Activity Overview

This activity involves reading sample pages from *Naturalist: a Graphic Adaptation*. Students should be able to read the sample pages in 5 minutes with additional time to write responses. Sample pages are provided below. Use the questions to prompt written responses and discussion with students.

Learning Objectives and Performance Standards

- Get students reflecting on their own experiences with the natural environment.
- Develop thinking on the connection between words and images, and how different media can convey information and impressions differently.
- Guide students to read closely, practice interpretation, formulate written responses, ask questions, and think about other people’s ideas.

Instructions and Questions

**Read Page A from: Naturalist: A Graphic Adaptation**

1. Are the older man and the boy the same person? Write down one reason for your conclusion.

2. What is the main point that the author is trying to make with the text?

3. Do you agree that things seem bigger when you were a young child, including animals? If yes, why do you think that’s the case? How reliable are your childhood memories?

4. Identify one way that you think the pictures helped you to understand the text better? Identify a way that the text made you think differently about the picture.

**Read Page B from: Naturalist: A Graphic Adaptation**

In this panel, the author is talking about notes he made studying ants in Alabama when he was young.

1. What catches your eye most when you look at this page? Why?

2. What do you think the author does for a living, what sort of work?

3. Think of something you experienced or did when you were younger that might influence the career that you choose. Write briefly about this experience and why it has meaning to you. **Bonus:** Do a simple sketch of the experience or activity, maybe include text or a speech bubble.

**Bring it together:** List 3 ways that you think Graphic Novels are different than just text.
I estimate that when I was seven years old I saw animals at about twice the size I see them now.

A giant exists, even if adults don’t choose to classify them as such.

I tell you this little boy’s story of adventure, risk, and sea monsters because it illustrates that a naturalist is created.

A child comes to the edge of deep water with a mind prepared for wonder.

Hands-on experience at the critical time not systematic knowledge is what counts in the making of a naturalist.

Better to be an untrained garage for a while.

Better than the summer at paradise Beach was not an educational exercise planned by adults. Better that it was an accident in a hazardous life.
Page B from *Naturalist: A Graphic Adaptation*