## THE LAST WORD

## Bringing Conservation to the Next Generations

By Sharon Verbeten



Interior image from *Wild Things* by Hayley and John Rocco, used with permission of G.P. Putnam's and Sons Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Young Readers.

he Earth is changing faster than it spins. And with climate change affecting all generations, two artists of *this* generation are celebrating the life of British nature lover and documentarian David Attenborough.

Explaining the importance of the global crisis, and our place in it, is no easy task. Husband and wife duo John and Hayley Rocco have taken it on in *Wild Places* (Putnam, 2024), a non-fiction picture book about Attenborough, animals, and the world in which we all inhabit. As the world's wild places are disappearing, what can the next generation do? This book is a clarion call for all humans to protect the creatures who call Earth home.

Quite simply, it all boils down to what Attenborough says, "If we take care of nature, nature will take care of us."

For more information about the compassionate conservation books and efforts of the Roccos, visit www.meetthewildthings.com.

Got a great, lighthearted essay? A funny story about children and libraries? Books and babies? Pets and picture books? A not-so-serious look at the world of children's librarianship? Send your Last Word to Sharon Verbeten at childrenandlibraries@gmail.com.