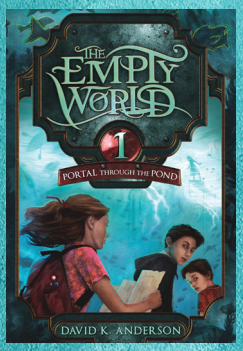
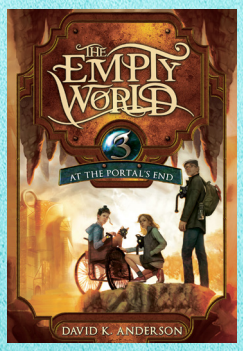
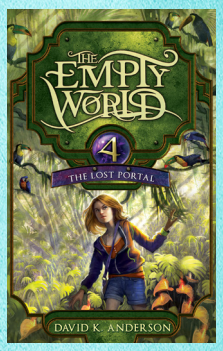
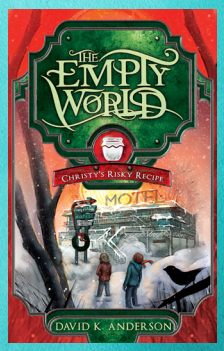
The Empty World

5 science fiction adventure books + 1 Short story









"One of the weirdest things about the book is the fact that the portal to the other world isn't magic, it's science."

Audience

Middle grade readers

ages

8-12

For fans of:

The Land of Stories

Percy Jackson

The Kane Chronicles

They said her grandfather was dead. They said her grandmother was crazy. Christy knows they're wrong.

When her grandmother dies, 13-year-old Christy inherits an old family secret: *the pond behind her house is, in fact, a portal to another world*. What's more, she learns that her grandfather went through the portal when he mysteriously "disappeared" nine years ago. Christy tries to respect her grandmother's final wishes and not go exploring, but when classmate Rob falls into the pond, she has to act.

"Portal Through the Pond introduces readers to a fascinating world full of mystery and intrigue. With the help of her grandfather, Christy must travel through unfamiliar lands while navigating friendships and responsibilities. This is a great choice for 3rd-6th grade readers who love fantasy and science fiction!"

—Nicole S., Elementary School Teacher, North Carolina

Setting

Upon learning that her missing grandfather was trapped in the eponymous Empty World, grief-stricken main character Christy travels through the pond in her small-town New Hampshire yard—along with several nosey neighborhood kids—into a strange and dangerous world to bring him home.

Over the course of the 5-book series, the children learn to communicate with alien creatures, discover ancient artifacts and architecture shrouded in mystery, and uncover perils threatening Empty World and Earth alike.

Themes

The Empty World Saga showcases kids learning to seek out and accept each other's different strengths. They shatter pre-conceived notions of disabilities and look beyond reflexive behaviors like bullying to understand each other and work together to overcome obstacles.

- **Friendship**
- **Reframing disabilities as unique abilities**
- **Trusting in others and yourself**
- **Dealing with personal challenges**
- **Ingenuity and problem-solving**

Key Characters

Christy, the reluctant hero

Challenges: Grief and Self-doubt

Content to live her small-town New England life, Christy's world turns upside down when her beloved grandmother dies and shares the truth about her grandfather's disappearance. Without support from her parents, Christy mounts a rescue to bring him home from the Empty World. And when unintended allies join her cause, she finds herself stuck as the group's reluctant leader—a position she neither intended nor wanted.

Danny, the communicator

Challenge: Deafness

Deaf since an accident as a young child, Cub Scout Danny has learned to be a resourceful communicator. From teaching sign language to his new babysitter, Christy, to learning to communicate with a race of Empty World aliens with a gestural language, Danny applies his ingenuity and preparedness to any problem the kids encounter.

Cory, the bully

Challenge: Paralysis

Driven by the frustration of being the older brother of a child with special needs, Cory hides behind a mask of toughness and resorts to bullying others. But once he's forced to work with others to get home from the Empty World, Cory learns to value both his enemies and his younger brother.

Brad, the puzzle solver

Challenge: Asperger's

Despite his challenges fitting in with classmates back on Earth, and a strained relationship with his older brother, Brad has special talents all his own. His Asperger's gives him a sense of focus, and a unique way of seeing the world, that allows him to solve any puzzle they encounter.

Grandfather, the explorer

Challenge: Chasing a dream

When chasing a dream of exploring the Empty World separates him from his beloved wife, daughter, and granddaughter, Christy's grandfather must learn to adapt to a whole new existence. And when Christy comes to his rescue, he must decide if he's willing to give up his new life to return to the only family he has.

Trevor, the best friend

Challenge: Getting left behind

The group's most adept coordinator, Christy's best friend Trevor often finds himself left behind to smooth things over with the grown-ups. When the kids need a plan, he's stuck making sure everything back on Earth goes smoothly. Acting as an ambassador to adults and estranged friends alike, he must call on his Boy Scout know-how and his diplomacy to keep disparate groups working together toward a single goal: get everyone home.

Ginny, the strategist

Challenge: Diabetes

Once an inseparable member of their best-friend triad, Ginny grew apart from Christy and Trevor when she started attending a local private school and learns of her own diabetes. Over the course of the series, the three must reconnect and mend their rift. Because Ginny is their best strategist, and the Empty World has problems that need her insight.

What kids have to say

We gave the Emtpy World Saga to four 12-year-old kids and asked these avid readers to share their thoughts. Here's what they had to say about their favorite parts.

Legend

"Every character is different, but everyone contributes to their survival in the Empty World."

Remington

"I like Danny. He's very adventurous and has plans for almost any situation."

Allie

"I like Brad. He has trouble in the real world. But in the Empty World, he thrives."

Avalyn

"I like Clacker. He has a scream that's like a superpower."

Ready to have your class explore the Empty World?

Whether you want to read in the classroom of assign as summer reading, please reach out and tell me how we can help get these book in the hands of your students.

Available as:

eBook | **Paperback** | **Audiobook**

Visit: **emptyworldsaga.com/teachers**