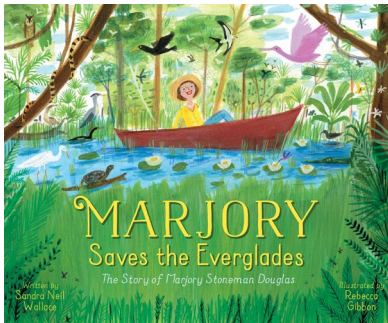




2021 – 2022  
Children's Book Award Finalist  
Elementary Grade Levels 3-5



**Marjory Saves the Everglades**  
*Simon & Schuster/  
Paula Wiseman Books*



**Sandra Neil Wallace**  
*Author*



**Rebecca Gibbon**  
*Illustrator*

### Summary

“Marjory Stoneman Douglas didn’t intend to write about the Everglades but when she returned to Florida from World War I, she hardly recognized the place that was her home. The Florida that Marjory knew was rapidly disappearing—the rare orchids, magnificent birds, and massive trees disappearing with it.

Marjory couldn’t sit back and watch her home be destroyed—she *had* to do something. Thanks to Marjory, a part of the Everglades became a national park and the first park not created for sightseeing, but for the benefit of animals and plants. Without Marjory, the part of her home that she loved so much would have been destroyed instead of the protected wildlife reserve it has become today.” (amazon.com)

### Genre

Contemporary Realistic Fiction

### Book Conversation

After reading the story aloud, you may use the following questions to prompt a book conversation with students.

- Knowing what we do about the Everglades, why do you think Marjory was so passionate about taking care of it?
- How did Marjory persuade park officials to make the Everglades a national park?
- What is an activist? Would you consider Marjory an activist? Why?
- Have you ever overcome a challenge that others may have deemed too big for you? What was it and how did you overcome?
- Why is it important to save the Everglades?



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*Florida Statute 1003.42.2 requires that K-12 public school instructional staff teach specific character education, cultural, and historical topics. This book may assist teachers in partial fulfillment of that requirement.*

[http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&URL=1000-1099/1003/Sections/1003.42.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=1000-1099/1003/Sections/1003.42.html)

### Extension Activities

- Before reading, have students research the Everglades and take note of key features. Give students art supplies to create an ecosystem representation of the Everglades. Allow choice: diorama, poster, power point, pamphlet, pictorial essay, etc.
- Encourage students to find the Everglades on a map of Florida. Ask them to connect what they learn to features on the map.
- After reading, have students select a child-friendly policy they are passionate about and have them write a persuasive letter to Florida's governor.
- During the reading, have students write down four content-specific vocabulary in a vocabulary journal. Students can research the words for clarification. Students can design a visual with illustrations of each word to share with classmates.
- After reading, provide students with a Venn diagram in which they can compare and contrast the Everglades to an ecosystem of their choice.

### Websites

- About the author: <https://sandraneilwallace.com/>
- About the illustrator: <https://www.rebeccagibbon.com/about>
- Read-aloud with Sandra Neil Wallace: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I3xzV5dGAGQ>
- National Geographic, Everglades: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/nature/article/everglades>

### Diversity and Multicultural Features

Author: Yugoslavian immigrant, female

Illustrator: Born in Wales, lives in England; female

Character(s): female advocating for women's suffrage and a conservationist