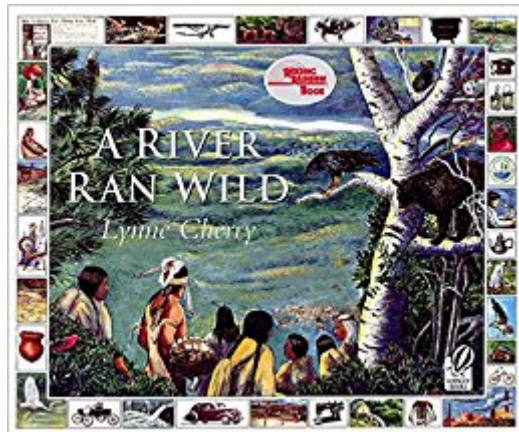


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# A River Ran Wild: An Environmental History



## Synopsis

From the author of the beloved classic *The Great Kapok Tree*, *A River Ran Wild* tells a story of restoration and renewal. Learn how the modern-day descendants of the Nashua Indians and European settlers were able to combat pollution and restore the beauty of the Nashua River in Massachusetts.

## Book Information

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (April 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152163727

ISBN-13: 978-0152163723

Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 26 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #43,451 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > State & Local](#) #19 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Oceans & Seas](#) #20 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Water](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Cherry traces the ecological evolution of New England's Nashua River--how it was respected by generations of Indians, polluted and ultimately deadened in the wake of the industrial revolution and restored in recent years through the efforts of concerned citizens. She delivers this message with a heavier hand than she used in *The Great Kapok Tree* ; her writing is more complex and ponderous, and less accessible and inviting, than in the earlier work. While this book provides a solid history, it does little to bring the issues or pivotal figures to life. The colorless account of the citizens' battle to clean up the river, for example, reflects little of the passions and energy involved. Though not her best work, Cherry's illustrations tell the story more effectively. (One allegorical painting of an Indian chief's head--superimposed on trees--crying into the river, however, jars with the naturalistic style.) Of particular benefit are the handsome, intricately detailed borders that surround the text: depictions of various period artifacts provide artistic interest and added information. Ages 6-10. Copyright 1992

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Grade 1-4-- In the 15th century, when native people first settled on the banks of the river now called the Nashua, it was a fertile and beautiful place. By the 1960s, the river valley had been ravaged by many years of serious pollution, and fish, birds, and other animals were no longer seen in the area. Through the efforts of Marion Stoddart and the Nashua River Watershed Association, laws were passed that resulted in the restoration of this river and the protection of all rivers. The author gets high marks for documenting the negative impact of industry on the environment and for highlighting the difference one determined person can make. However, young readers lacking historical background need more facts and dates than are included here. Cherry uses borders on pages that detail, for example, some of the inventions conceived in the 19th century; inexplicably, most are labeled but only some are dated. Her note and the maps on the endpapers, which include a timeline, also help to place the events in context. The watercolor and colored-pencil illustrations are sweeping in their subject matter and adequately convey the physical deterioration of the watershed. However, one picture is misleading; although all the animals depicted live in this habitat, they would not all be seen together. The current concern over the environment will make this a sought-after title, since it is brief enough to read aloud to groups of children. With assistance from informed adult readers, it makes an important contribution to literature on water pollution. --Ellen Fader, Westport Public Library, CT  
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As a boy, I swam in this river, above the polluted parts of course. I was hoping for more photographs. The text was good, but should have included photographs to convey the realism. It's one thing to read about the smell of the stuff in the river, but seeing a photo of a dying fish floating by would have been better. The story of its clean-up was not, in my opinion, adequately portrayed. It took a long time, and much devotion to see it through.

A wonderful, wonderful book. It shows, without politicizing, the decline of a river over time, and then the restoration of the river back to health. It gives insight into the Native Americans philosophy about revering nature and using only as much as you need. The book then follows the health of the river through the industrial revolution and modern times - up to the point where descendants of the Native Americans who first discovered and named the river mobilize others in a community effort to save it. Excellent book.

What a good lesson for young children. My son likes to look at the overview of the river and forest as it changes. We flip back and forth to see the differences and it's opened discussions.

I love this book. Found it from an elem. ed course I am taking on social studies. I read it to my 5yr old and it brings up great questions to talk about during read and after. Gives kids an idea of change and continuity and a sense of timelines in history all while showing effects of pollution and how humans can either do good or bad things with their choices. Not in your face about topic but subtle and engaging.

This book is a wonderful tool for teaching children about the process of industrialization, how it affects our environment, and the power we have to keep it from being destructive.

A great book that weaves US history, Native American heritage, and modern-day environmental concerns, into one small - but great book. Lynne Cherry is a talented author and I have found her books to be a great resource in my classroom.

Good price. Nice addition to library.

Awesome book! Thanks for the speedy service!

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