

For Immediate Release

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Defining Life

Author Kevin Kurtz releases new picture book helping readers use science to classify living things and nonliving things.

Identifying that a squirrel is living thing and a rock is a nonliving thing seems simple, right? In Kevin Kurtz new book, young readers find out the difference between living things and nonliving things is not always so cut and dry. The newest installment of the popular **Compare and Contrast Book** series **Living Things and Nonliving Things** hits bookstores on September 10th from Arbordale Publishing.

Colorful and sometimes-humorous photos compliment the text that shows how every rule that attempts to define “life” has exceptions. *Living Thing and Nonliving Things* is written for young readers, but parents might learn surprising facts as well. The book helps readers learn the list of factors (breathing, growing, reproducing, etc.) that need to be considered when determining whether an object is a living thing or a nonliving thing, while also introducing them to some of the wonderful diversity found in our world.

The educational value of the book is endless. The “For Creative Minds” section after the story includes a glossary and a checklist for comparing and contrasting living things versus nonliving things. An extensive online teaching guide is available free on Arbordale’s website, which includes pre-reading and post-reading questions, science journal activity cards, and even a word search.

This is Kevin Kurtz’s second book in the *Compare and Contrast Book* series. His first *Sharks and Dolphins* compared a subject close to his heart, the animals of the sea. Kurtz began his career in a marine biology lab, has been an environmental educator, and was the educator at sea onboard the JOIDES Resolution, a marine geology research vessel. Today, Kevin uses his education background to talk about his love for science and writing in classrooms across the country in person and via Skype.

Living Things and Nonliving Things is available in hardcover (9781628559859, \$17.95), paperback (9781628559866, \$9.95), ebook (9781628559880, \$6.95) and dual-language interactive ebook (9781628559903, \$6.95). A Spanish Language edition *Seres vivos y no vivos: Un libro de comparación y contraste* is available in paperback (9781628559873, \$9.95), ebook (9781628559897, \$6.95) and interactive ebook (9781628559910, \$6.95). Find out more about this and other Arbordale books on the publisher’s website www.arbordalepublishing.com.