustrated collection of poems that celebrates wild animals.

J PIC B

**The Little House** by Virginia Lee Burton

A country house is unhappy when the city, with all its buildings and traffic, grows up around her.

J PIC H

**My Garden** by Kevin Henkes

After helping her mother weed, water, and chase the rabbits from their garden, a young girl imagines her dream garden complete with jellybean bushes, chocolate rabbits, and tomatoes the size of beach balls.

J 581.46 A

**A Seed is Sleepy** by Dianna Hutts Aston

An informative, yet beautiful, introduction to seeds.

J PIC F

**Seven Hungry Babies** by Candace Fleming

A mother bird frantically tries to keep her seven baby birds fed.

J PIC S

**A Sick Day for Amos McGee** by Philip C. Stead

Zoo animals fret when their beloved keeper catches a cold and doesn't show up for work one day. Will they be able to care for him as he has always cared for them?

J-SpaPIC B\*\*

**Una mamá para Owen** by Marion Dane Baur

A baby hippo who loses his mama befriends a giant tortoise.



New York  
Public  
Library

\* Bilingual – English and Spanish

\*\* También disponible en Español



New York State Assembly

All New Book Ideas

J PIC I

**The Adventures of an Aluminum Can** by Alison Inches  
The diary of an aluminum can on an adventure from manufacturing plant to store to house to recycling plant to its new life as a baseball bat.

J PIC K

**Bag in the Wind** by Ted Kooser  
One cold, spring morning, an ordinary grocery bag begins blowing around a landfill, then as it travels down a road, through a stream, and into a town, it is used in various ways by different people, many of whom do not even notice it.

J 582.16 L

**Be a Friend to Trees** by Patricia Lauber  
Discusses the importance of trees as sources of food, oxygen, and other essential things.

J E C

**Cork and Fuzz: the Collectors** by Dori Chaconas  
When best friends Cork and Fuzz go to the pond to collect shiny stones, they happen upon a duck's nest just as the eggs are hatching and Fuzz, who is wearing a feather from his collection, is collected by the mother duck.

J PIC B

**The Curious Garden** by Peter Brown  
Liam discovers a hidden garden and with careful tending spreads color throughout the gray city.

J 811 Sidman

**Dark Emperor and other poems of the night**  
by Joyce Sidman  
A collection of poems that celebrate the wonder, mystery, and danger of the night and describes the many things that hide in the dark.

J E O

**Every Day is Earth Day** by Jane O'Connor  
When Nancy, the girl who loves to use fancy words, learns about Earth Day and "being green," her enthusiasm causes problems at home.

J 635.04 G

**Garbage Helps Our Garden Grow: A Compost Story**  
by Linda Glaser  
Photographs and text helps young readers understand the importance of compost for their garden.

J PIC W

**Here Comes the Garbage Barge** by Jonah Winter  
In the spring of 1987, the town of Islip, New York, with no place for its 3,168 tons of garbage, loads it on a barge that sets out on a 162-day journey along the East Coast, around the Gulf of Mexico, down to Belize, and back again, in search of a place willing to accept and dispose of its very smelly cargo.

J-Spa 591.53 F\*

**Insectos para el almuerzo = Bugs for Lunch**  
by Margery Facklam.  
Rhyming bilingual text introduces bug eating animals.

J B Maathai N

**Mama Miti** by Donna Jo Napoli  
The story of Wangari Maathai, who in 1977 founded the Green Belt Movement, an African grassroots organization, and in 2004 was the first African woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

J 578.68 E

**Scholastic First Discovery Endangered Animals**  
illustrated by Pierre de Hugo  
Animals from around the world are shown with fun, see-through pages.

J PIC A

**Slow Down for Manatees** by Jim Arnosky  
Injured by a passing motorboat, a pregnant manatee is rescued and taken to an aquarium to recover and have her baby in a safe environment.

J-Spa 571.86 M\*\*

**Soy una semilla** by Jean Marzullo  
A pumpkin seed and a marigold seed grow into plants side by side.

J 508.2 B

**Sunshine Makes the Seasons** by Franklyn M. Branley  
Why is it hot in summer and cold in winter anyway?

J 599.78 T

**Where do Polar Bears Live** by Sarah L. Thomson  
Learn about the life cycle of a polar bear and the threats to their habitat.



All New Book Ideas

J FIC S

**Animal Rescue Team: Gator on the Loose**

by Sue Stauffacher

Chaos ensues when Keisha's father brings an escaped alligator home to Carter's Urban Rescue, but it gets out of the bathroom while Grandma is guarding it.

J-Spa 591.53 G\*\*

**Bocas** by Xulio Gutiérrez

Describes twelve species that obtain their food in a peculiar form.

J 599.64 M

**The Chiru of High Tibet** by Jacqueline Briggs Martin

A story of the rare and elusive chiru, small antelope-like animals in Tibet, and four adventurers who trek through the Himalayas to find and protect their birthing grounds.

J PIC P

**Cloud Tea Monkeys** by Mal Peet and Elspeth Graham

When her mother becomes too ill to harvest tea on the nearby plantation, Shenaz is too small to fill in, but when she tells the monkeys she has befriended why she is sad, they bring her a basket filled with rare and valuable wild tea.

J FIC C

**Crunch!** by Leslie Connor

The oldest Mariss brother, fourteen-year-old Dewey, attempts to be the "embodiment of responsibility" as he juggles the management of the family's bicycle repair business while sharing the household and farm duties with his siblings after a sudden energy crisis strands their parents far from home.

J 597.89 T

**The Frog Scientist** by Pamela S. Turner

Tyrone Hayes and his team work to discover the effects pesticides have on frogs and, in turn, us.

J 508.74 M

**Go Wild in New York City** by Bradford Matzen

Did you know there is a 450 year old tree in Queens? Or that a 300-foot-thick sheet of ice travelled from the North Pole to cut the groove that is now the Hudson River? This book is filled with urban nature facts and related activities.

J 591.78 J

**How to Clean a Hippopotamus**

by Steve Jenkins & Robin Page

Why would a little plover bird stroll into a crocodile's mouth? Find out how unlikely pairs help each other survive.

J YR FIC M

**Judy Moody Saves the World!** by Megan McDonald

Judy sets out to win a contest designing an environmentally themed band-aid, and ends up tackling much bigger issues.

J 591.68 P

**100 Things You Should Know About Endangered Animals**

by Steve Parker

Learn which species are threatened, why they are in danger, and what we can do to help.

J 640 R

**Recycle this book: 100 top children's book authors tell you how to go green** by Dan Gutman

A collection of essays - and one poem - on the small steps each author took to make a difference for our planet.

J YR FIC G

**Watch out World, Rosy Cole is Going Green**

by Sheila Greenwald

Rosie's team comes up with some creative ideas for the Read School Fall Fair, whose mission is to sell "green-themed" products.

J 508 S

**What in the Wild: Mysteries of Nature Concealed and Revealed** by David M. Schwartz and Yael Schy

Do you love poetry? Wild animals? Science? Riddles? Find all of these and more in this amazing, eye-opening, eyebrow-raising introduction to some of Nature's most mysterious things.

J FIC M

**Windblowne** by Stephen Messer

Hapless Oliver, who lives in the trees in the town of Windblowne, seeks his eccentric great-uncle Gilbert's help in creating a kite for the all-important kite festival, but when Gilbert suddenly disappears, Oliver is guided by one of Gilbert's kites in a quest through different worlds to find him.



All New Book Ideas

J-Spa 591.56 J\*\*

**La casa de los animales**

By Didier Jean y Zad

Provides information about the way some animals construct their shelters.

J 904 G

**Disasters: Natural and Man Made Catastrophes through the centuries** by Brenda Guiberson

From smallpox to Spanish flu, the Great Chicago Fire to Hurricane Katrina, a fascinating catalog of major calamities throughout history.

J FIC H

**Flush** by Carl Hiassen

With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the waters around their Florida Keys home.

J FIC P

**Hatchet** by Gary Paulson

Headed for Canada to visit his father for the first time since his parents' divorce, thirteen-year-old Brian is the sole survivor of a plane crash, with only the clothes he has on and a hatchet to help him live in the wilderness.

J FIC P

**A Long Walk to Water** by Linda Sue Park

When the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, eleven-year-old Salva becomes separated from his family and must walk with other Dinka tribe members through southern Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya in search of safe haven. Based on the life of Salva Dut, who, after emigrating to America in 1996, began a project to dig water wells in Sudan.

J FIC F

**Operation Redwood** by S. Terrell French

In northern California, Julian Carter-Li and his friends fight to save a grove of redwoods from an investment company that plans to cut them down.

J 597.14 T

**Project Seahorse** by Pamela S. Turner

Examines the work performed by the founders of Project Seahorse, along with Filipino colleagues and fishers, to protect seahorses and the coral reefs where they live while also helping the local fishing families.

J-Spa 597.9 M\*\*

**Reptiles y anfibios** by Sue Malyan

Learn about fascinating reptiles and amphibians.

J FIC F

**Seedfolks** by Paul Fleischman

One by one, a number of people of varying ages and backgrounds transform a trash-filled inner-city lot into a productive and beautiful garden, and in doing so, the gardeners are themselves transformed.

J 363.7 M

**True Green Kids** by Kim McKay and Jenny Bonnin

Invites children and their parents, teachers, and community to embark on an eco-adventure through a series of fun ideas that can be applied everywhere from the living room to the local park.

J 811 S

**Ubiquitous: Celebrating Nature's Survivors**

by Joyce Sidman

Poems and factual information about some of the creatures that live on Planet Earth.

J 333.72 B

**What's the Point of Being Green?** by Jacqui Bailey

Covers the basics on major environmental issues and suggests steps that governments, organizations and ordinary citizens can take to help keep the planet green.



Laurie Halse Anderson

M. T. Anderson

Joan Bauer

Tonya Bolden

Kevin Brooks

Meg Cabot \*\*

Orson Scott Card

Caroline Cooney

Christopher Paul Curtis\*\*

Judith Ortiz Cofer\*\*

Rachel Cohn

Matt de la Peña\*\*

Sarah Dessen

Sharon Draper

Nancy Farmer \*\*

Sharon G. Flake

Russell Freedman

Cornelia Funke\*\*

Jack Gantos\*\*

Gail Giles

Nikki Giovanni

Mel Glenn

Adele Griffin

Nikki Grimes

Margaret Peterson Haddix

Shannon Hale

Lisi Harrison

Carl Hiaasen

Dorothy & Thomas Hoobler

Anthony Horowitz

Anne Jankéliowitch

Angela Johnson

David Klass

Gordan Korman

Paul Langan

Ursula Le Guin\*\*

Julius Lester

David Levithan

Carolyn Mackler

Stephanie Meyer

Walter Dean Myers\*\*

Jim Murphy

Donna Jo Napoli

Garth Nix\*\*

Joan Lowery Nixon

Han Nolan

Naomi Shihab Nye

Gary Paulsen\*\*

Tamora Pierce

Richard Peck\*\*

Terry Pratchett\*\*

Philip Pullman\*\*

Benjamin Alire Sáenz\*\*

Graham Salisbury

Alex Sanchez

Darren Shan

Michael Simmons

William Sleator

Sonya Sones

Gary Soto\*\*

Scott Westerfeld

Rita Williams-Garcia

Jacqueline Woodson

Paul Zindel

\*\* Algunos de los libros  
escritos por este autor  
están disponibles en  
español.



## Write a book review...

You can write about any aspect of the book that appeals to you.

How did the characters change throughout the story?

What was your favorite moment in the story and why?

Did you like how the story ended? If not, write a different ending!

What did you learn from this book?

Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?

You can write about anything!

## Make a book-related drawing...

Draw an idea, event, character, or action from the book that you read.

After completing your review or drawing, turn it in at your local library or at Assembly Member O'Donnell's Community Office (245 W. 104th Street). With your permission, we'll post it on the web!

What book will you read next?

## Escribe una crítica literaria...

Puedes escribir sobre cualquier aspecto del libro que te interese.

¿Cuál fue tu momento favorito en el cuento? y ¿Por qué?

¿Te gustó el final del cuento? Si no te gustó, escribe un final diferente.

¿Qué información útil o fascinante aprendiste de este libro?

¿Recomendarías este libro a un amigo(a)? ¿Por qué?

¡Puedes escribir lo que quieras!

## Haz un dibujo relacionado con el libro...

Crea un dibujo que refleje alguna idea, evento, personaje o información del libro o libros que hayas leído.

Después de haber completado tu crítica literaria o dibujo relacionado a algún libro, entrégala en tu biblioteca local o envíala a la oficina del asambleísta O'Donnell (245 W. 104 Street). Con tu autorización, la publicaremos en el Web.

¿Cuál será tu próximo libro?





# Book-Related Drawing



Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Your First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Please hand in your book review or drawing at your local library, or at Assembly Member O'Donnell's Community Office at 245 W. 104th Street.

Favor de entregar tu crítica literaria o dibujo en tu biblioteca local, o en la oficina de la comunidad del asambleísta O'Donnell en el 245 W. 104th Street.

- PARENTS: Please check this box if you do not wish to have your child's review or drawing posted on O'Donnell's web page.
- PADRES: Favor de marcar este encasillado si no quieren que la crítica literaria o dibujo de su hijo/a sea publicado en la página electrónica del asambleísta O'Donnell.

**More forms are available for download at <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/?ad=69>**

## Tips for helping children develop a life-long love of reading:

*Excerpted from various lists at Reading is Fundamental, [www.rif.org/](http://www.rif.org/)*

- 1) Begin reading to your children as soon as they can sit up in your lap and continue reading to and with them even after they enter school;
- 2) Books with bright, attractive pictures with only a few words as well as nursery rhyme and song books are most appropriate for babies and toddlers;
- 3) Board books, which are made for little hands to hold and are almost indestructible, are suitable for babies and toddlers. The New York Public Library has a collection of board books to read with your child;
- 4) Attend toddler and preschool programs at your local branch library that include reading and singing;
- 5) Set aside a regular time for reading with your children every day. Twenty minutes before bed time is a good practice but the important thing is that reading becomes a daily, joyful experience;
- 6) Give your children books as gifts;
- 7) Have your children choose their own books as soon as they start to show an interest in one type of book or author;
- 8) Encourage your children to get their own library cards;
- 9) Try a book swap. Ask friends, family, and teachers what books their children have enjoyed;
- 10) Encourage your child to create bookmarks to include with a gift book or to mark the place in your own book where you leave off during read-aloud time;
- 11) Incorporate reading with your children into daily activities such as reading recipes while you cook/bake or reading instructions together;
- 12) See a play, a movie or visit a location based on a book that your child has read;
- 13) Model good reading behavior and let your child see you reading for pleasure;
- 14) Have fun! Show your children the joy of reading and how it can open up a brand new world!

## Consejos para ayudar a los niños a desarrollar amor por la lectura:

*Citas de varias listas encontradas en Reading is Fundamental, [www.rif.org](http://www.rif.org/)*

- 1) Empecen a leerles a sus hijos tan pronto se puedan sentar en sus faldas y continúen leyendo con ellos después de que empecen la escuela;
- 2) Los libros con dibujos llamativos con pocas palabras y los libros de canciones infantiles son los más apropiados para los bebés y los niños más pequeños;
- 3) Los libros para niños están hechos para manos pequeñas, son prácticamente indestructibles, y son apropiados para bebés y niños más pequeños. La Biblioteca Pública de Nueva York cuenta con una colección de libros infantiles que ustedes pueden leer con sus hijos;
- 4) Asistan a programas para niños pequeños y de edad preescolar en su biblioteca local que incluyan actividades para leer y cantar;
- 5) Destinen una hora del día para leer con sus hijos. Veinte minutos antes de dormir es una buena práctica pero lo más importante es que la lectura se convierta en una experiencia diaria y divertida;
- 6) Obséquienles libros a sus hijos como regalos;
- 7) Permitan que sus hijos escojan sus propios libros tan pronto empecen a demostrar un interés en algún tipo de libro o autor;
- 8) Animen a sus hijos a que obtengan sus propias tarjetas de la biblioteca;
- 9) Traten de hacer un intercambio de libros. Pregúntenles a sus amigos, familiares y maestros cuáles libros han disfrutado;
- 10) Estimulen a sus hijos a crear marcadores de páginas para obsequiarlos junto con algún libro o para marcar el lugar por donde van leyendo en sus propios libros;
- 11) Incorporen la lectura en actividades diarias, como leer las recetas de cocina mientras preparan la cena u hornean su galletitas favoritas, o lean las indicaciones juntos;
- 12) Vean una obra de teatro, una película o visiten algún lugar mencionado en uno de los libros que sus hijos hayan leído;
- 13) Sean un buen ejemplo para sus hijos demostrándoles que ustedes leen porque disfrutan de la lectura;
- 14) ¡Diviértanse! Demuéstrenles a sus hijos lo entretenido que es la lectura y cómo puede abrirles las puertas a un mundo nuevo.



## **Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell**

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