

Faithful-to-Nature Stories



To Middle School Teachers

My name is Bill Zucker, translator and publisher of a new series of books accurately described once as classics in its time that feature *faithful-to-nature* illustrated stories that will strongly appeal to the imagination of middle-grade kids.

The stories were originally written in Danish by Carl Ewald (1856-1908), and I introduce fresh English translations that you may wish to consider utilizing for your instructional needs. The stories in all the books were strongly influenced by the writings of Charles Darwin, and especially his theory of Natural Selection.

See below for a listing of these books. For a more complete introduction of these offerings, please visit my website at classicnaturestoriesforkids.com.

[Here](#) is a sample story from Book One: *Don't Mess with Lady Spider*

In addition to the books below, I am seeking educators to assist me in evaluating an in-progress *Learning Guide* for classroom use. Utilizing five selected stories by Carl Ewald, children will be led into a deeper understanding of Darwinian principles, and the Guide will greatly assist teachers in bringing these ideas into a science curriculum that accords with accepted modern biological thinking. Please email me at williamzucker@msn.com if you would like to participate, thank you.



The Disobedient Owl / Carl Ewald

Book One / Translation by Bill Zucker

Soft Cover Print Book / \$14.00 (with colored illustrations)

Trim Size / 6 x 9 inches

ISBN 9781735721606

LCCN: 202091793

Publication Date: July 15, 2021

The Orphaned Ducklings / Carl Ewald

Book Two / Translation by Bill Zucker

Soft Cover Print Book / \$14.00 (with colored illustrations)

Trim Size / 6 x 9 inches

ISBN 9781735721620

LCCN: 2020918143

Publication Date: July 15, 2021

The Unfortunate Carp / Carl Ewald

Book Three / Translation by Bill Zucker

Soft Cover Print Book / \$12.00

Trim Size / 6 x 9 inches

ISBN 9781735721644

LCCN: 2020919159

Publication Date: July 15, 2021

Buy at: classicnaturestoriesforkids.com

Faithful to Nature
Five Children's Stories

By

CARL EWALD

Accompanied by

A Learning Guide for Teachers

By

William V. Zucker

Translations
William V. Zucker

Illustrations
Subhadeep Ghosh

Understanding Nature

Five Children's Stories

Offering middle-grade children a glimpse into the real world, I hope these stories will encourage teachers, parents and mentors to utilize them to awaken children to a realistic understanding of how nature works, along with the opportunity to encourage meaningful reading that both informs and entertains.

Children at middle-grade certainly know that nature is not a place where 'everybody gets along'. They know that cats hunt mice, and birds eat insects and worms, but they probably don't know, for example, that worms digest fallen leaves and other organic debris, converting them into the dark humus of the forest floor. While earthworms are a home gardener's delight, kids think of them mainly as bait to go fishing!

But do they know there are sets of rules in nature that determine how all predator—prey relationships developed? Do they understand how natural selection works to govern how species evolve and persist? Such are the common yet often-invisible competitive forces at work at all levels in nature, and for our understanding of those, we thank Charles Darwin and his late 19th century trailblazing theories.

But this book is not about him or his contributions to science; other books exist for that, and instead, I offer this faithful-to-nature **Learning Guide**, introducing children to how some aspects of nature function through storytelling.

It does this utilizing just a few of the short stories written by the Danish author, Carl Ewald, (1856-1908) that are probably unique in the genre of middle-grade children's reading. He wrote them as fables, where plants and animals talk to one another, and in a literary style that always entertains... but these stories pull no punches.

Nature has no favorites for who eats whom, or who invades whose territory. Nature is about survival of the fittest, where lifestyles and chosen habitats assure the continuation of species despite competitive forces everywhere. But some species succumb, they get reduced in number or go extinct, but that is nature unburdened by fanciful myths and distortion to make the story 'nice'. Children need to understand that animals and plants in their "wild" state do not follow man's moralistic assumptions.

Man has not always worked for the betterment of nature. Either through ignorance, and sometimes willfully, we have injured nature severely, and often beyond recovery. Ewald was sensitive to that problem, even in his day, so that is covered in one of the stories.

With five stories (translated from the original Danish) selected from the many that Ewald penned, this book emphasizes basic principles of how nature works via concepts that children can easily understand. Teachers and parents looking for a structured guide for introducing 'real world' thinking about nature will find exactly what they need in this book.

In this version for teachers, parents and mentors, following each chapter are some suggestions for reviewing the learning, with some probing questions to help children consider the ideas and concepts being expressed in the story. This may also help with integrating facts and sharpening vocabulary. A student version will be offered as well.

In places, it may help to encourage children to think independently of the text, or express an opinion based on new understanding as the story progresses. Each story culminates with some Discussion Points and Take-Home Lessons, along with Challenges and Further Research and Suggestions that curious children and teachers can explore as an aid to optimize learning.

My hope is that the lessons of these stories will open up new vistas of understanding regarding the natural world, with rewards that will manifest themselves through all their lives. I appreciate your help in this respect.

Please contact me. I'd love to hear how this worked for you, along with any thoughts on additional learning I might help draw out. Meanwhile, here are the stories and the essential learning points:

Don't Mess with Lady Spider	<i>Niche concept and mate selection</i>
The Disobedient Owl	<i>Natural selection</i>
Why the Mighty Oak Fell	<i>Competition</i>
Why the Worms Left	<i>Impact of humans in nature</i>
The Coral that Built an Island	<i>Coral life cycle and island formation</i>

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