## **Select Bibliography of the Great Lakes for Young Readers**

**This select bibliography was compiled by Anne Moser, Wisconsin Water Library at University of Wisconsin-Madison in April 2024 and are appropriate for young readers from birth through middle school. We may be missing titles so please send us your favorite great, Great Lakes reads for consideration.**

**Please send them via email to askwater@aqua.wisc.edu.**

**Visit the Great, Great Read website (**<https://greatlakesgreatread.org>**) for books for adults (and young adults) and for books focused on Wisconsin.**

### **GENERAL**

**All About the Great Lakes** by Maureen Dunphy. Indianapolis, Ind.: Blue River Press, 2020.

**B is for Beacon: A Great Lakes Lighthouse Alphabet** by Helen Wilbur. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Sleeping Bear Press, 2016.

**Exploring Michigan, Great Lakes State** by Colleen Monroe, Michael Glenn Monroe. [n.p.], Storytime Press, 2013.

**Exploring the Great Lakes** by Department of English Language and Literature, Linda Thompson. Linda Thompson, 2013.

**The Fishermen, the Horse, and the Sea** by Barbara M. Joosse. Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2021.

**The Freshwater Alphabet Book** by Jerry Pallotta. Watertown, Mass.: Charlesbridge, 1996.

**Good Night Great Lakes** by Alan Gamble. Sandwich, Mass.: Good Night Books, 2019.

**Great Lakes** by Kevin Meyers. Layton, Utah: Gibbs Smith, 2020.

**Great Lakes Fact or Fake?** by Dave Dempsey. Traverse City, Mich.: Mission Point Press, 2023.

**A Great Lakes Odyssey with Louis and Louise** by Stephen T Schram and illustrated by Kimberly VanDenBerg. Waukesha, Wis.: Orange Hat Publishing, 2018.

**The Great Lakes: Our Freshwater Treasure** by Barbara Rosenstock. New York: Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2024.

**A Great Lake’s Tale: Superior Learns She’s Part of the Flow** by Jonna Watson. Jonna Watson, 2022.

**Hush-a-bye night: Goodnight, Lake Superior** by Thelma Godlin. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Sleeping Bear Press, 2023.

**Madeline Island ABC Book** by Marcia Henry. Madison, Wis.: University of Wisconsin Press, 2008.

**Mail by the Pail** by Colin Bergel and Mark Koenig. Detroit, Mich.: Wayne State University Press, 2000.

**Michel’s Island** by Mabel Leigh Hunt. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Company, 1940.

**Morning on the Lake** by Waboose Bourdeau. Tonawanda, N.Y.: Kids Can Press, 1998.

**One Summer Up North** by John Owens. Minneapolis, Minn.: University of Minnesota Press, 2020.

**One Winter Up North** by John Owens. Minneapolis, Minn.: University of Minnesota Press, 2022.

**Paddle to the Sea** written and illustrated by Holling Clancy Holling. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1941.

**On Sand Island** by Jacqueline Briggs Martin. Boston, Mass.: Houghton Mifflin, 2003.

**Skating Wild on an Inland Sea** by Jean Pendziwol. Toronto; Berkeley, Calif.: Groundwood Books, 2023.

**Stories From Where We Live – The Great Lakes** by Sara St. Antoine and Trudy Nicholson. Minneapolis, Minn.: Milkweed Editions, 2003.

**Underwater Adventures with Louis and Louise** by Stephen T. Schram and illustrated by Kimberly VanDenBerg. [Waukesha, WI]: Orange Hat Publishing, 2015.

**The Voyageur’s Paddle** by Wargin Kathy-jo, David Geister and Van Frankenhuyzen. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Sleeping Bear Press, 2015.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

**The Day the Great Lakes Drained Away** by Charles Ferguson Barker. Traverse City, Mich.: Mackinac Island Press, 2005.

**The Magic School Bus and the Climate Challenge** by Joanna Cole, Bruce Degen. New York, NY: Scholastic Press, 2012.

**Our House Is on Fire: Greta Thunberg’s Call to Save the Planet** by Jeanette Winter. San Diego, CA: Beach Lane Books, 2019.

### FLORA AND FAUNA

**Agate: What Good Is a Moose?** by Morgan Dey. Duluth, Minn.: Lake Superior Port Cities Inc., 2007.

**Freshwater Fish & Fishing** by Jim Arnosky. New York, N.Y.: Simon & Schuster, 1984.

**Plants and Animals of the Great Lakes** by Walter LaPlante. New York: Gareth Stevens Publishing, 2015.

**The Runaway Dandelion** by Jill Regensburg. [n.p.], EarthWard Project, 2017.

**Silent Satisfaction: Great Lakes Fish Save Their Neighborhoods** by Stephen T. Schram and illustrated by Kimberly VanDenBerg. Waukesha, Wis.: Orange Hat Publishing, 2020.

**Tale of a Great White Fish: A Sturgeon Story** by Maggie de Vries. Vancouver, Canada: Greystone Books, 2006.

**Tyler the Fish and Marty the Sturgeon** by Meaghan Fisher and Sandra Burns. Troy Oh.: Gypsy Publications, 2015.

### GEOLOGY

**Emma’s First Agate** by Jim Magnuson. Cambridge, Minn.: Adventure Publications, 2014.

**Rhoda’s Rock Hunt** by Molly Beth Griffin. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2014.

**Under Michigan: The Story of Michigan’s Rocks and Fossils** by Charles Ferguson Barker. Detroit, Mich.: Wayne State University Press, 2005.

**What’s on the Beach? A Great Lakes Treasure Hunt** by Mary Blocksma. Bay City, Mich.: Beaver Island Arts, 2003.

### INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

**Autumn Peltier: Water Warrior** by Carole Lindstrom. New York: Roaring Book Press, 2023.

**Birchbark House** by Louise Erdrich. New York: Harper Collins. 2002.

**Chickadee** by Louise Erdrich. Book 4 of the Birchbark House Series. New York: Harper Collins. 2012.

**The Game of Silence** by Louise Erdrich. Book 2 of the Birchbark House Series. New York: Harper Trophy, 2006.

**Gimaamaa-akiiminaan gimiigwechiwendaamin: Thankful for our Mother Earth: A Kid’s Manoomin Activity Book** by Dylan Jennings, Wesley Ballinger and the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission. Odanah, Wis.: GLIFWC, 2017. ([available full text online](https://www.glifwc.org/publications/MotherEarthflipbook/files/inc/6e47b86c73.pdf))

**Growing up Ojibwe** by Joshua M Whitebird, Edward Benton-Banai and the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission. Odanah, Wis.: Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, 2018.

**Makoons** by Louise Erdrich. Book 5 of the Birchbark House Series. New York: Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. 2016.

**Mnoomin maan’gowing/ The Gift of Mnoomin** by Brittany Luby. Toronto, Ont.: Groundwood Books, 2023.

**Native Americans of the Great Lakes** by P.M. Boekhoff and Stuart A. Kallen. San Diego, Calif.: Kidhaven Press, 2004.

**Nibi Emosaawdang / The Water Walker** by Joanne Robertson. Toronto, Ont.: Second Story Press, 2019.

**Nibi is Water = Nibi Aawon Nbiish** by Joanne Robertson. Toronto, Ont.: Second Story Press, 2020

**Nibi’s Water Song** by Sunshine Tenasco. New York: Lee & Low Books Inc., 2021.

**Nanabosho, Soaring Eagle, and the Great Sturgeon** by Joe McLellan. Manitoba, Canada: Pemmican Publications, 2015.

**The Porcupine Year** by Louise Erdrich. Book 3 of the Birchbark House Series. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2008.

**The Sacred Harvest: Ojibway Wild Rice Gathering** by Gordon Regguinti. Minneapolis, Minn.: Lerner Publications, 1992.

**Warrior Girl Unearthed** by Angeline Boulley. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2023.

**The Water Walker** by Joanne Robertson. Toronto, Canada: Second Story Press, 2017.

**We Are Water Protectors** by Carole Lindstrom. New York: Roaring Book Press, 2020.

### HISTORY

**Tales of the Great Lakes: Stories from Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin.** Secaucus, N.J.: Castle, 1986.

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

**The Berenstain Bears Go Green** by Jan Berenstain and Mike Berenstain. New York: Harper Festival, 2013.

**City Green** by Dyanne DiSalvo-Ryan. New York: HarperCollins, 2019.

**George Saves the World by Lunchtime** by Jo Readmen. Ealing, London: Transworld Publishers, 2006.

**One World: Our Chance to Save the Planet** by Michael Foreman. {n.p.] Andersen Press, 2012.

**Rachel Carson and Her Book That Changed the World** by Laurie Lawlor. New York, Ny: Holiday House, 2014.

For more inspiring stories of heroes, both in the Great Lakes and around the world, read the Wisconsin Water Library’s blog posts on Indigenous Women (<https://go.wisc.edu/399bhw> ), Kids Taking Action (<https://go.wisc.edu/l850it>) and Women in Aquatic and Marine Sciences (<https://go.wisc.edu/9tk7u7> )

### MARITIME HISTORY AND SHIPWRECKS

**The Christmas Tree Ship: The Story of Captain Santa** by Rochelle Pennington. Woodruff, Wis.: Guest Cottage/Amherst Press, 2002.

**Danger on the Great Lakes (Nancy Drew)** by Carolyn Keene. New York: Aladdin Publishing, 2011.

**Death’s Door: True Tales of Tragedy, Mystery, and Bravery from the Great Lakes’ Most Dangerous Waters** by Barbara Josse. Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2023.

**The Edmund Fitzgerald: Lost With All Hands: A True Story for Young Readers** by Robert Hertel. Spring Lake, Mich.: River Road Publications, 1999.

**The Edmund Fitzgerald: The Song of the Bell** by Kathy-Jo Wargin and Gisjbert Van Frankenhuyzen. Chelsea, Mich.: Sleeping Bear Press, 2003.

**Great Lakes and Great Ships: An Illustrated History for Children** by John Mitchell and Tom Woodruff. Suttons Bay, Mich.: Suttons Bay, 1991.

**Great Lakes Shipwrecks** by Michelle Parkin. Minneapolis, Minn.: Pogo Books, 2024.

**Great Ships on the Great Lakes: A Maritime History** by Catherine M. Green, Jefferson J. Gray and Bobbie Malone. Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2013.

**Lost and Found: Legendary Lake Michigan Shipwrecks** by V.O. Van Heest. Holland, Mich.: In-Depth Editions, LLC, 2012.

**The Mystery on the Great Lakes** by Carole Marsh. Peachtree City, Ga.: Carole Marsh/Gallopade International, 2019.

**Shipwrecks and Lost Treasures, Great Lakes: Legends and Lore, Pirates and More!** by Michael Varhola, Illustrated by Paul G Hoffman. Guilford, Conn.: Globe Pequot, 2007.

**Shipwrecks of the Great Lakes: Tales of Courage—And Cowardice** by Cheryl MacDonald. Glen Alen Va.: Amazing Stories, 2010.

**Shipwrecks: Exploring Sunken Cities Beneath the Sea** by Mary M. Cerullo. New York: Dutton Children’s Books, Penguin, 2009.

**Shipwreck Tales of the Great Lakes** by Cris Kohl. Chicago, Ill.: Seawolf Communications, 2004.

**Sport: Ship Dog of the Great Lakes** by Pamela Cameron and Renee Graef. Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2019.

**Uncovering Great Lakes Shipwrecks** by Kathryn Wesgate. New York: Enslow Publishing, 2023.

### POLLUTION

**The Adventures of a Plastic Bottle: A Story About Recycling** by Alison Inches. New York, NY: Little Simon, 2009.

**Don’t Throw That Away!** by Lara Bergen. New York: Little Simon, 2009.

**One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of Gambia** by Miranda Paul. [n.p.]: Millbrook Press, 2015.

### ODDITIES

**A Field Guide to Mermaids of the Great Lakes** by Debbie Scheller. [n.p.]: Deborah Scheller, 2017.

**Tallulah: Mermaid of the Great Lakes** by Denise Brennan-Nelson. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Sleeping Bear Press, 2015.

**The Trouble with Dragons** by Debi Gliori. Manhattan, N.Y.: Bloomsbury Publishing PLC, 2009.

**Lake Monsters and Odd Creatures of the Great Lakes** by Shetan Noir. 2018. Brighton, Mich.: Shetan Noir.

**Shipwrecks, Monsters, and Mysteries of the Great Lakes** by Ed Butts. Toronto, Canada: Tundra Books, 2011.

For more inspiring stories of heroes, both in the Great Lakes and around the world, read the Wisconsin Water Library’s blog posts on [Indigenous Women](https://waterlibrary.aqua.wisc.edu/indigenous-women-in-stem-part-3-individuals/), [Kids Taking Action](https://waterlibrary.aqua.wisc.edu/our-new-library-display-kids-take-action/) and [Women in Aquatic and Marine Sciences](https://waterlibrary.aqua.wisc.edu/women-in-the-aquatic-sciences/)



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