**UKLA Symposium**

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**Literacy and the Sustainable Development Goals**

At a time of climate and ecological emergency, the importance of evaluating approaches to enhancing children’s eco-literacy cannot be overstated. This symposium explores UN’s Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15 which relate to the protection of life on land and life below water, and their connection with children’s literature. We introduce four research projects that focus on the often-overlooked life of plants, insects, and the environment in books, and reflect on the impact upon children’s learning, engagement and attitudes towards wildlife and sustainability.

**Paper 1:** **Children’s Literacy and the SDGs**. An overview of the growing genre of eco-literacy at a time of ecological emergency and the mixed methodologies used in this research project that support this enquiry.

**Paper 2:** **Books that Waggle and Buzz.** Focusing on a popular children’s book about insects (Beetle Boy), this paper presents insights from the author regarding their intent and focus group responses by children after reading.

**Paper 3: Tales of Trees and Triffids.** Reflecting on text and illustration of plants in some of the UK’s most popular children’s picture books and making recommendations for classroom practice.

**Paper 4. Hermit crab horrors: exploring eco-science through literary materials.**

This paper reports on a small-scale study investigating the use of literary materials designed specifically to engage the non-science specialist primary teacher to use scientific literary materials whilst also addressing the English curriculum and assessment requirements.