



THE EARTH AND I

AUTHOR: FRANK ASCH

ILLUSTRATOR: FRANK ASCH

See a video of the book read aloud here: [The Earth and I](#)

**** REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! ****

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

This story celebrates the friendship that one child has with the Earth. They play together, listen to each other, and nourish each other. But when the Earth is sad, the child is sad, so the child finds a way to make his friend, the Earth, feel happy.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

For over 30 years, Frank Asch has been writing and illustrating children's books, poetry, concept books, juvenile nonfiction, and children's novels. "People always ask me, how do you get ideas?" Asch says. "I keep giving them different answers because the true answer is, I don't know, which is another way of saying that ideas come from the unconscious. Frank Asch was born in August 1946, in Somerville, New Jersey. In 1969 he graduated from Cooper Union in New York City with a Bachelor's of Fine Arts. Since then he has taught in both the United States and abroad. He has also organized art, writing, puppetry, and creative dramatics workshops for children all over the country. In 1989, Frank Asch and Vladimir Vagin (a Russian artist) published *Here Comes the Cat!* This was the first Russian/American collaboration on a children's book, and has since then, *Here Comes the Cat* has received the Russian National Book Award. Asch lives in Middletown Springs, Vermont, with his wife, Jan, and their dog, Robi. They have one son, Devin, who was born in 1979. Devin made his picture-book debut with the father/son collaboration, *Baby Duck's New Friend*. ([scholastic.com](#))

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

Use these prompts before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- What do you see on the cover of this book?
- (title page) Is the boy standing on a turtle? I wonder why. Maybe the story will tell us.

DURING THE STORY

Use these prompts while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content.

- (p. 1) What kind of tree do you think this is?
- (pp. 2-3) What do you see in this illustration?
- (p. 9) What's happening in these illustrations?

THE EARTH AND I

TOPICS & THEMES:

- Earth
- Nature
- Ecology

Tips for every book!

POWER PHRASES:

I WONDER...

I NOTICE...

TELL ME MORE...

DIGGING DEEPER:

"Tell me more, why do you think that?"

"How do you know that?"

"Why do you think they feel like that?"

"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"

- (p. 11) If you have ever seen a rainbow, put your hand on your head. When do we see rainbows?
- (p. 14) What is the boy doing to help the earth grow?
- (p. 16) I wonder what song he is singing to the earth. What song would you sing?
- (p. 22) What is it that makes the earth sad?

AFTER READING

Use these prompts after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.

- The author refers to the earth as “her”. Why do you think he does that?
- Do you think this is a true story (non-fiction) or not a true story (fiction)? *(Reader: It is classified as fiction.)* Why do you think so?
- Do you have a favorite part of the book? If so, what is it?

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- (p. 15) How many apples are in the apple tree? Let’s count together.
- (p. 17) Let’s add a sound track to this illustration. What would it sound like?

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- (p. 11) Let’s recite the colors of the rainbow together.
- Talk with three or four of your neighbors about one thing that you can do for the earth. *(Reader: Have one student from each group share what they decided.)*

SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

- How do you know when the earth is sad?
- What would you say to the earth to make it happy?
- Do you ever take walks? What do you see on your walks?
- Did we ever find out why the boy is standing on the turtle on the title page?

Suggested Optional Activity:

- Create a watercolor painting of something from the book: for example, a vegetable garden, a tree, etc.

2. WRITING ACTIVITY

- Write three things that you can do to help the earth.

3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- Draw a picture of what you would do to help the earth.
- Start some seeds in a pot, or an avocado seed in a jar.

COMMON CORE LINKS

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1, K.2, K.3, K.6, K.7, K.10