



Gopher to the Rescue! A Volcano Recovery Story

Life returns to the mountain

After a natural disaster, life returns to the devastated area. Drawing on research from scientists at Mount St. Helens, Jennings delves into the conditions that are required for each type of life to return to the mountain after the volcanic eruption. Beginning with seeds blowing in the wind and finding fertile ground (possibly tilled by gophers) life returns to the devastated mountain. Plants follow seeds, insects follow plants, birds follow insects, predators follow prey. But it's not a straight line. For instance, ground-nesting birds will return to the mountain much sooner than tree-nesting birds. Animals with longer legs will return before animals with shorter legs. Although some animals can visit, they need to live in areas which still provide them with food, water, shelter from the sun, shelter from predators and places to raise their young. (45 min.) (Grades K-6)

Using science based narrative non-fiction as mentor texts for student writing

Using Jennings' *Gopher to the Rescue! A Volcano Recovery Story*, Jennings provides students a way to use the books as mentor texts, discussing the use of description, timing, research, and storytelling. Educators would then guide students to write their own story from the point of view of a chosen animal. (45 min.) (Grades K-6)

Family literacy night - Will work with your school to structure a presentation for parents and children.