

Follow the Moon Home

Jacques Cousteau & Deborah Hopkinson

Reviewed by: Kaden Shover, 17

Star Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are Charity

www.bethestaryouare.org

Follow the Moon Home is a beautifully illustrated book written by acclaimed animal activist Jacques Cousteau & Deborah Hopkinson. The story follows a young girl named Vivienne who has just relocated to the coast of South Carolina with her family. When Viv begins school, she is assigned to work on a class project about community action. She and her classmates must find a problem to solve in their community and show how they can make a difference. On a Saturday trip to the beach, Viv discovers protected nesting areas for Loggerhead turtles. Fortunately, Viv notices the hatchlings are heading the wrong way to make it safely to the sea. Viv runs into a classmate Clementine who explains the babies need a clear path to do that. Viv recalls her teacher said to “use their own eyes” to find a problem to solve. While visiting the same beach later that night, Viv notices the lights from the house along the beach are confusing the hatchlings. When they hatch they follow the strongest light! Heading away from the sea will cause them to dehydrate and die. Ultimately, Viv and her class start the Lights Out Loggerhead project and with the help of the whole community, they are successful and the hatchlings are finally able to safely make it to the sea.

I really liked the message this book exposes young readers to the scientific process, how to observe and gather data, work together to brainstorm for solutions and then get to work to solve the problem. I also liked how they showed how a cooperative effort by students, and a community can have such a positive impact. This book is recommended for ages 5-10 but would appeal to anyone who is an animal activist and wants to learn how to get involved in community activism and solve a problem in their community.

I would suggest the following books to readers if they liked this book:

National Geographic Readers: Sea Turtles by Laura Marsh

Going Blue: A Teen Guide to Saving Our Oceans, Lakes, Rivers, & Wetlands by Cathryn Kaye

Follow the Moon Home By Jacques Cousteau and Deborah Hopkinson