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CELEBRATE EARTH DAY AND THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF *SILENT SPRING* BY RACHEL CARSON

New York, NY—**RACHEL CARSON AND HER BOOK THAT CHANGED THE WORLD** by Laurie Lawlor, illustrated by Laura Beingessner (April 1, 2012/ISBN: 978-0-8234-2370-5/\$16.95), commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of the pioneering environmentalist's book *Silent Spring*.

"Once you are aware of the wonder and beauty of earth, you will want to learn about it," wrote Rachel Carson. An American marine biologist and conservationist, Carson is credited with advancing the global environmental movement. The publication of *Silent Spring* in 1962 brought environmental concerns to the masses.

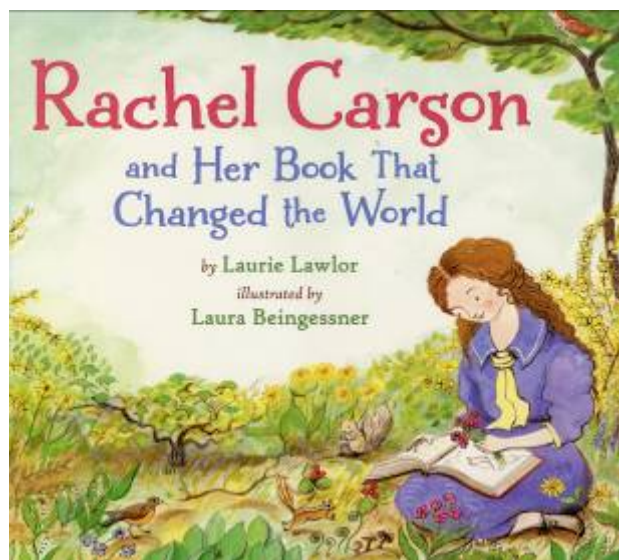
In this new, accessible biography, young readers are introduced to, and are sure to be inspired by, the widely acclaimed biologist. Rachel Carson's fascination with and love for nature began when she was a child, but it was when she started work as a field biologist that she noticed disturbing trends in the environment. She published two best-selling books about the ocean, and in 1958 began investigating the effects of chemical pesticides. Despite criticism from the chemical industry, *Silent Spring*, her third book, was a huge success and led to further studies and to legislation designed to protect the environment.

RACHEL CARSON AND HER BOOK THAT CHANGED THE WORLD depicts the life of a woman who demonstrated through the power of the written word how one person can alter an entire planet's course.

Laurie Lawlor's books have appeared on many notable lists, including the ALA Notable Children's Books, the ALA Best Books for Young Adults, and the NCSS-CBC Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People. Her *Muddy As a Duck Puddle and Other American Similes* was an IRA Teachers' Choice. She lives and teaches in the Chicago metropolitan area.

Laura Beingessner is the illustrator of several books for children, including *Our Corner Grocery Store* by Joanne Schwartz, which received a starred review from *School Library Journal*, and *If the Shoe Fits: Voices from Cinderella* by Laura Whipple, winner of the William Allen White Children's Book Award. She lives in Toronto. Visit www.laurabeingessner.com.

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