

Help your family hit the reset button by taking your reading out into nature. These book selections will help you see the beauty of your own backyard and perhaps inspire a wilderness adventure beyond the page—and a breath of fresh air!

“The Camping Trip” by Jennifer K. Mann (2020)

Ernestine’s a bit worried about her first camping trip, but her cousin and aunt put Ernestine quickly at ease in this story that should satisfy new explorers and remind more experienced campers of happy times spent in the woods.

“Fatima’s Great Outdoors” by Ambreen Tariq and Stevie Lewis (2021)

After a rough week at school, Fatima’s family’s first camping trip offers a welcome escape and a host of new experiences for her and her sister. Set at a fictional state park in Minnesota, this book is peppered with Urdu words and phrases (the official language of Pakistan) understandable from context, written by the founder of the social media initiative Brown People Camping.

“The Hike” by Alison Farrell (2019)

Three friends share an epic day in the wilderness, each drawing upon their strengths in support of the adventure in this STEM-friendly, girl-powered Pacific Northwest picture book.

“Marjory Saves the Everglades: The Story of Marjory Stoneman Douglas” by Sandra Neil Wallace and Rebecca Gibbon (2020)

This biography tells the story of a pioneering environmentalist who worked for decades to restore and preserve the wetlands of Florida ensuring the protection of the plant and animal species found there.

“Mountain Chef: How One Man Lost His Groceries, Changed His Plans, and Helped Cook Up the National Park Service” by Annette Bay Pimentel and Rich Lo (2016)

A famed Chinese American trail chef averted disaster and fed 30 men for 10 days in 1916 as they explored the Sierras while considering whether to create a national park service, a true story that should inspire you to cook up some adventure (or creative dining) of your own.

“The Not-so-Great Outdoors” by Madeline Kloepper (2019)

A cranky city kid has a change of heart as her family explores the great outdoors on a camping trip.

“Sidewalk Flowers” by JonArno Lawson and Sydney Smith (2015)

As her distracted father leads her through the city, a child collects and then distributes wildflowers as gifts in this wordless picture book celebrating everyday beauty and kindness.

“Where’s Rodney?” by Carmen Bogan and Floyd Cooper (2017)

Rodney isn’t especially excited about a field trip until he realizes the park they’re visiting isn’t the one in his neighborhood, and heading outside of the city is a life-changing adventure.

“You Are Home” by Evan Turk (2019)

An ode to our National Parks, this oversized nonfiction picture book with simple, minimal language features double-page spreads of park vistas each packed with the plants and animals that make their home on that land.

Now that you’ve lived vicariously through the adventures of these explorers real and imagined, plan a family outing inspired by your reading!

- Visit [Find Your Park](#) to locate a nearby National Park, Monument or Bureau of Land Management (BLM) space and make a day of exploring a new-to-you protected area. Don’t forget to check out historic homes and registries!
- If your child is a fourth grader, be sure to apply for the [Every Kid Outdoors](#) program. It offers fourth-grade students and their immediate family *free access* to all National Park fee areas for the school year, August to August.
- Spending time outside with a book doesn’t have to be an ambitious undertaking. Bring a blanket and find a shady spot under a tree for your next read-aloud or enjoy your bedtime stories by starlight. The change of environment will be refreshing in more ways than one.