

# Amara and the Bats

## Written and Illustrated By: Emma Reynolds

**Synopsis:** Amara loves bats, so when she learns there are none near her new home due to habitat loss, she overcomes her feelings of helplessness and inspires her community to take action. Includes facts about bats and bat houses.

**Suggested Reading Date:** October (Halloween & Bat Appreciation Month); Bat Appreciation Day, April 17th, 2023; Earth Day, April 15, 2023

### Activity Descriptions:

- Discuss why bats need protection – how do people feel about bats?
- Create a “Before and After” chart to discuss attitudes and feelings about bats before and then after learning about bats. Did the book change their minds?
- Learn about Emma Reynolds’ campaign, #KidLit4Climate that works to amplify the voices of young environmental activists. (Could lead to a discuss hashtags and/or how kids can work for causes that they care about.)
- Create a “Bat Facts” Fortune Teller:  
[https://batslive.pwnet.org/fun\\_at\\_your\\_fingertips\\_update.pdf](https://batslive.pwnet.org/fun_at_your_fingertips_update.pdf)
- Create “Flying” bats – students can work in teams to work on SEL and 21st Century Skills: [https://batslive.pwnet.org/Dreamweaver/pdf/flap\\_for\\_bats.pdf](https://batslive.pwnet.org/Dreamweaver/pdf/flap_for_bats.pdf)

### Related Websites:

- Author/Illustrator Website: <https://emmareynoldsillustration.com/amaraandthebats>
- Read and Draw with Emma Reynolds, author of Amara and the Bats!  
<https://youtu.be/Hqti9bhmds> -
- Guide to Using Environmental Fiction and Nonfiction in the Classroom from Simon and Schuster:  
[https://d28hgpri8am2if.cloudfront.net/tagged\\_assets/6556686/9781534469013\\_cg\\_guid\\_e%20to%20using%20environmental%20fiction%20and%20nonfiction%20in%20the%20classroom.pdf](https://d28hgpri8am2if.cloudfront.net/tagged_assets/6556686/9781534469013_cg_guid_e%20to%20using%20environmental%20fiction%20and%20nonfiction%20in%20the%20classroom.pdf)
- National Wildlife Foundation: Night Friends – Bats of the Americas (resources/activities for older students) [https://batslive.pwnet.org/pdf/Night\\_Friends.pdf](https://batslive.pwnet.org/pdf/Night_Friends.pdf)
- 3 Fun Facts About Bats! | SciShow Kids: <https://youtu.be/2Mii45v85YY>
- How Do Bats See with Sound? | SciShow Kids: <https://youtu.be/fSIFU8OTwrg>
- Project Learning Tree - Amara and the Bats (Links to videos of young environmental activists) <https://www.plt.org/recommended-reading/amara-and-the-bats/>
- Bat Conservation International <https://www.batcon.org/>

### Text to Text Connections:

If you like this book, you might also want to use these books about bats:

- *The Bat* by Elise Gravel
- *Bat Citizens: Defending the Ninjas of the Night* by Rob Laidlaw
- *Bats* by Gail Gibbons
- *Bats at the Library* by Brian Lies
- *I Am Bat* by Morag Hood

- *A Place for Bats* by Melissa Stewart, illustrated by Higgins Bond
- *Rufus: The Bat Who Loved Colors* by Tomi Ungerer
- *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon

Ecology:

- *Galápagos Girl* by Marsha Diane Arnold, illustrated by Angela Dominguez
- *A Garden to Save the Birds* by Wendy McClure, illustrated by Beatriz Mayumi
- *Fur, Feather, Fin: All of Us Are Kin* by Diane Lang, illustrated by Steph Laberis
- *If Bees Disappeared* by Lily Williams
- *If You Take Away the Otter* by Susannah Buhrman-Deever, illustrated by Matthew Trueman
- *Zonia's Rain Forest* by Juana Martinez-Neal

Activists:

- *Greta and the Giants: Inspired by Greta Thunberg's Stand to Save the World* by Zoë Tucker, illustrated by Zoe Persico
- *Our House Is on Fire: Greta Thunberg's Call to Save the Planet* by Jeanette Winter
- *Right Now! Real Kids Speaking Up for Change* by Miranda Paul, illustrated by Bea Jackson
- *Stand Up! Speak Up! A Story Inspired by the Climate Change Revolution* by Andrew Joyner

Animal Misconceptions:

- *Disgusting Creatures* series by Elise Gravel
- *I'm Trying to Love Spiders* by Bethany Barton

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