

Water stories in literature and media

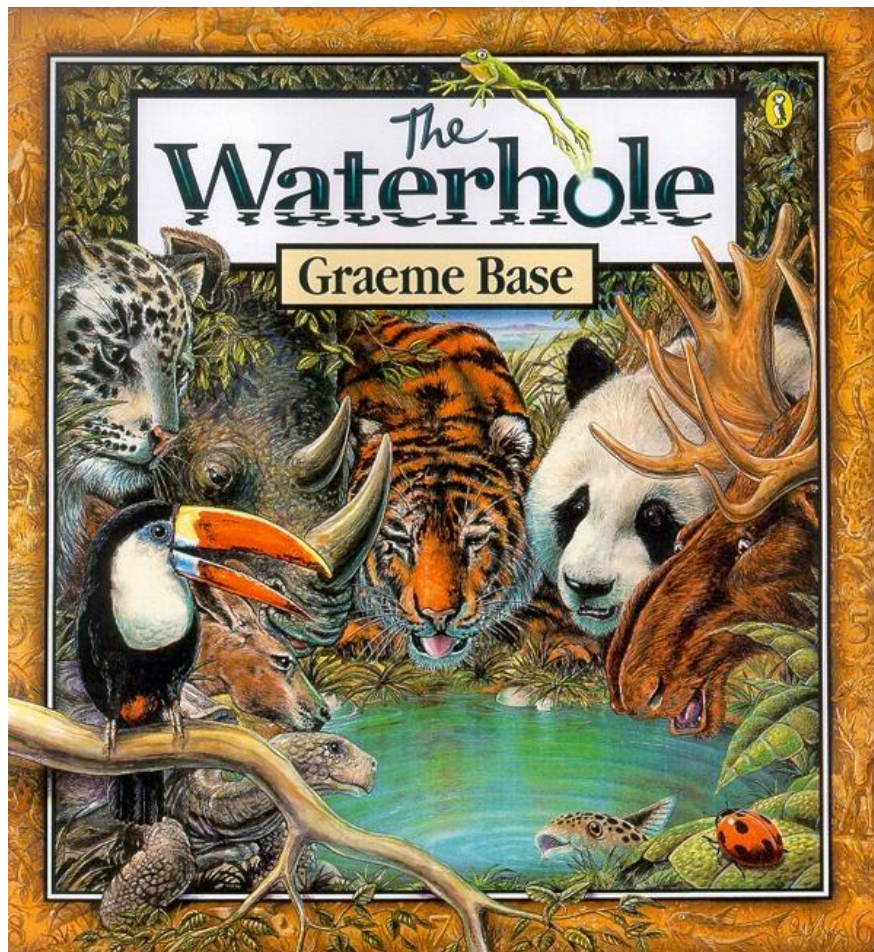


Extend the theme of water into cross-curricular lessons by exploring water in literature, media, and culture.

View the list below to find the right text for your class.



The Well



The Waterhole by Graeme Base

Published: 2003

Best for ages:

Themes: biodiversity

Down to the secret waterhole the animals all come,
As seasons bring forth drought and flood, they gather there as one.
United in their common need, their numbers swell to ten,
But hidden deep amongst the trees lie ten times that again!

The Waterhole is an ingenious fusion of counting book, puzzle book, storybook and art book – a journey of discovery, from the plains of Africa and the Jungles of the Amazon to the woodlands of North America and the deserts of outback Australia.



Storm Boy by Colin Thiele

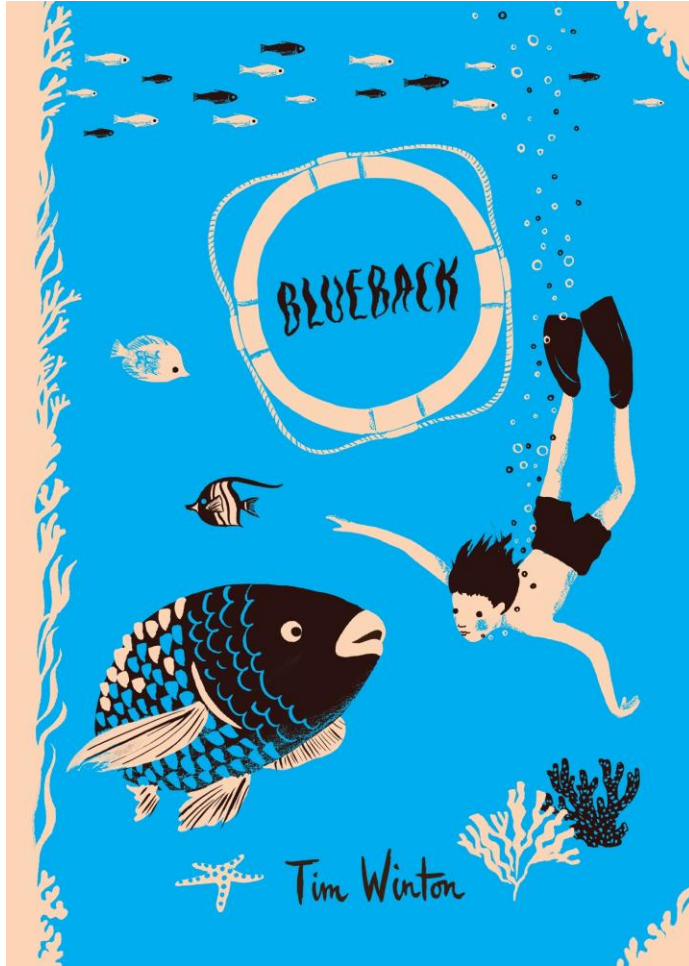
Published: 1963

Best for ages:

Themes: environment, family, community

Storm Boy likes to wander alone along the fierce deserted coast among the dunes that face out into the Southern Ocean. After a pelican mother is shot, Storm Boy rescues the three chicks, and nurses them back to health. He names them Mr Proud, Mr Ponder and Mr Percival. After he releases them, his favourite, Mr Percival, returns. The story then concentrates on the conflict between his lifestyle and the externally imposed requirement for him to attend a school, and the fate of the pelican.





Blueback by Tim Winton

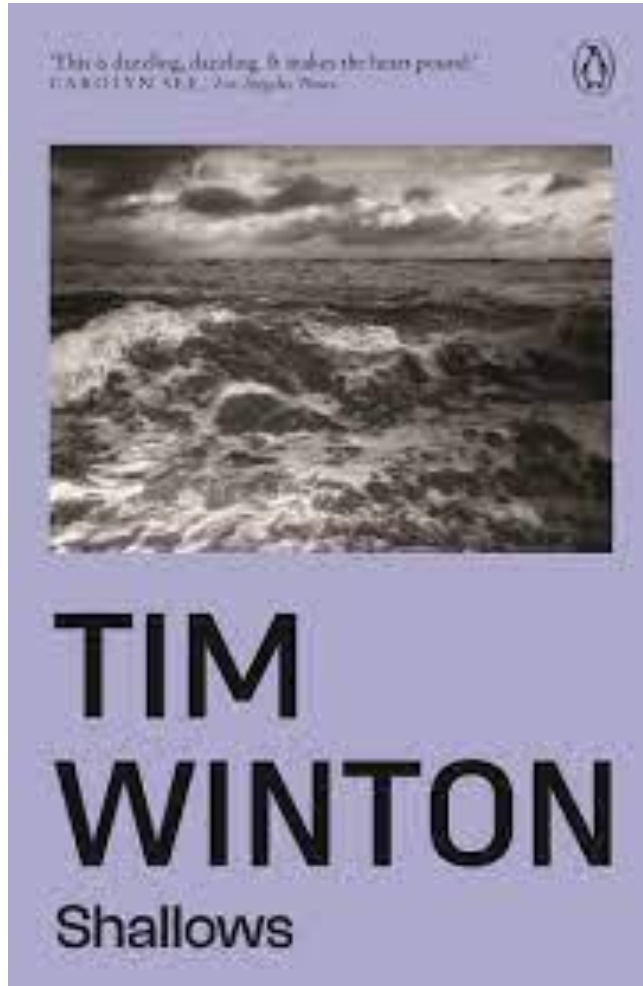
Published: 2014

Best for ages:

Themes: conservation, family

Blueback is the story of young Abel Jackson and his mother, Dora. Growing up in Longboat Bay, Abel and his mother have a love of the ocean and the creatures that inhabit it. Inspired by a large groper fish that calls the bay home, Abel and Dora strive to protect the region from developers and greedy fishermen.





Shallows by Tim Winton

Published: 1984

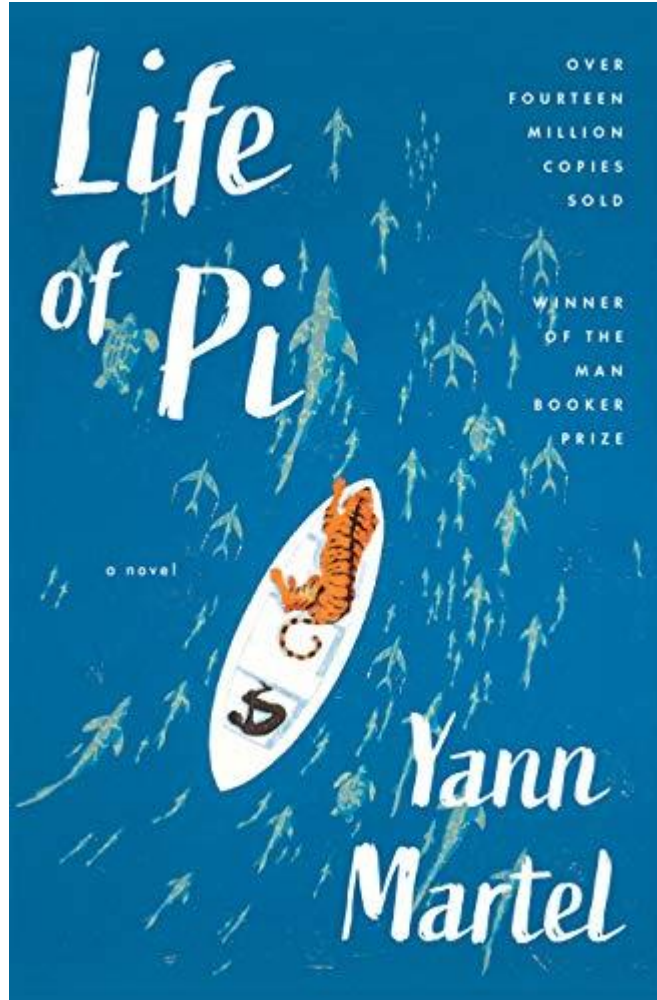
Best for ages:

Themes: tradition vs. conservation

Shallows is set in a small whaling town in Western Australia, where land-based whaling has been a tradition for over 150 years. When Queenie Cookson decides to join an antiwhaling protest group, she defies her husband, her ancestry, and her community.

Winner of the prestigious Miles Franklin Award in Australia, this eloquent and moving novel speaks with immediacy and passion of the conflict between the values of a closeknit, traditional society and the evolving mores of the wider world.





Life of Pi by Yann Martel

Published: 2001

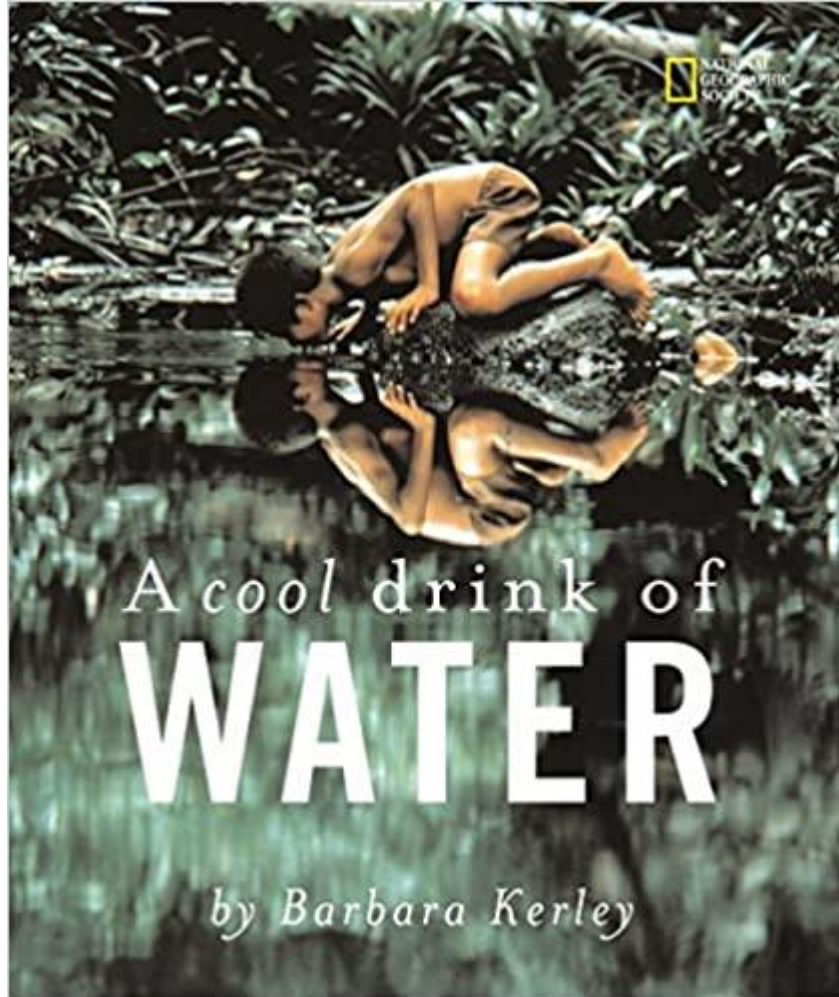
Best for ages: 14 - adult

Themes: identity, survival

Yann Martel's *Life of Pi* is a coming-of-age story featuring a young man's story of migration, disaster, and survival in the Pacific Ocean on a lifeboat with a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker.

Within the story are themes of self-perception, the definition of family, the nature of animals, morality, faith, and the ambivalence of what constitutes truth.





A Cool Drink of Water by Barbara Kerley

Published: 2006

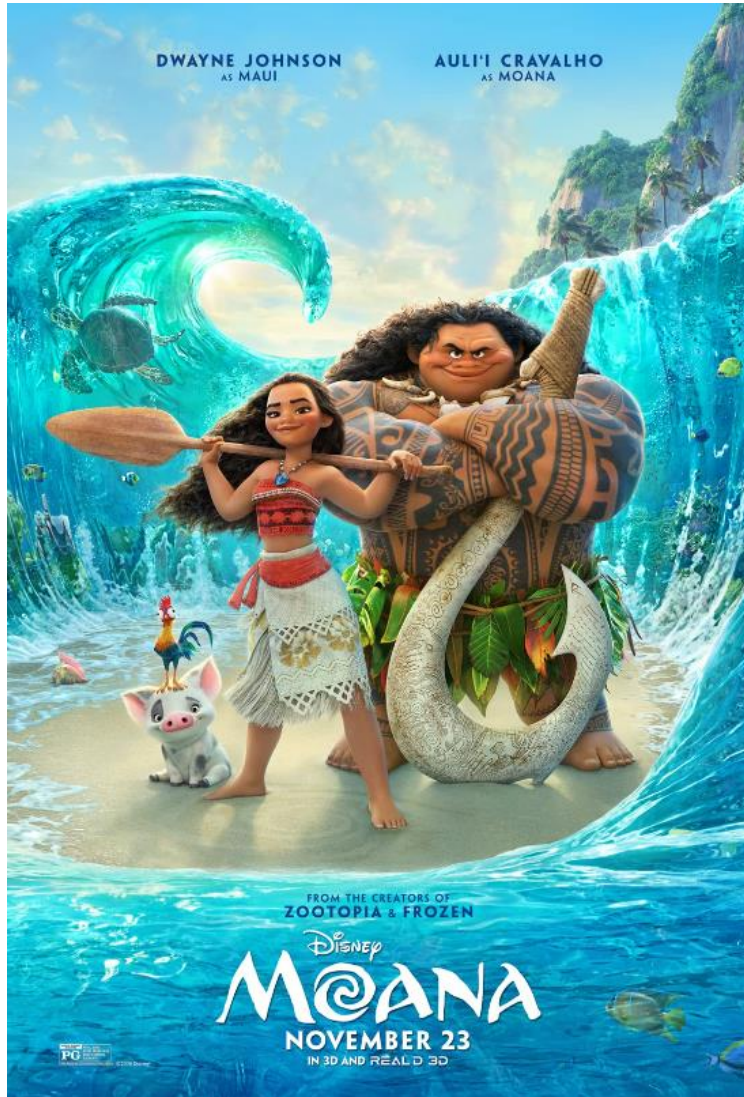
Best for ages: 2-9

Themes: global citizenship

Whether they squeeze it out of a burlap bag, haul it home from a communal tap, or get it out of their kitchen faucet, people all around the world are unified by their common need for water.

Barbara Kerley brings home this point simply and eloquently in this beautiful and educational picture book that combines striking National Geographic photographs with a poetic text to show how people in various cultures use and conserve the world's most vital resource.





Moana

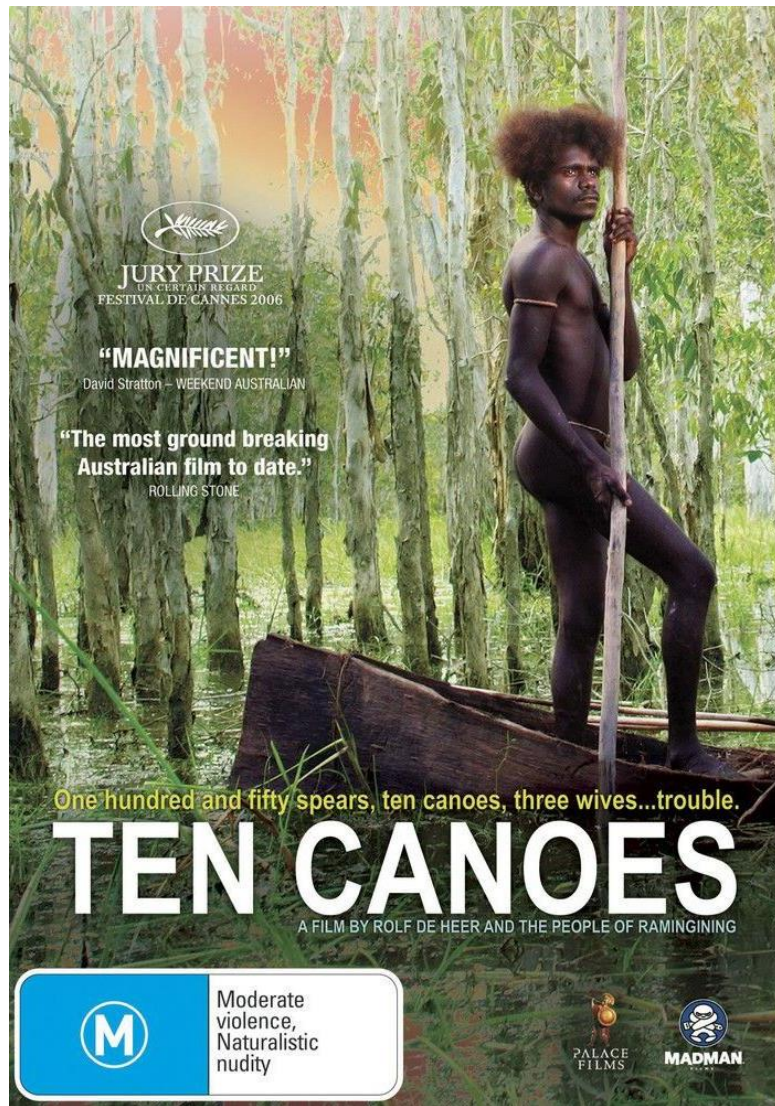
2018

Best for ages: 5-13

Rated PG

Themes: Polynesian culture, environmental conservation

In Ancient Polynesia, when a terrible curse incurred by the Demigod Maui reaches Moana's island, she answers the Ocean's call to seek out the Demigod to set things right.



Ten Canoes

2007

Best for ages: 16 - adult

Themes: Aboriginal history and culture, water management

A parable of forbidden love from Australia's mythical past, narrated by Australian icon David Gulpilil and starring his son Jamie as the covetous youth Dayindi, *Ten Canoes* is a ground-breaking glimpse into Aboriginal life centuries before European settlement. Shot in and around the Arafura Wetlands of Central Arnhem Land, Rolf de Heer and the People of Ramingining have created a pioneering and timeless tale for all people and all cultures.



The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind

2019

Best for ages: 14 - adult

Themes: drought, water technology and management

The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind tells the true story of William Kamkwamba; the young Malawian genius who built a windmill entirely via DIY methods in the early 2000s, to save his family and village from drought and famine.

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