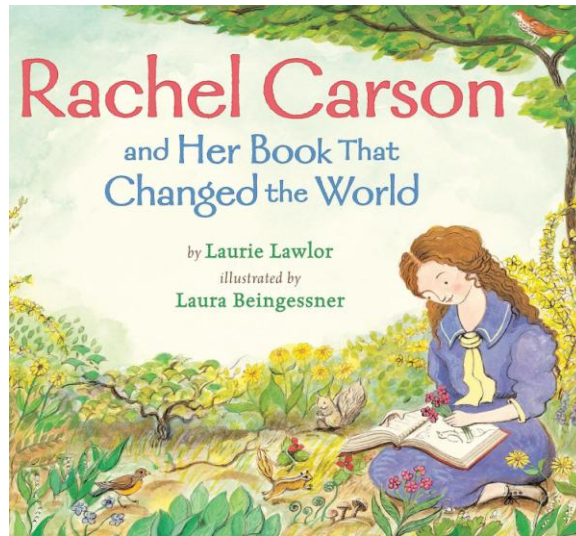




Books to Inspire Young Naturalists

Sheila Carroll, [Living Books Press](#) and [Nature Study Notes](#)

If we want our children to grow in wonder, we must give them examples of those who have lived that way. Stories can plant seeds that direct instruction never could. Biographies of naturalists—people who look closely, love deeply, and live attentively—can spark a child's imagination and foster a lifelong connection with the natural world.

By stepping into the story of a figure like Agassiz or Carson, children discover not only what these individuals accomplished but *how* they learned to see. And quietly, they begin to wonder: *Could I do that too?*

Louis Agassiz

- **Runner of the Mountain Tops: The Life of Louis Agassiz** by Mabel Robinson, illustrated by Lynd Ward
A Newbery Honor picture-and-chapter book telling Agassiz's journey from Switzerland to Harvard.
- **Louis Agassiz: Adventurous Scientist** by Louise Hall Tharp
A classic early reader biography.

Liberty Hyde Bailey

- *While few picture books exist, he is included in anthologies like **Great Naturalists Who Shaped America**—perfect for younger learners.*

Rachel Carson

- **Rachel Carson and Her Book That Changed the World** by Laurie Lawlor
A beautifully illustrated biography for ages 7–10.
- **Rachel Carson: Preserving a Sense of Wonder** (National Geographic Kids)
A clear and inspiring early reader.

Anna Botsford Comstock

- **Out of School and Into Nature** by Suzanne Slade, illustrated by Jessica Lanan
A gentle and lovely biography.
- **Featured in Girls Who Looked Under Rocks** by Jeannine Atkins
A picture book anthology of pioneering women naturalists.

Jane Goodall

- **The Watcher: Jane Goodall's Life with the Chimps** by Jeanette Winter
A beautifully illustrated picture book about Goodall's life and work.
- **Me...Jane** by Patrick McDonnell
An award-winning picture book about Jane's childhood curiosity and early love of nature.
- **Who Is Jane Goodall?** by Roberta Edwards
A middle-grade biography from the popular "Who Was?" series.

John James Audubon

- **The Boy Who Drew Birds: A Story of John James Audubon** by Jacqueline Davies, illustrated by Melissa Sweet
A richly illustrated picture book about Audubon's boyhood and bird studies.

John Muir

- **The Boy Who Dreamed of Wilderness** by Anne Rockwell
A picture book about Muir's early life in Scotland and Wisconsin.
- **John Muir: America's Naturalist** by Chip Rawlins
An early chapter book focused on Muir's love for the wild.

Theodore Roosevelt

- **Teddie: The Story of Young Theodore Roosevelt** by Don Brown
A charming picture book about Roosevelt's childhood and legacy as a conservationist.