

Riparia's River

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

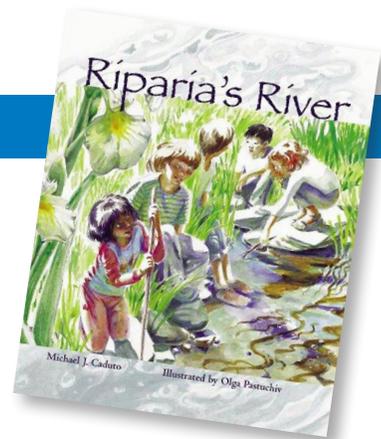
Themes: Ecology, Pollution, Teamwork, Problem Solving

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



TIME TO READ!

Before reading, make predictions: Based on the cover illustration, what do you think will happen in the story?

While reading, make connections: Has pollution affected any areas near where you live? How?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ Why didn't the kids know the water was polluted before jumping in?
- ◆ Where do you think Riparia came from?
- ◆ Where did she go?
- ◆ What would you have done if you were Amy?
- ◆ Why did the plants help?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

INCREDIBLE EDIBLE SLIME

Ingredients: 14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk, 1 T. cornstarch, green food coloring, 2 t. of vanilla flavoring

In small saucepan, stir milk and cornstarch together over low heat. Once thickened, remove from heat. Stir in food coloring and vanilla. Let cool. Store unused "slime" in a plastic baggie in the refrigerator for up to 2 days. How would slime in the water affect wildlife? Would you want to swim in this kind of slime?

RIVER RESEARCH

Visit a river or stream near you and observe the water. Does it look clean? What do you notice about the land around the water? Can you find the source of the water? Where does the water go? If the water is polluted, how can you help solve this problem?

POLLUTION PRINTS

Materials: washable markers, spray bottle, paper

Let your child color the fingertips and thumb of one hand with different colored markers. Have them hold their hand as if they were holding a baseball, palm facing up. Using a water bottle, mist the fingertips so the colors begin to run down into the palm. How is this "runoff" like the runoff in the story? Place their hand onto paper to make a unique piece of art.



TECHNOLOGY LINK

Visit www.protectingwater.com for an interactive look at how water sources are affected by the environment around them.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT WATER

One Well: The Story of Water on Earth, Rochelle Strauss (2007),
A River Ran Wild: An Environmental History, Lynne Cherry (2002),
Come Back, Salmon, Molly Cone (2001).

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