



# The Wolves Are Back

*Jean Craighead George , Wendell Minor (Illustrator)*

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Two renowned children's book creators teamed up to make this stirring picture book that tells the story of how, over a century, wolves were persecuted in the United States and nearly became extinct. Gradually reintroduced, they are thriving again in the West, much to the benefit of the ecosystem. This book will teach a new generation to appreciate the grace, dignity, and value of wolves as it promotes awareness of the environment's delicate balance. Paired with gorgeous paintings by landscape artist Wendell Minor, Jean Craighead George's engaging text will inspire people of all ages to care about the protection of endangered species.

## The Wolves Are Back Details

Date : Published April 17th 2008 by Dutton Books for Young Readers

ISBN : 9780525479475

Author : Jean Craighead George , Wendell Minor (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Animals, Nonfiction, Environment, Nature, Science, History, Wolves, Biology, Ecology

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# **From Reader Review The Wolves Are Back for online ebook**

## **Kathy Iwanicki says**

Amazing!

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## **Teri says**

Good children's book about the changes in the ecosystem of Yellowstone since the wolves were reintroduced.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_...](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_...)

The presence of wolves has also coincided with a dramatic rise in the park's beaver population; where there was just one beaver colony in Yellowstone in 2001, there were nine beaver colonies in the park by 2011. The presence of wolves seems to have encouraged elk to browse more widely, diminishing their pressure on stands of willow, a plant that beavers need to survive the winter.

good accompanying videos:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5t34m8...> Wolves: A Legend Returns

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQkhe0...> Yellowstone-Battle for Life

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science...#> Wolves and the Balance of Nature in the Rockies with video:

Wolves Return to the Rockies (this is from a rancher's point of view)

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## **Marissa Reyes says**

The book *The Wolves Are Back* by Jean Craighead George does a great job explaining the essence of what extinction is and how detrimental it is to the cycle of life in the wild. The illustrations by Wendell Minor were absolutely amazing, rich with color and intricate detail. The pictures depicted the sights of the wild frozen in time so children who have not yet witnessed the wild can experience it for the first time. When children hear the word wolf the instant reaction is that wolves are bad and vicious animals, although not all wrong, pertinent facts children do not know is that wolves are one of the rotating pieces in the wild that causes the cycle of life to continue turning. This text does an excellent job in making children reevaluate their prior preconceived notions about wolves.

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## **Samantha says**

Not my favorite book ever, but a good introduction to what happened to the wolves in Yellowstone National Park and how they came back.

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## **Elizabeth Meadows says**

This is a beautiful picture book for children that tells the story of the wolves return to Yellowstone National

Forest in 1995. It illustrates the importance of balance in nature and how so many things can suffer as a result of one species being missing.

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### **Kathy Roderer says**

This lovely picture storybook version of the true story of the return of the wolves to Yellowstone Park is told from the perspective of a wolf pup. Each page tells a part of the story on a two-page painting of the natural landscape of Yellowstone. Each page also ends with a refrain: either "The wolves were gone." or "The wolves were back." This book could be enjoyed by all ages, but would be especially helpful in demonstrating to a younger child the value of interdependence among animals for natural balance.

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### **Carol Evans says**

This is a beautifully illustrated book and does a great job of showing that all of nature is part of the balance, not just the "pretty" animals. My daughter loves wolves and enjoyed this book as well.

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### **Lisa Vegan says**

I adore wolves. Ever since I read *Never Cry Wolf* in the summer of 1976, a book I still own, a book given to me by a friend when I was in a rough patch, I have been enthralled by this species, and I've adored domestic dogs my entire life.

So, I despise fairy tales where wolves are the villains (even though I know the very real circumstances from which that theme emerged) and I'm delighted to read books the positive sides of wolves. I think it's appalling the massive hunting that was done that brought certain types of wolves to near extinction and was heartened when they were reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park in the U.S. So, I was very interested in reading this book.

It's a more impressive book than I'd imagined; it definitely exceeded my expectations. It's at heart a practical book. It's not a sentimental book at all. The non-fiction story tells about the entire ecology, the consequences of the wolves being gone (a negative for the ecosystem in many ways) vs. the wolves being back (which leads to the ecosystem flourishing for many species of animals & plants.)

As an adult I loved it. As a child I think I might have been fascinated, but I know I'd have also been disturbed. I'd have been a more than a bit upset to learn about the eradication of wolves from the lower 48 states and I'd have been a tad squeamish seeing the blood around the wolves' kill. But, I would have loved it anyway.

This is a one sided book. It doesn't address complaints about the wolves' reintroduction.

There is no extensive author's note, as there are in many similar books, though there is a list of sources used by the illustrator in the back of the book. The entire account is within in the book proper and in the inside front cover book description section.

The illustrations are beautiful. Children who are interested in wolves, as well as a variety of species of fauna, and flora too, are likely to thoroughly enjoy them.

Edited to add: The refrain at the bottom of most pages of either "The Wolves were back." or "The Wolves were gone." help make this a good read aloud book.

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### **Mitchell says**

Simple and straightforward story. Sure it lives out the continuing conflict between Rangers and Environmentalists. But it captured the facts on the ground in Yellowstone especially as I knew it to be. The art was fairly simple but still beautiful. And it worked well with the fairly spare text. A different way of introducing the idea of the impact animals have on each other and plants as well.

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### **Peacegal says**

3.5 stars -- Wolves are a keystone species, meaning their presence or absence effects a large swath of the ecosystem. Young readers are shown a wide variety of species of plant and animal (the transitions are more than a bit clunky) and are informed about how these species were helped by the return of wolves to Yellowstone.

While I am happy that the ecosystem of Yellowstone has bounced back to a more natural state thanks to the wolves, I am now of the opinion that capturing wolves in Canada and shipping them to the US was a bad idea. The high-profile nature of the reintroduction made wolves some very deadly and powerful enemies in the political arena, and a powderkeg of wolf hatred was touched off--now subjecting these amazing animals to cruel and extreme methods of hunting and trapping.

Will future generations learn to live with wolves before the animals are (once again) eradicated from the US? Sadly, I am not hopeful.

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### **Mary Ann says**

Jean Craighead George and Wendell Minor have captured the remarkable story of wolves being reintroduced to Yellowstone. Wolves were almost hunted into extinction by the early 1900s, but in 1995 a small number of wolves were brought from Canada to Yellowstone.

As the wolf packs grow, the entire ecosystem starts to return to its natural balance. In one example, the young wolf pup can now hear birds singing in the meadows because the wolves are back. George explains the relationships quite simply. The wolves drove the elk herds higher in the hills. With the elk gone, the valley grasses grow taller. This allows for the return of the Vesper sparrow, which uses the grasses for food and nests. George tells this story with just a few lines on each page. Minor's paintings will also engage young readers, as they focus on the variety of animals in Yellowstone. Together, the words and pictures draw young readers into a deeper understanding of how ecosystems work, and fill them with an optimism that we can help nature find its balance.

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## **Christie says**

Super cute book that teaches children the importance of nature's ecosystem and the effects humans can have on it.

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## **Emily Krafcik says**

This is a great text to use to address the topic of extinction without the all so original dinosaur example. Young children may associate wolves with negativity, and so do I, but after reading this book I have never felt so terrible for a species of animals. The wolves were beautifully illustrated, so realistic! This text instills something in its readers, a care for an endangered species, like the wolves in this story who once were thriving, and then slowly but surely had a shrinking population. Children may be under the impression that animals will never not exist, but if they do not do their part to protect the environment and the animals in them, that in itself will be a lesson learned. A great informational text that can be incorporated into a life science lesson!

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## **Roxanne Hsu Feldman says**

Only someone so skilled in writing like Jean Craighead George can take a potentially didactic topic and turn it into a lyrical and moving text that drives home the notion of a balanced natural environment: with predators and preys co-existing. The refrain of The wolves are back becomes the echoes of the wolves' howls through the valleys in my mind. Very powerful! The illustrations re-enforce the text, although might be a tad idealized and quite "clean" and the wolves, especially the pups, are very cute -- which is a minor concern in my view. But that definitely does not take away the impact of the text.

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## **Jo says**

The illustrations in this book are incredible. It's like looking at a beautiful painting on each page. Wonderful story about wolves and what happened to the wilderness of Yellowstone National Park when the wolves were all gone due to hunters. Explains how the wilderness became unbalanced. When wolves were once again reintroduced to Yellowstone, they flourished and grew and so did the grass, and the flowers and the animals around them. Many beautiful wild animals are featured including birds, bears, beavers, elk, moose, bison, mountain sheep and badgers. Great introduction to environmentalism and illustrates why wolves are so important to the eco-system and why they deserve to be protected just like all endangered species (and all animals in general).

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