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Ladders

COMMON CORE READERS



NATIONAL
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CENGAGE
Learning



Make a Difference

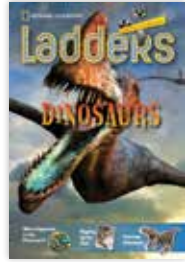
The book focuses on making a difference in a community setting.

SELECTION 1: “Jane Addams: Champion of the Poor”—a biography about Jane Addams and the impact she had as a social reformer

SELECTION 2: “Stone Soup”—a fable about the importance of sharing with one another

SELECTION 3: “Community Gardens Make a Difference”—an opinion piece about how community gardens can make a difference in a number of ways

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Dinosaurs

The focus of this book is on dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures.

SELECTION 1: “What Happened to the Dinosaurs?”—a science article about three theories of how dinosaurs became extinct

SELECTION 2: “Digging Up the Past”—a third-person narrative about a field paleontologist’s discovery of a mosasaur on a Nebraska ranch

SELECTION 3: “Extreme Dinosaurs”—a science article about dinosaurs with extreme features

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Amazing Plants

This book explores the amazing world of plants.

SELECTION 1: “The King’s Tree”—a myth about how the mango tree came to be

SELECTION 2: “Extreme Plants”—a science article about some of the world’s most extreme and unusual plants

SELECTION 3: “The Plant Hunt”—a play about a class trip to a botanic garden

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All Together Now

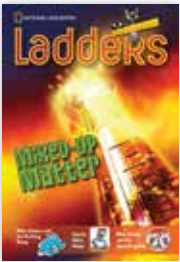
This book takes a look at the value of working together.

SELECTION 1: “Together”—a poem about people working together to create a thriving community

SELECTION 2: “The Argument”—a realistic fiction story about how one group of students learned a lesson in collaboration from a colony of harvester ants

SELECTION 3: “Helping Hands”—An opinion piece about Habitat for Humanity

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Mixed-Up Matter

This book takes a humorous look at mixing matter.

SELECTION 1: “Milo, Simon, and the Barking Gloop”—a humorous fiction story about what happens when a kid scientist adds a secret ingredient to a simple mixture

SELECTION 2: “How to Make Gloop”—a how-to article that provides the steps to make gloop, a silly-putty-like substance

SELECTION 3: “Milo, Simon, and the Giant Eruption”—a humorous fiction story about kid scientists Milo and Simon, who continue their misadventures with matter

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Birthday Celebrations

The focus of this book is on birthday traditions.

SELECTION 1: “International Birthday Bash”—a social studies article that explores birthday traditions around the world

SELECTION 2: “How to Make a Rainbow Cake”—a how-to article outlines the steps for making a color version of a birthday tradition—the birthday cake

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Forces of Nature

The focus of this book is that water is one of the forces of nature that shapes Earth's surface.

SELECTION 1: “Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox”—a folk tale presented in a graphic story format that tells how Paul and Babe formed the 10,000 lakes in Minnesota, the Great Lakes, and the Grand Canyon

SELECTION 2: “Water's Might”—a science article that explains the power water has had on shaping Earth's surface

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Onward!

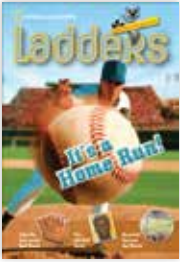
This book takes a look at Antarctica and explorers of that continent.

SELECTION 1: “Bottom of the World”—three haiku poems that describe Antarctica

SELECTION 2: “The Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration”—a history article about this heroic age, with a focus on Scott, Amundsen, and Shackleton

SELECTION 3: “Andrew's Antarctic Adventure”—a third-person narrative about a modern-day Antarctic explorer—digital nomad, Andrew Evans

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It's a Home Run

The focus of this book is on baseball and baseball traditions.

SELECTION 1: "Take Me Out to the Ball Game"—lyrics to the song

SELECTION 2: "The Old Ball Game"—a history article about baseball, a few of its traditions, and several famous players

SELECTION 3: "Baseball Around the World"—a sports article that tells where around the world baseball is played; some international players that are in the U.S. Hall of Fame; info on the World Baseball Classic

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Lend Me a Paw

This book is about service animals, therapy animals, and guide dogs.

SELECTION 1: "Animals Can!"—a social studies article that tells about the different classification of animals that help humans, such as service animals, guide dogs, and beasts of burden/pack animals

SELECTION 2: "The Navy Marine Mammal Program"—an opinion piece about the pros and cons of this service program

SELECTION 3: "One Smart Dog!"—a personal narrative about a woman and her guide dog

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High Points

This is a book about the high points in the U.S. (mostly), with first-hand and second-hand accounts of an expedition that a young boy had climbing the high points in all 50 states.

SELECTION 1: "Up High"—A short reference article about the world's highest summits and the 50 high points in the U.S.

SELECTION 2: "The 50-50-50 Expedition"—a personal narrative that is written as a first-hand account by a young boy who had an adventure climbing the 50 high points in the 50 states in fewer than 50 days

SELECTION 3: "Kaylee's Account"—a personal narrative that is written as a second-hand account by the 50-50-50 boy's sister, Kaylee, who gives her take on her brother's expedition.

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Nature's Genius

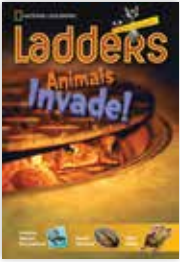
The focus of this book is biomimicry—how people have copied nature to create products that solve problems.

SELECTION 1: "Mimicking Nature"—a science article that gives different examples of products that copy nature's genius, such as material that mimics shark skin so swimmers can swim faster.

SELECTION 2: "Rain Gardens to the Rescue"—an opinion piece that tells how rain gardens can help prevent runoff

SELECTION 3: "Biobots"—a science article about robots that have been created to mimic animals' movements (and again to solve problems)

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Animals Invade!

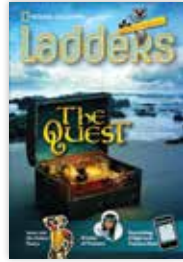
This book is about invasive species, specifically the cane toad in Australia.

SELECTION 1: "Invasive Species Everywhere!"—a humorous poem about invasive species

SELECTION 2: "Toadal Takeover"—a science article on the cane toad and how it has become a real problem in Australia

SELECTION 3: "Lila's Smile"—a fantasy story about a cane toad that wants to return to the cane toad's native land in South America

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The Quest

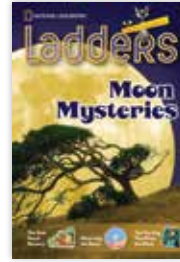
The book has three selections that focus on a quest.

SELECTION 1: "Jason and the Golden Fleece"—a graphic version of the myth of Jason and the Argonauts' quest for the golden fleece

SELECTION 2: "Dreams of Treasure"—a folk tale about a poor man's dream that leads him to treasure

SELECTION 3: "Geocaching: A High-Tech Treasure Hunt"—a how-to article that outlines the procedure for finding a geocache using the Internet and GPS

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Moon Mysteries

The focus of this book is the phases of the moon and partial lunar eclipses.

SELECTION 1: "The Sock Sneak Mystery"—a fun play set at a summer camp; kids figure out who the sock sneak is using the phases of the moon to figure out when it will be darkest (new moon), which is when the sock sneak strikes

SELECTION 2: "Observing the Moon"—a brief science article that discusses the phases of the moon and eclipses

SELECTION 3: "The Fire Dog That Bites the Moon"—a Korean folk tale that attempts to "explain" what happens during an eclipse of the moon

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Worth Saving

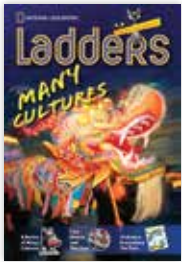
This book is about endangered and extinct species.

SELECTION 1: "Every Living Thing"—a science article that looks at endangered and extinct species

SELECTION 2: "Saving Puldunny Pond"—a realistic fiction story about kids in Oregon who save their mosquito-ridden pond by using the chubb minnow (an endangered species) to try to solve the problem

Selection 3: "STARS Wild and Free"—a funny, fantasy story about ugly endangered animals that band together to make a documentary to call attention to their plight—even ugly animals are "worth saving"

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Many Cultures

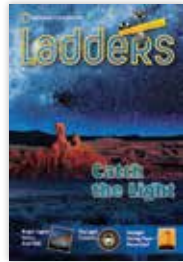
This book takes a look at the influences of many cultures from around the world.

SELECTION 1: “A Nation of Many Cultures”—a history article about immigrants that have come to the U.S. and influenced the culture with various festivals, traditions, etc.

SELECTION 2: “Lion Dances and Dim Sum”—an opinion piece written by a woman who adopted a son from China

SELECTION 3: “Tricksters Everywhere You Turn”—various trickster folk tales from around the world

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Catch the Light

This book takes a different look at light and darkness in our days and nights.

SELECTION 1: “Bright Lights Have a Dark Side”—a science article about the loss of the night sky because of bright lights—is all of that night light too much of a good thing?

SELECTION 2: “The Light Catchers”—a realistic fiction story that includes a fantasy story-within-a-story that is told by a grandfather who tries to explain the 24 hours of darkness that happens in the winter in Barrow, Alaska

SELECTION 3: “Daylight Saving Time—Pro or Con?”—an opinion piece that looks at both sides of Daylight Saving Time

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Connections to Nature

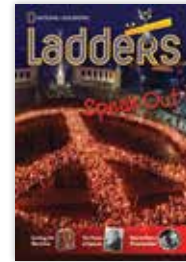
The book shows how two people—past and present—have had their own connection to nature in the Sierra Nevada.

SELECTION 1: “John’s Rambles”—a history article that gives an account of John Muir’s first trek in the High Sierras of California in the 1880s

SELECTION 2: “Wiffle Chicken’s Hike”—a personal narrative of one hiker’s journey along the John Muir Trail

SELECTION 3: “The Zones of Yosemite”—a reference article about plants and animals in 5 zones of elevation in Yosemite National Park

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Speak Out

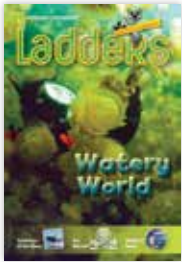
This book focuses on the power of communication—the written word and the spoken word.

SELECTION 1: “Getting the Word Out”—a social studies article about methods of communication across many eras

SELECTION 2: “The Power of Speech”—a history article about speeches that have made history

SELECTION 3: “How to Plan a Presentation”—a how-to article about how to plan an effective presentation

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Watery World

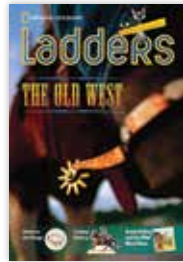
This book explores the watery worlds of two very different and amazing sea creatures.

SELECTION 1: “Creatures of the Deep”—a science article about whales and the octopuses

SELECTION 2: “Sea Warrior”—a fantasy about the misadventures of a young octopus

SELECTION 3: “Charlie’s Dream”—a fantasy linked to one boy’s anticipated whale watching trip

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The Old West

The focus of this book is the Old West—both real and legendary.

SELECTION 1: “Home on the Range”—a look at the lyrics of this well-known western song

SELECTION 2: “Cowboy History”—a social studies article about the history of the cowboy

SELECTION 3: “Annie Oakley and the Wild West Show”—historical fiction in a graphic story format that tells about the life of Annie Oakley and her rise to stardom in Buffalo Bill Cody’s Wild West show

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Transformers

This book explores the concept of transformation—how small and large communities can find ways to repair, repurpose, and artistically craft something beautiful and new out of the old.

SELECTION 1: “The Quilters of Gee’s Bend”—a social studies article that looks at how generations of women in Gee’s Bend created original quilting styles using recycled materials and transformed the tradition of quilting

SELECTION 2: “Sock Monkeys!”—a how-to article on transforming an ordinary pair of socks into an adorable stuffed animal

SELECTION 3: “Urban Transformations”—a social studies article that looks at urban design projects in the cities of Seoul, South Korea and New York City that turned undesirable and abandoned areas into beautiful, park-like community settings

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Moving into the Future

This book offers a look at transportation history, leads the reader to the most innovative transportation developments of today, and playfully considers what the future may be like.

SELECTION 1: “Cars of the Future Are Here!”—a science article that examines 5 differently-engineered cars and their sources for fuel or energy

SELECTION 2: “Moving Across, Below, and Up”—a social studies article that takes a look at transportation history and the most innovative vehicles for land, water, and air travel.

SELECTION 3: “Zipping Around”—a play set far into the future where kids find an old box of parts to a vehicle they’ve never before encountered

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