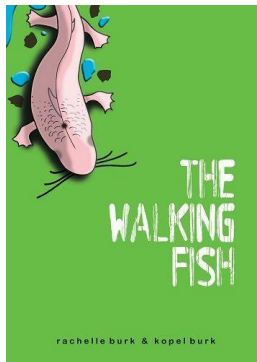




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## The Walking Fish



### *The Walking Fish*

Grades 6-8

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Tumblehome Learning, Inc., 2015

### Recommended Reading

Imagine you are in 7th Grade and plan to spend the summer with your parents at a cabin on the lake. Imagine you pack all your new fishing gear, a gift from Grandpa, only to find out the lake water is classified as uninhabitable. Imagine that you try fishing anyway and suddenly catch an obscure-looking fish in the supposedly fish-less waters.

This is how the story of *The Walking Fish* begins. Is this find a fluke? So begins a scientific investigation led by two seventh grade friends.

The book's authors, Rachelle Burk and Kopel Burk, have done a great job weaving science into an adventure mystery and the story's lead female character, Alexis, is an inspiration for young women interested in science and field research.

Use *The Walking Fish* to emphasize many [Science and Engineering Practices outlined in the Next Generation Science Standards \(NGSS\)](#). For example:

**Practice #2. Developing and using models.**

- Develop and use a model to describe the formation of Glacial Lake.
- Develop and use a model that explains how the walking fish's organs might allow it to function both in the water and on land.

**Practice #7. Engaging in argument from evidence, data, and a model.**

- What evidence do Alexis and her friends use in trying to find the origin of the walking fish?
- What other evidence could Alexis and her friends have used?

**Practice #8. Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.**

- How could you build a system that allows people to visit a cave without harming it?
- How might you build a tank habitat for the walking fish, and how would its temperature be controlled?

*The Walking Fish* helps show that science is for everyone. Teachers and other adults might wish to review a copy of Neil Shuban's [Your Inner Fish](#) to stimulate their minds in the same vein.

Consider coupling this story with the following PLT activities:

[\*PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide\*](#)

- # 11 – Can It Be Real?
- # 12 – Invasive Species
- # 47 – Are Vacant Lots Vacant?
- # 86 – Our Changing World
- # 88 – Life on the Edge

[\*Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Forests\*](#)

- # 2 – Story of Succession
- # 4 – Tough Choices
- # 6 – Forest to Faucet
- # 7 – Forest Invaders

## *Exploring Environmental Issues: Biodiversity*

# 1 – Global Invaders

# 2 – Protected Areas: Issues and Analysis

- Bio

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