

Riparia's River

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Ecology, Pollution, Teamwork, Problem Solving

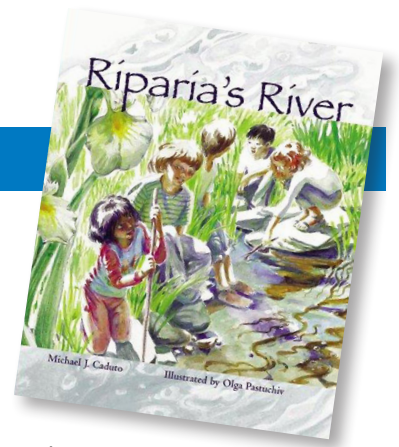
Grade Level: 3rd to 5th grade

Book Brief: When their favorite swimming hole is ruined, a group of curious kids work together to find the cause and figure out a solution.

Author:
Michael J. Caduto

Illustrator:
Olga Pastuchiv

Content Connections:
Science, Social Studies, Math



TIME TO READ!

BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Have students make predictions about the story based on the title and story based on the title and cover illustration. Who are the children on the cover? What are they doing?

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The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk through the book before reading. What do students notice about the illustrations of nature and the environment?

Prior Knowledge: What do your students know about water pollution? Have they ever seen polluted water? What causes pollution? How does pollution affect rivers, lakes, and streams? Discuss. Make a cause and effect pollution chart on the board.

Vocabulary: eroded, buffer, algae, microscopic, transplanted

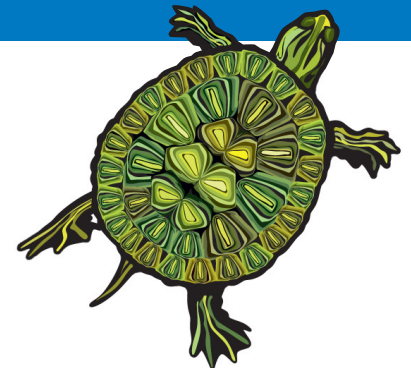
Purpose for Reading: "All of the plants and animals in this story depend on their environment to live. Pay attention to how the river and the things living in it are *interconnected*."

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Should the children have followed Riparia? Why or why not?
- ◆ Where do you think Riparia came from?
- ◆ What are some uses for manure that are *good* for the environment?
- ◆ Why does Mark invite Amy to swim with them?

- ◆ How do you think the children encouraged others to help them?
- ◆ Which season would be the best to work at the river? Why?



LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: "How did the plants and animals in the book depend on their environment to live? What happened to them when the river was polluted?"

Extending Our Thinking: Briefly review the water cycle with the class. Explain that all the water on Earth is connected, and that the water we have now is the only water we have. Ask students to think about why the water cycle would make water pollution such a dangerous problem; let them discuss with a partner or in small groups and then share their ideas with the class. What would happen if we polluted all of our water?

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.