

Book	Science Topic	Phonics Focus
1: How to Save the Planet	Earth Conservation	Closed Syllables Digraphs Consonant Blends
2: Fire on the Hillside	Climate Change Causes and Effects	Welded Sounds
3: Climate Change: The Science and Solutions	Climate Change; Animal Traits; Evolution	Open Syllables
4: Beneath the Surface	Animal Traits; Survival Strategies	Vowel Teams
5: Adapt and Thrive	Animal Traits; Survival Strategies	R-Controlled Vowels
6: Growing, Changing, and Surviving	Evolution	Hard/Soft Sounds of C and G; Trigraphs
7: The Wonders of Evolution	Evolution	Vowel-Consonant-E
8: Survival Secrets of the Animal World	Animal Traits; Evolution	Consonant-le Syllables

# Our Science of Reading-Aligned Solution

Science Decodables Teacher Guide

This eight-book decodable series is designed for older students who need phonics support while engaging with informational fiction and nonfiction. Each book targets specific phonics skills and explores key science topics, ensuring that students build literacy and scientific knowledge simultaneously.

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Survival Secrets	Animal Traits; Evolution	Consonant-le Syllables

Multisyllabic Decoding

Through a **spiraled approach**, sequential decodables get progressively more challenging as students amass more skills. In alignment with the research on multisyllabic decoding strategies for older struggling readers, we teach multisyllabic words earlier in this sequence.

Morphology

We also include words that exemplify morphological concepts (prefixes, roots, suffixes) in alignment with the syllable types. This supports vocabulary acquisition alongside decoding. While not explicitly included, we recommend teaching the meanings of science-specific affixes (e.g. hypo-, photo-, eco-, derm-, tax-).

PRE-READING

for phonics and vocabulary

Review phonics rules associated with the focus of the decodable text.

Practice reading words that follow the phonics rules.

Preview regular and irregular high-frequency words.

Highlight challenge words with interactive oral reading.

Introduce vocabulary. Discuss meanings.

READING

for fluency building

Model fluent reading with the first 1-2 pages with expression and appropriate pacing.

Use finger or a pencil to scoop text into meaningful phrases (3-4 words at a time).

After students read the text once, have them summarize what they read. Instruct them to read the chapter again if their summary lacks key information.

AFTER READING

for knowledge building

THINK  
What do you think you know about this topic?

PUZZLE  
What questions or puzzles do you have about this topic?

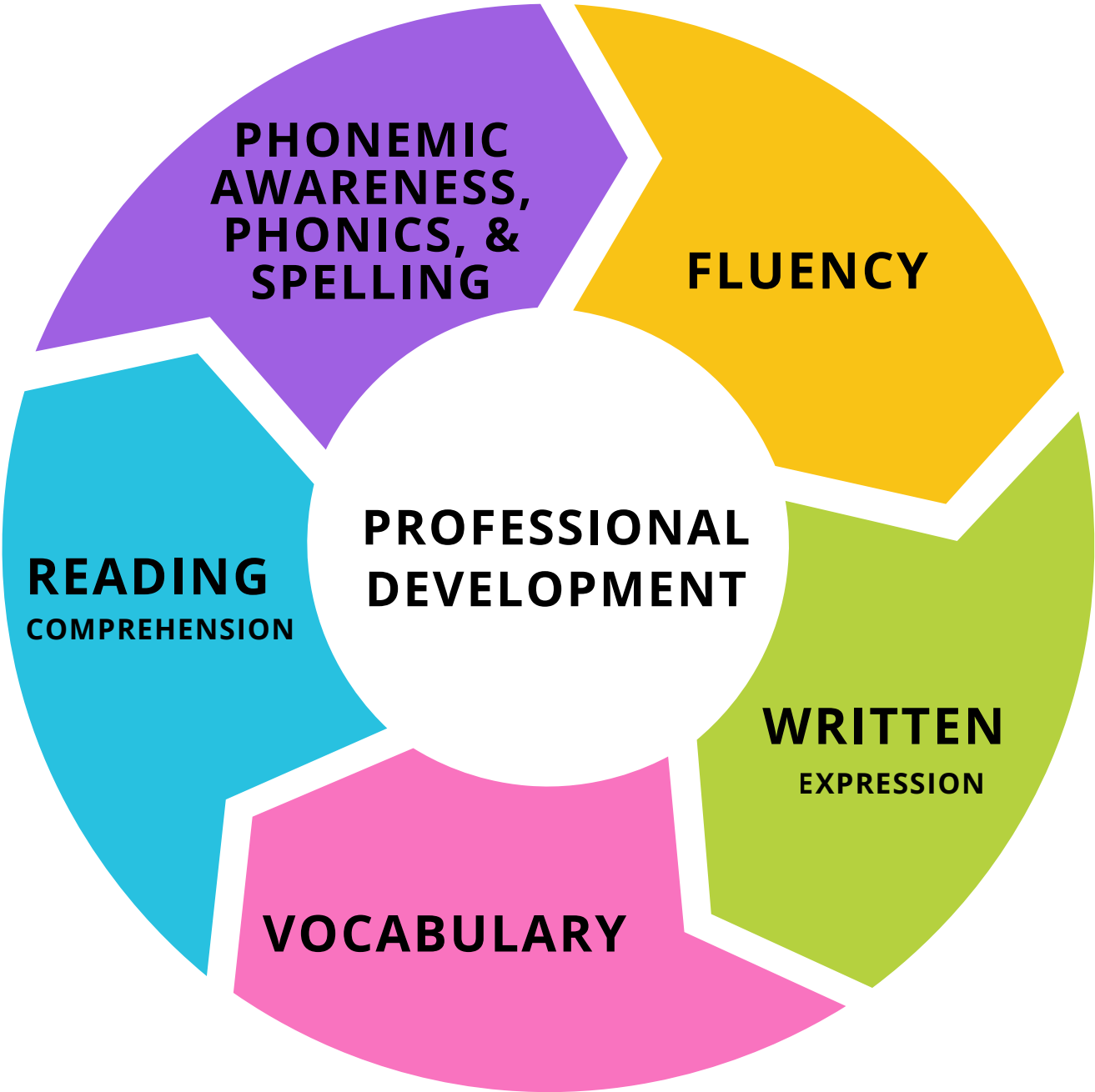
EXPLORE  
How might you explore your puzzles about this topic?

storyshares.org

info@storyshares.org

## THIS SET OF DECODABLE CHAPTER BOOKS INCLUDES:

- activities that reinforce morphology and phonics concepts for each book
- strategies for fluency practice
- vocabulary pages for every chapter
- chapter-by-chapter comprehension and discussion questions





# The Science of Survival: Book 1



*Science Topic:* Earth Conservation

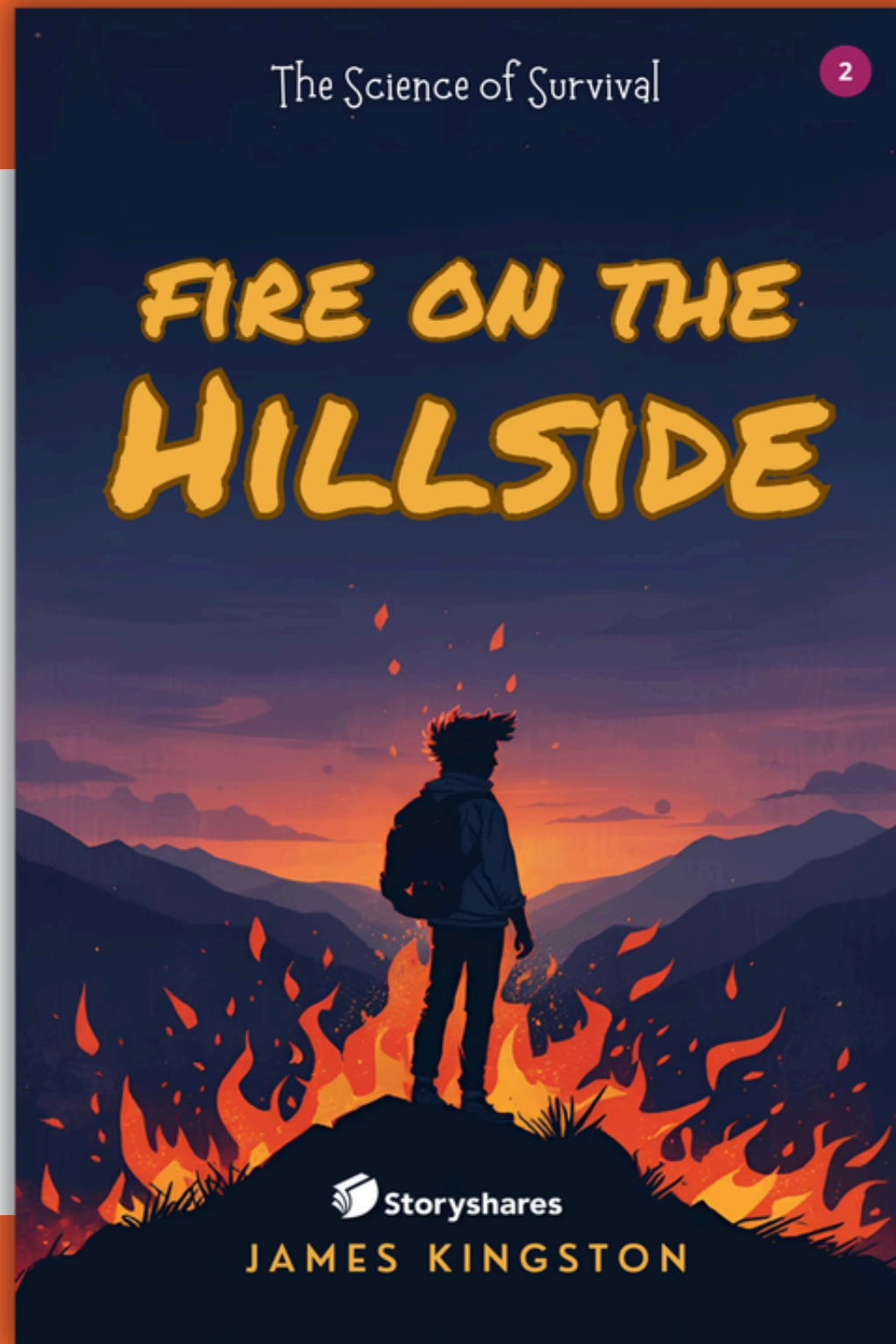
## HOW TO SAVE THE PLANET

*by James Kingston*

Jim, Liv, and Max win a competition for their smart ideas to help the planet. Jim wants to use salt to store energy, Liv suggests growing special plants that can survive in salty water, and Max plans to use ocean waves to make electricity. When they present their ideas, people get excited about how their ideas can work together to create a better future.

*Phonics Focus:* Closed syllables (w/digraphs & blends)

# The Science of Survival: Book 2



*Science Topic:* Climate Change Causes and Effects

## FIRE ON THE HILLSIDE

*by James Kingston*

Every summer, wildfires threaten Jonah's small town, but this year the fires are bigger and his family is forced to evacuate. As Jonah and his friends learn more about why wildfires are getting worse, they come up with a plan to help their community prepare for the future.

*Phonics Focus:* Welded Sounds



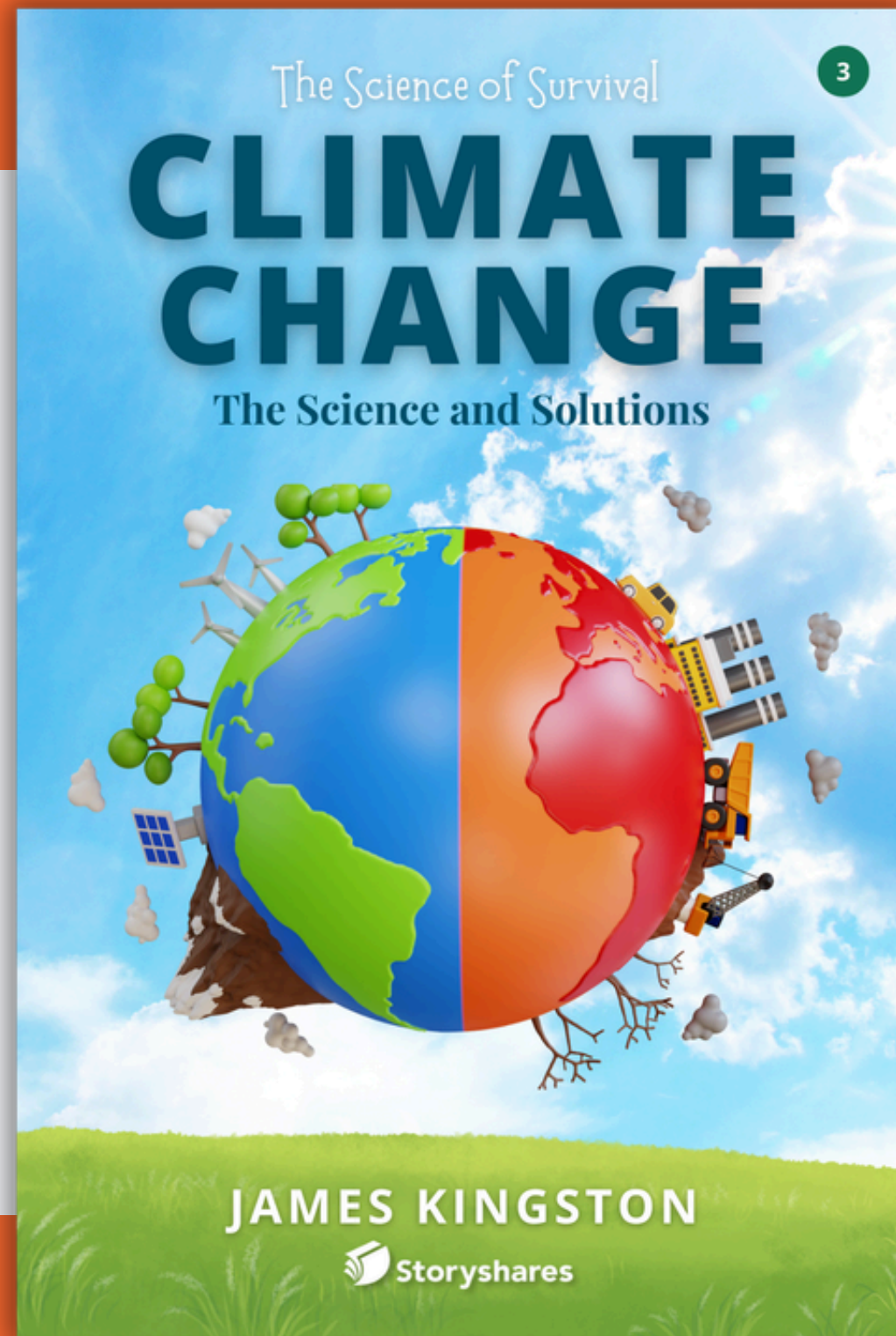
# The Science of Survival: Book 3

*Science Topic:* Climate Change Causes and Effects

## CLIMATE CHANGE: THE SCIENCE AND SOLUTIONS

*by James Kingston*

*Climate Change: The Science and Solutions* explains what climate change is, how human activities are causing Earth to warm, and how this affects weather, animals, and ecosystems. It also highlights real-world examples and shows how kids and adults can take simple actions to help protect the planet.



*Phonics Focus:* Open Syllables

# The Science of Survival: Book 4



*Science Topic:* Animal Traits and Survival Strategies

## **BENEATH THE SURFACE**

*by Rebecca Colo*

Jayla, Mariana, and their teacher's son, Ben, go on a field trip to the aquarium to learn about different traits that help animals like penguins, lobsters, and electric eels survive.

*Phonics Focus:* Vowel Teams



# The Science of Survival: Book 5

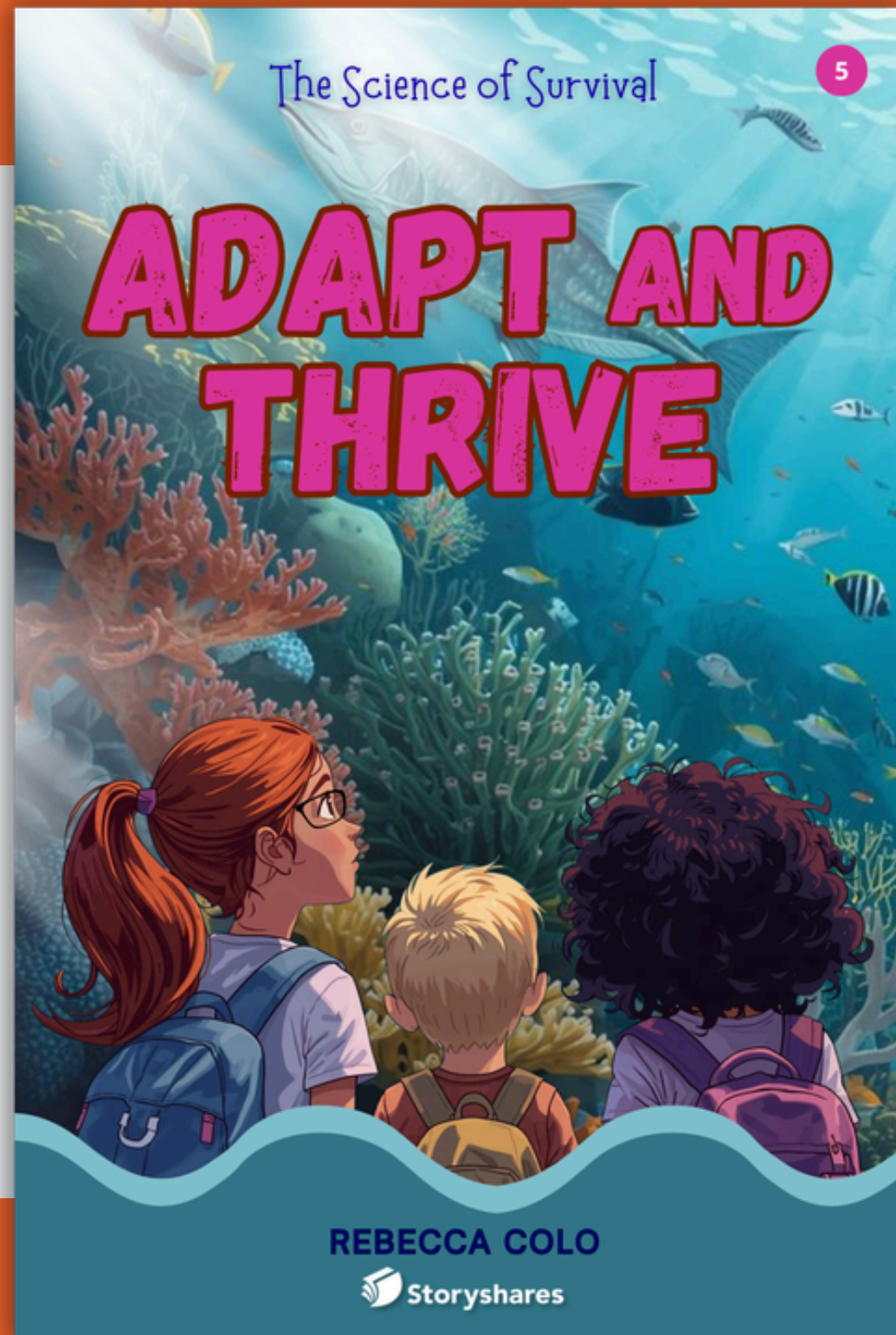
*Science Topic:* Animal Traits and Survival Strategies

## ADAPT AND THRIVE

*by Rebecca Colo*

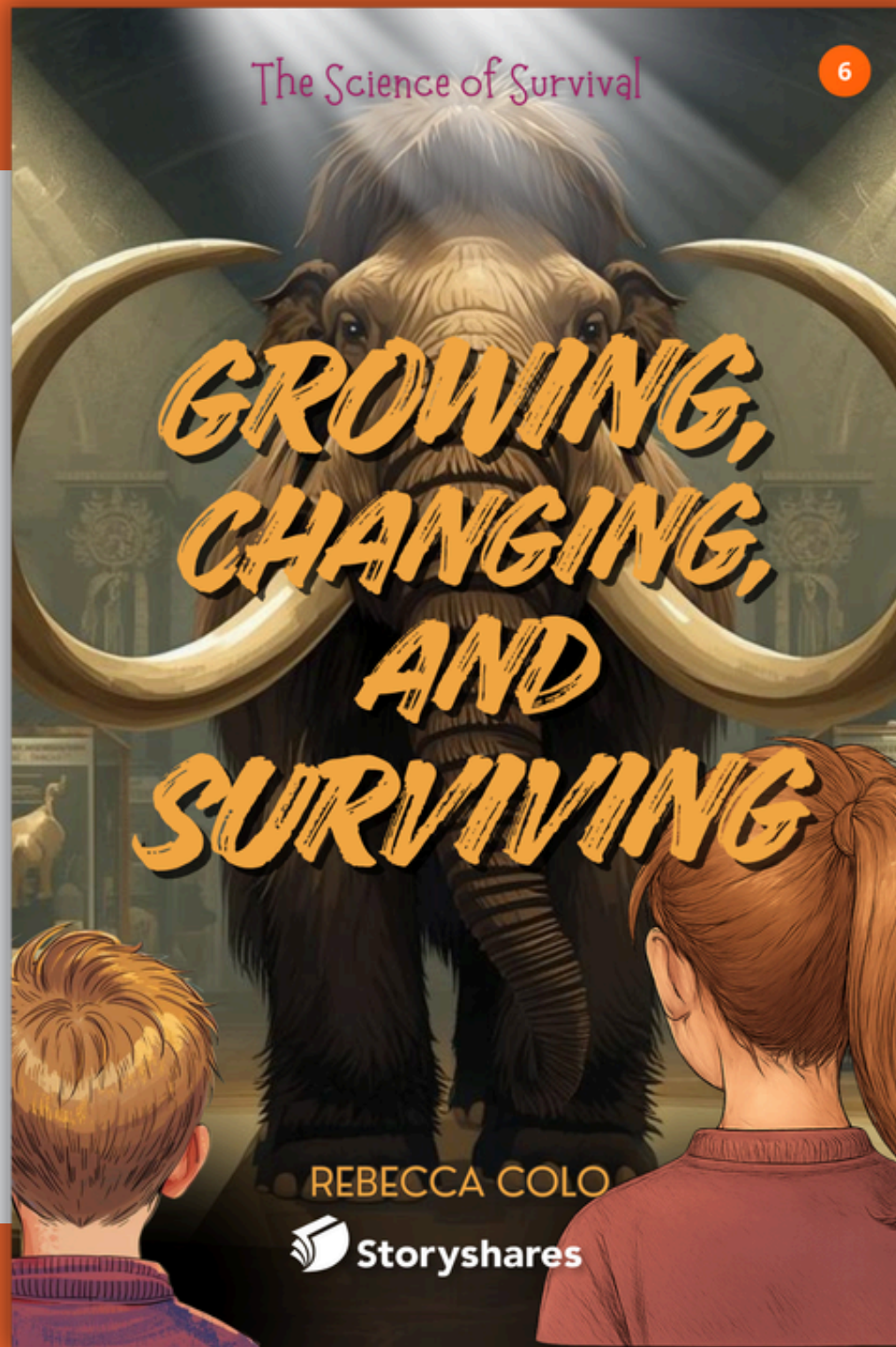
Follow Jayla, Mariana, and their curious friend Ben as they explore an aquarium to find real examples of animal traits that help creatures survive. Through exhibits featuring cuttlefish, octopuses, and sea nettles, they learn about internal structures, external structures, and behaviors—like cuttlebones that control buoyancy, gills and multiple hearts that help animals breathe, and stinging tentacles used for defense and catching food.

*Phonics Focus:* R-Controlled Vowels





# The Science of Survival: Book 6



*Science Topic:* Evolution

## GROWING, CHANGING, AND SURVIVING

*by Rebecca Colo*

Follow Jayla, Mariana, and Ben on a museum field trip where they explore how living things evolve—or go extinct—when environments change. Through examples like mammoths and mastodons, the great auk, and the evolution of horses, the friends learn how traits such as teeth, size, and speed are shaped by climate, food, and habitat over many generations. This story blends clear science explanations with engaging narrative to help readers understand how evolution helps species survive in a changing world.

*Phonics Focus:* Hard/Soft Sounds of C and G & Trigraphs



# The Science of Survival: Book 7



*Science Topic:* Evolution

## THE WONDERS OF EVOLUTION

*by Rebecca Colo*

Follow Jayla, Mariana, and Ben as they explore a natural history museum and uncover the mysteries of evolution and extinction. Through fossils like the Irish elk, Smilodon, and the cave bear, the friends learn how changing environments, adaptations, and time shape which species survive. Blending storytelling with science, the book helps readers understand evolution by showing how even powerful animals can disappear when they can't adapt quickly enough.

*Phonics Focus:* Vowel-Consonant-e



# The Science of Survival: Book 8

*Science Topic:* Evolution

## Survival Secrets of the Animal World

*by Rebecca Colo*

Explore the incredible traits animals use to stay alive in different environments. Through clear explanations and engaging case studies, readers learn how camouflage, mimicry, speed, strength, and intelligence help animals survive and reproduce through natural selection. From Arctic foxes and mimic octopuses to cheetahs, dung beetles, and dolphins, this book shows how even small traits can make a big difference in the fight for survival.



*Phonics Focus:* Consonant-le Syllable