

From the Forest to the Shore



By: Julia Glassman
Zibo Zhu



On a warm summer afternoon,
you and I explored the outdoors,
all around Lake Michigan,
from the forest to the shore.

We jumped once, we jumped twice,
and we jumped some more...
We hopped front!
We hopped back!
From the forest to the shore.





We saw birds,
we saw lizards,
we saw fish, and more.
We saw stones,
we saw sand,
from the forest to the shore.





We took one leap into the forest,
and what did we see?

Pine trees, tall canopies
Wrens, Warblers, and Jays.
On trunks and canopies that...
Sway sway sway!

In the pine tree wood
from the forest to the shore.



We took another leap from the
Pines,
and what did we see?

A family of Cottonwood saplings
growing,
in mixed sandy soil,
with their wavy pointed leaves
that...
Shook shook shook!

In the Cottonwood grove
from the forest to the shore.





We took another big leap from
the Cottonwoods,
and what did we see?



A mixture of sandy soil so
satisfying!
Where logs have fallen, and the
dear moss grows.
Worms, insects, and mushrooms
all help decompose.
Crunch crunch crunch!

In the hummus floor
from the forest to the shore.





We took another big leap from
the hummus,
and what did we see?

Small sand cliffs from the decay,
where the water washes away.
And Dune Grass sprouts.
Shhh shhhh shhh!

In the perched dune shoots
from the forest to the shore.





We took a fifth leap from the
dunes,
and what did we see?

Mergansers swimming and
Sandpipers shuffling
where the sand is soft,
and the pebbles are ground...
smush smush smush!

In the sandy beach
from the forest to the shore.

We took one more big jump from the sand,
and what did we find?

The water oh so flowing, on the shoreline!
The waves they lapped oh so gently,
and we jumped with them
Splash splash splash!

In the waters
from the forest to the shore





And on that day we saw saw saw...

The pines that swayed and sheltered,
the wavey cottonwoods that grew, from
the sandy soil which neared the dunes, that
sheltered the birds that played in the waters,
from the forest to the shore.

About the wildlife:



Red Pine Tree

A coniferous evergreen tree characterized by needle-like leaves and small round pinecones.



Cottonwood Tree

A member of the poplar family of trees. Known as the fastest growing tree in the world, they can grow 6ft in a year.



Perched Dune Wood

Support the sand by serving as an anchor for the shoreline. Characterized by long cylindrical blades of grass.



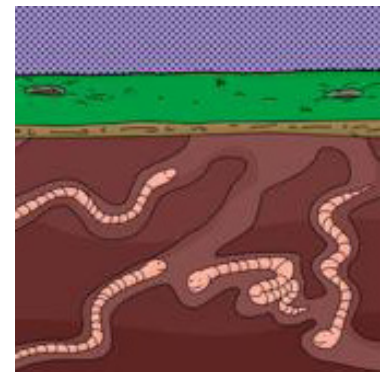
Red salamander

Its skin is orange/red with random black spots. Its habitats are temperate forests, small creeks, ponds, forests, temperate shrubland, rivers, intermittent rivers, freshwater, trees springs.



Hummus Floor

Soil that is in between the forest floor and sand. Comprised of organisms such as worms, fungi, insects, and moss that help break down plant matter into healthy useable soil.





Warbler

Yellow warblers are known for their beautiful singing. They spend most of the day foraging for food and building shelter. Most likely seen in the forests of Michigan.



Blue Jay

Their distinct call can be interpreted as, "Jay, Jay, Jay!" which gives them their name. They eat mostly tree nuts and live all around the United States.



House Wren

While they may look like plain birds, they actually have beautiful trilling calls. They call most commonly during nesting season, where they live in deep wooded areas.



Sand Piper

Commonly found along the shoreline when foraging for a meal. These birds are known for their quick shuffling feet.



Common Merganser

A member of the duck family characterized by greenish-black heads and white bodies. They eat fish and nest in tree holes.





About the Author: Julia Glassman

Julia Glassman is a graduate student at the University of Michigan's School for Environment and Sustainability, originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In addition to taking classes, Julia spends her time writing poetry, teaching meditation classes, and creating art. This is the first of many children's books she hopes to be a part of. Interested in contacting Julia? Please email J.glassman811@gmail.com.



About the Illustrator: Zibo Zhu

Zibo Zhu is a graduate student at the University of Michigan's School for Environment and Sustainability, he is a landscape architecture student from China. He has learned design and fine arts for many years with great enthusiasm. He is interested in environmental design, graphic design and all of the art works.

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This book was an assignment for Class EAS 501-119 Nature Culture & Landscape in School for Environment and Sustainability, University of Michigan, instructed by professor Sara Adlerstein.

The topic for this book is raising awareness about the Great Lakes. The goal is to highlight the importance of personal behavior for the health of the planet and inspire children to care and make environmentally sound choices.



Thank you.