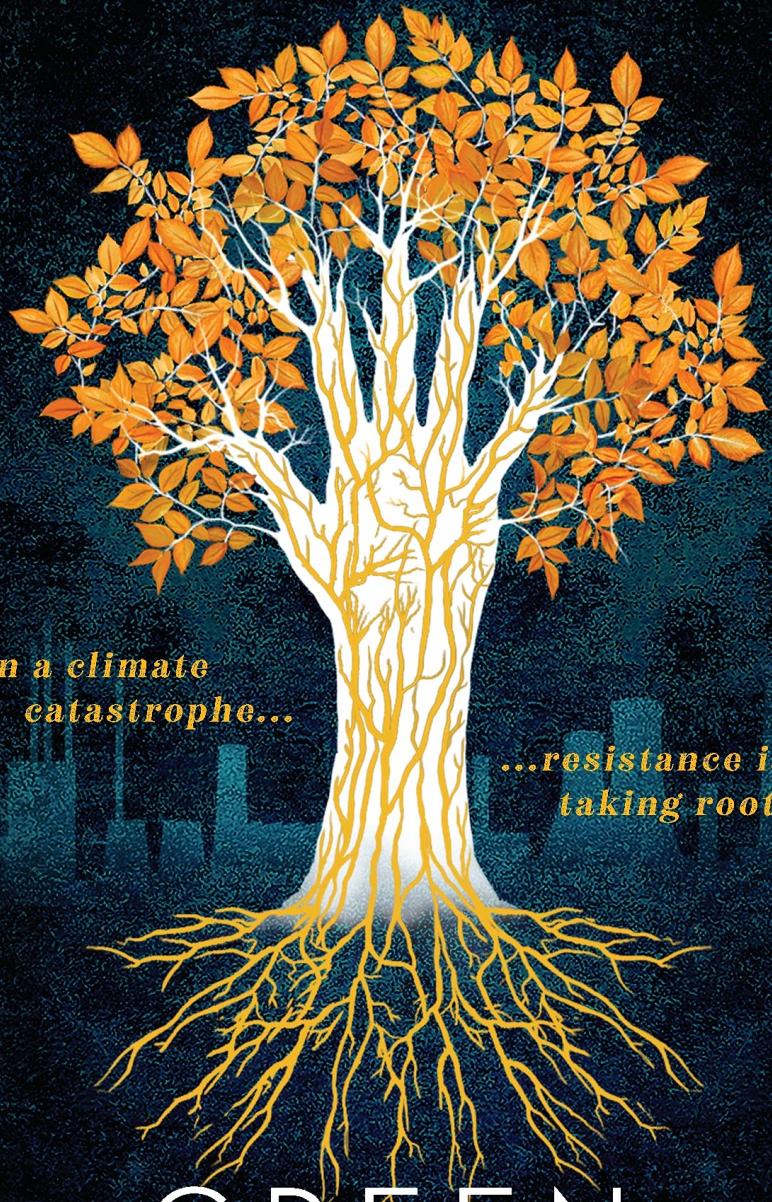


Year 7 - Term 4

Guided Reading

LAUREN JAMES



*In a climate
catastrophe...*

*...resistance is
taking root*

GREEN
RISING



INVICTA GRAMMAR
SCHOOL



About the author.

Lauren James

Author and Founder of the Climate Fiction Writers League

A bit about the author

Lauren James was born in 1992, and has a Masters degree from the University of Nottingham, where she studied Chemistry and Physics. Lauren is a passionate advocate of STEM further education. She sold the rights to her first novel when she was 21, whilst she was still at university. She is a RLF Royal Fellow, freelance editor and screenwriter.

Lauren is the founder of the Climate Fiction Writers League, and on the board of the Authors & Illustrators Sustainability Working Group through the Society of Authors. Her books have sold over a hundred thousand copies worldwide and been translated into six languages.

Lauren James is a twice Carnegie-nominated British author of many Young Adult novels, including *The Quiet at the End of the World*, *The Reckless Afterlife of Harriet Stoker* and *The Loneliest Girl in the Universe*.

What was your favourite book when you were a child?

I loved Artemis Fowl, Narnia, His Dark Materials and the Old Kingdom trilogy. Anything with sassy sidekicks, talking animals and a hint of magic had me hooked. And of course, Harry Potter – but I think that is a given for any young adult.

What is the best thing about reading?

I love reading something that exactly captures a feeling or experience I've never been able to put into words. It feels like you've been hit in the chest, in the best way.

Favourite pizza toppings?

BBQ chicken!



Things to think about...

1

Before you start reading.

What do you think the book will be about? Has anyone heard about it before? What does the cover tell us?

2

Once you've met Gabrielle.

Are Gabrielle's actions to get the executives outside justified? What do you do think she will do with her newfound gift?

3

When you've met our trio.

What do you know about Gabrielle, Theo and Hester so far? What motives each of them? Do you prefer one to the others?

4

When you reach the end.

What do you think will happen next? Do you think the story will have a happy ending?

Remember all of these answers are your own interpretation, there is no right or wrong.



@firstwithmagic blogs

Hello, world! I'm Gabrielle, the first teenager to grow plants. I'm seventeen, studying for my A levels, and I've got a pet chinchilla. It's nice to meet all million+ of you (wow). Somehow I've morphed from a nobody to someone with a PR manager, a blue tick and DMs full of paid spon con offers.

It's strange that anyone cares about me since so many other teenagers have now followed me into this new normal. I'm not an anomaly any more, just part of a whole generation with powers.

But while the world's attention is (inexplicably) directed towards me, I'm going to make myself heard.

Our plants might be eminently gif-able, but, pals, this is our best chance to make a difference.

We need action, desperately. The climate emergency is real, and dangerous. It's going to get much worse if we don't make changes to the way we create energy. Right now.

Join me, will you? Let's use these miraculous, ridiculous plants to help the planet.

Here's the plan, in four (4) easy steps:

1) Hone those powers. Train your Greenfingers to the max, full Olympic-gold standard. You've been given a gift. Build it up. Expand your repertoire by growing veg for your local food bank in your jungle haven backyard or scrubland park. Make bamboo canes & willow furniture. Train up, soldier, 'til it's as natural as breathing.

2. Find your people. If you can't grow plants, then get someone else on board: write a chalk message on the pavement, DM your schoolmates, talk to your parents (especially if they're deniers - only you can change their minds. Make this issue personal: tell them they are failing to care for your welfare. if they don't engage with the climate crisis).

3) Join the @ClimateRebellion network. We're partnering Greenfingers with manufacturers to create sustainable materials: eco-friendly straws, paper and fabrics, all with a local, low-carbon footprint. You'll be paid to produce reusable shopping bags and coffee cups.

4) Save the world. It's a small start, I know. But before I got involved in activism, I really struggled with my mental health. It's so hard to find a point to living when the world is burning. But We do have a future, I promise. We aren't helpless. Our efforts are important. Don't be a spectator to history. Let's fight the climate battle the only way we can - together.

-gabrielle

#plantsfortheplanet



@nd now it's your turn...



Your challenge:

Greenfingers are quickly gaining fame across the world with Gabrielle leading the way but they need all the help they can get to spread the word about climate change.

Using Gabrielle's blog as inspiration and your own knowledge about climate change, design a campaign to go out on social media showcasing your own newly developed Greenfingers powers and how you would use them to help the #plantsfortheplanet movement.

You could start a Twitter campaign or write a blog post of your own. If you choose to show your powers off on TikTok or Instagram, explain how you would hold people's interest and stand out from the millions of images and videos already on those platforms. Get ready to share your campaign with your form.





Extension tasks (in case you finish reading early)

If you finish reading your extracts early one week then try your hand at one of these extension tasks:

1. Research and write a summary of the student climate strikes that took place around the world. Over 1.4 million children took part!
2. Read through the letter from Lauren James and debate the ideas she presents. How achievable are they? Are the ideas relevant to students still in school?
3. Look into some of @firstwithmagic's top tips or explore the further reading, watching and listening to learn even more about this vital subject. Be prepared to share your thoughts about your findings.



A letter from Lauren James.

Dear Reader,

Green Rising is about politics, standing up for what you believe in and taking direct action. Inspired by movements like Extinction Rebellion, I wanted to write about teenage activists who have the power to make real, decisive change in the climate crisis. It's something which makes us all feel incredibly helpless, and climate fiction is often a depressing, dystopian look at our doomed future. I wanted to write a more optimistic, hopeful path forward to a better world, with clear instructions about what we should be doing next to fix the planet.

I read Chemistry and Physics at university, so I've been studying the science of climate change for many years. It's incredibly frustrating that I was taught the science of the greenhouse effect and the proposed solutions over a decade ago, and yet we're still no further along in fixing it. For this book, I did a lot of research into cutting-edge climate technology, including geoengineering and solar seeding. People tend to bury their head in the sand about climate change, because it often feels so hopeless. But it's important that we're all aware of the politics and ethics of climate solutions, because they're going to determine the course of the next hundred years on Earth.

So many of the climate fiction books I read focus on the effect that individuals can have on the planet, with the message that we all need to be more responsible, greener consumers. I wanted to look at how industry and businesses are causing pollution, to make it clear to my young, scared readers that it's not their responsibility to fix climate change. No amount of careful consumption can fix an industry-wide problem.

While writing the novel, I founded the [Climate Fiction Writers League](#), an organization of over a hundred climate writers. I run a biweekly newsletter of essays about climate writing, in order to encourage readers to take action. While magic is fantastical, the ability of humans to fix the climate emergency is not. It will take money, sacrifice and time, but we can create a better world, just like Theo and Hester wish to do. This has to start with policy changes, immediately.

The carbon emissions responsible for climate change are largely caused by industry, and can only be reduced through government action. However, if you'd like to make lifestyle changes to help limit your individual emissions, here are the most effective changes you can make. Some of these will take many decades to achieve, but long-term societal changes are the only way we can tackle this problem.

A letter from Lauren James continued.

- Vote in all political elections you are able to, and make sure your representatives are aware that your vote is based on their climate policy views.
- Replace garden lawns with wildflower meadows.
- Switch to LED lightbulbs.
- Try to avoid flying, and offset your carbon footprint where you can.
- Talk to your company about their actions to combat climate change, such as savings and pensions schemes which could be invested in companies contributing to climate change.
- Avoid eating beef, and transition to dairy alternatives.
- Buy in-season food, grown locally (avoiding hot-house produce grown out of season).
- Change to a renewable energy utility supplier or consider installing solar panels.
- Buy electric cars – but only once your current car is absolutely unable to be fixed. Keep current cars on the road for as long as possible, to keep manufacturing emissions low.
- Air dry clothing instead of tumble drying.
- Avoid disposable, cheap fashion and invest in long-term, quality pieces that can be worn for many years.

And, of course, plant trees wherever you can. They truly are the lungs of our planet. Depleted forests, savannahs, peatlands, mangroves and wetlands have the ability to grow back quickly, but we need to give them the opportunity to do that.

I really hope you enjoy Green Rising – and it makes you feel a little less powerless in the fight to save Earth.

Lauren

Talking point:

How realistic do you think these changes are for most people? Do you think people would take them up? What are some of the problems to adopting these changes?

@firstwithmagic's ✅

cheap and easy ways to do your bit.



Get educated!

Check out a podcast or stay up to date with all things climate change. Remember, knowledge is power!



ECOSIA.ORG

Plant trees just by searching online (for free!)

If there's one thing I love more than free stuff, it's saving the planet. Ecosia gives you the best of both worlds. This video explains how it all works and how you can install the extension today to start saving the planet without doing anything other than browsing the internet.



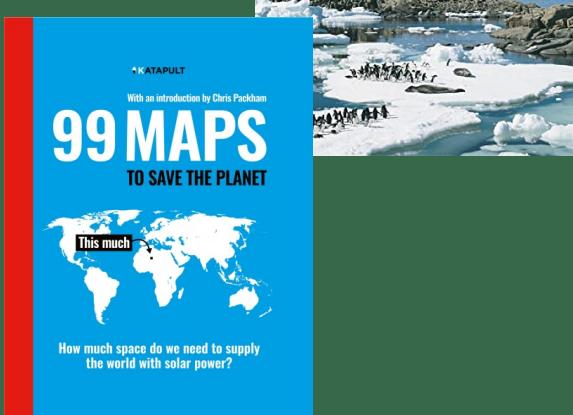
Consider growing your own or buying locally.
There are well-documented benefits to having even a single plant in your bedroom or household: cleaner air, reduced stress and even lower blood pressure!

Take advantage of all of these bonuses and more by [designing your own terrarium](#) or reduce your carbon footprint by planting up a small veg garden or buying your produce closer to home.



Further reading, listening and watching.

Things to read.



Things to watch.



Sir David Attenborough looks at the science of climate change and potential solutions to this global threat.



A 13 speaker special from TEDx tackling various methods to solve and reduce the impact of climate change.

Things to listen to.



This podcast is ideal for getting up to speed on a range of complex climate topics. Episodes are 15 minutes long and explore topics such as carbon capture, clean technology, energy efficiency, and more.



Some of the clearest and most urgent calls for climate action have come from leaders and activists on small island nations. And there's a good reason why. Check out Islands On Alert to find out why.





About Green Rising:

Gabrielle is a climate-change activist who shoots to fame when she becomes the first teenager to display a supernatural ability to grow plants from her skin. Hester is the millionaire daughter of an oil tycoon and the face of the family business. Theo comes from a long line of fishermen, but his parents are struggling to make ends meet.

On the face of it, the three have very little in common. Yet when Hester and Theo join Gabrielle and legions of other teenagers around the world in developing the strange new "Greenfingers" power, it becomes clear that to use their ability for good, they'll need to learn to work together. But in a time of widespread corruption and greed, there are plenty of profit-hungry organizations who want to use the Greenfingers for their own ends. And not everyone would like to see the Earth saved...

As they navigate first love and family expectations, can the three teenagers pull off the ultimate heist and bring about a green rising?

