

SCIENCE READINGS

Note: Many of these books were difficult to categorize as they encompass more than one area of science; with this limitation in mind, I have attempted to place the readings under what I felt to be the most appropriate heading.

Natural Science

Pilgrim at Tinker Creek by Annie Dillard - a meteorological journal of the mind. "I am no scientist," says Annie Dillard, "I am a wanderer with a background in theology and a penchant for quirky facts." (young adult)

The Red Wasteland: A Personal Selection of Writings About Nature for Young Readers by Bruce Brooks—nonfiction chapter book on natural science—elementary through high school. (all ages)

The Plant Hunters: Being an Examination of Collecting, with and Account of the Careers & the Methods of a Number of Those Who Have Searched the World by Michael Sidney Tyler-Whittle, Tyler Whittle, Charles Elliott – This exciting and in depth book contains excellent information on the many exploits of plant hunters around the world. It recites tales of both failures and successes. The author has a talent for weaving these incredible tales into stories you won't soon forget. (adult)

Beyond the Last Village: A journey of discovery in Asia's forbidden wilderness by Alan Rabinowitz – An exciting true story about the search for remaining wilderness in Asia by Rabinowitz, who is on a scientific and personal quest. One review said, "on one level the book is a contemporary fairy tale." (adult)

In the Shadow of Man by Jane Goodall – This best-selling classic tells the story of one of the world's greatest scientific adventures. Jane Goodall was a young secretarial school graduate when the legendary Louis Leakey chose her to undertake a landmark study of chimpanzees in the wild. This book is an absorbing account of her early years at Gombe Stream Reserve, letting us in on the remarkable discoveries she made as she got to know the chimps and they got to know her. (adult) Other excellent reads by Jane Goodall include, *Through a Window*, *Africa in my Blood: An Autobiography in Letters*, *The Orangutans*, and *Reason for Hope*.

Gorillas in the Mist by Dian Fossey - In 1963, an occupational therapist from Kentucky, in uncertain health and spirits, traveled to central Africa in the quixotic hope of seeing a mountain gorilla in its natural habitat. Dian Fossey had read everything she could about the reclusive and much-feared animal, and she returned from her trip convinced that most of the books were wrong: the gorilla was a gentle, social, and intelligent creature. Fossey discovered, despite their peaceable way of life, the gorillas had many enemies in the form of poachers who hunted them for their hands, skins, and heads--ghastly remains sold to the tourist market. Much of Fossey's thoughtful but often angry memoir *Gorillas in the Mist* is a well-reasoned plea for the protection of the gorillas and the suppression of

the poachers' black market. That argument found a wide audience when her book was published in 1983, but Fossey's work remains unfinished: she was murdered, probably by those very poachers, in 1985, and today there are fewer than 650 mountain gorillas in the wild. To read *Gorillas in the Mist* is a first step for anyone concerned with their preservation, and that of other wild species everywhere. (adult)

Physical Science

"Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman!" Adventures of a Curious Character by Richard P. Feynman - The outrageous exploits of the world's most outspoken Nobel-prize winning scientist. (There are several books in this series) (adult)

A Brief History of Time: From the Big Bang to Black Holes by Stephen W. Hawking - Written by the supernova of world physics, this provides current ideas about the cosmos. (Heavy stuff this!!) (adult)

The Science Guy's Big Blast of Science by Bill Nye—informational essays on physical science for elementary through high school. (all ages)

Day One: Before Hiroshima and After by Peter Wyden - The race to develop the atomic bomb and the aftermath of its first use are covered in this account of the birth of the atomic age. (adult)

The Making of the Atomic Bomb by Richard Rhodes - an excellent Pulitzer Prize winning account of the history of the atomic bomb. (adult)

The Dancing Wu Li Masters by Gary Zukava - a popularized, simplified discussion of “the new physics” of quantum mechanics. (adult)

Einstein's Dream by Alan Lightman—narratives of imagined dreams of Einstein as he nears completion of this theory of relativity. (young adult)

The Physics of Star Trek by Lawrence Krauss—this book takes a lighthearted look at the futuristic inventions in Star Trek, speculating on how these wonders might actually work—and, in some cases, revealing why the inventions are impossible or impractical even for an advanced civilization. Great fun this one—readable, educational, and clever. (adult)

Beyond Star Trek: Physics from Alien Invasions to the End of Time by Lawrence Krauss—In this companion volume to his first, Krauss analyzes more science in Star Trek and the next generation of sci-fi movie and TV shows. Whether you are a Trekkie, a X-hile, or a serious student of physics, you'll like this book. (adult)

Grossology Begins At Home: The Science of Really Gross Things in Your Everyday Life by Sylvia Branzei—non-fiction chapter book on science—elementary through high school. (all ages)

Cosmos by Carl Sagan—nonfiction chapter book on astronomy—middle and high school—this is one of the greatest books ever. It isn't often we get an opportunity to get inside the mind of a person who thinks like a poet and a scientist at the same time. (adult)

Brocas' Brain: Reflections on the Romance of Science by Carl Sagan—a fascinating book on the joys of discovering how the world works. Sagan presents a message of hope for humanity while ever conscious that human folly can terminate man's march into the future. He paints for the reader a mind-boggling future: intelligent robots, the discovery of extraterrestrial life and its consequences, and above all the challenge and pursuit of the mystery of the universe. (adult)

The Demon-Haunted World by Carl Sagan - Sagan muses on the current state of scientific thought, which offers him marvelous opportunities to entertain us with his own childhood experiences, the newspaper morgues, UFO stories, and the assorted flotsam and jetsam of pseudoscience. Along the way he debunks alien abduction, faith-healing, and channeling; refutes the arguments that science destroys spirituality, and provides a "baloney detection kit" for thinking through political, social, religious, and other issues. (adult)

Environmental Science

(Note: several of these selections are natural science adventure stories that emphasize environment)

Silent Spring by Rachel Carson - The first outcry against destruction of the environment continues to be an important and vital message. (adult)

Acting for Nature: What Young People Around the World Are Doing to Protect the Environment by Sneed B. Collard—biographical essays for young adults—a collection of true stories about what young people around the world have done to protect the environment. This book encourages both action and a deep respect for the Earth. (young adult)

A Whale for the Killing by Farley Mowat - an exciting adventure book about Farley Mowat's struggle to save the endangered Fin Whale. Through his heartrending efforts to save a wounded whale, Mowat reveals a great deal about the mysterious world of whales and about the darkest regions of the human spirit. Never before has he written a study of men and nature as powerful as this. (young adult)

Never Cry Wolf by Farley Mowat - a brilliant narrative on the myth and magic of wild wolves and man's true place among the creatures of nature. (young adult)

Monteverde: Science and Scientists in a Costa Rican Cloud Forest by Sneed B. Collard - Sneed combines photographs, anecdotes, fact-filled exposition, quotations, bits of narrative, and biographical sketches to weave an informational text that truly teaches and entertains us, too. (young adult)

The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition by Caroline Alexander – A superbly written account of Sir Ernest Shackleton's ill-fated expedition to the Antarctic aboard the *Endurance* in 1914. The text is abundantly illustrated, with crewmember Frank Hurley's astonishing photographs chronicling the ordeal. An excellent read for high school students. (young adult)

Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance by Jennifer Armstrong – another beautifully illustrated, riveting account of the Shackleton expedition that is particularly well suited for middle school audiences. (young adult)

Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster by Jon Krakauer – A spellbinding account of the deadliest season in the history of Mt. Everest when nine people attempting to climb the mountain perished. (young adult)

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer – This is an outstanding work of literature, gut wrenching and provocative. It tells the story of a young man who went seeking adventure in the wilds of Alaska and did not survive. But Krakauer isn't really interested in telling a testosterone-soaked cliffhanger. Rather, he sets out to explore the inner life of a very complicated, very idealistic, very intense young man. A sophisticated work, about ideas more than actions, about longing and loss. (adult)

Gone A-Whaling: The Lure of the Sea and the Hunt for the Great Whale by Jim Murphy – The history of American whaling brought vividly to life through an engrossing narrative that is frequently drawn from firsthand accounts in diaries, letters, and journals of young men who signed on to whaling voyages. (young adult)

Wild Trek by Jim Kjelgaard (Kielgaard) - This is the story of the trapper, Link Stevens, and his fearless snow dog, Chiri. It began when the trapper and his dog set out to rescue a naturalist stranded in the perilous Caribou mountains--the impenetrable storm-blasted heights from which no man has ever returned. Forced to live by Stone Age methods, they relied on every resource of the dog's wild cunning and the trapper's woodlore. An adventure packed, exciting book for the young adult reader. (young adult)

Night of the Grizzlies by Jack Olsen - This book is definitely a page turner! A must read for anyone who hikes or camps. Also, it should be an eye opener for people around dump sites or man-made dump sites which would lead to a bear attractive area. Bears and people don't mix and people need to start respecting wildlife more. With the increase of population, where do bears, cougars and other wildlife go? Even though this occurred years ago, this book really makes you think. (young adult – adult)

Biology

Biological and Chemical Weapons: The Debate Over Modern Warfare by Allan Cobb – from the focus on science and society series. (easy reader—upper elementary and middle school)

Forensic Science: Evidence, Clues, and Investigation by Andrea Campbell – this easy to read book, replete with engaging photos takes the reader on a fascination journey through the world of evidence collection and analysis. From tried-and-true investigatory tools like fingerprinting to the cutting edge of DNA profiling, from ballistics to bite marks, from reading stories in the activities of insects to reading the stories human bones tell, the book explains forensic science techniques in terms the layperson can understand. (young adult)

Wild Thoughts from Wild Places by David Quammen—science essays for high school—award-winning naturalist and science writer Quammen roams the world in search of new information and new perspectives on the many species that share our earth. (young adult)

In Search of Nature by Edward Wilson—nonfiction chapter book on science—middle and high school. (young adult)

Voyage of the Beagle by Charles Darwin - an account of Darwin's travels and observations which led to his theory of evolution. In this journal style book, Darwin analyzes and interprets his finding from his voyages on the H.M.S. Beagle, as a naturalist. (adult)

On the Origin of the Species by Charles Darwin –referred to as “the book that shook the world” (the first edition sold out on the day of publication!)--Every modern discussion of man's future, the population explosion, the struggle for existence, the purpose of man and the universe, and man's place in nature rests on Darwin and this little book. (adult)

The Riddle of the Dinosaur by John Wilford - A humorous and readable history of paleontology, including surprising new discoveries that have revolutionized dinosaur theory. (adult)

The Secret House: 24 Hours in the Strange and Unexpected World in Which We Spend Our Nights and Days by David Bodanis - The microbiological drama found within a house is explored from morning to late-evening activity. (adult)

The Double Helix by James Watson - This national bestseller, written by a scientist about scientists, is the inside story of one of the key discoveries of the century: the structure of DNA, the heredity molecule. Even more fascinating, perhaps, it is the superbly human tale of how a very unusual 23-year-old American saw his chance for scientific immortality and promptly set out to seize it. (adult)

Rosalind Franklin & DNA by Anne Sayre - The first full account of Rosalind Franklin's role in the discovery of the double-helix structure of DNA. This true story of a female scientist's efforts in the field of biochemistry should be required reading for all aspiring scientists--especially women. An excellent book to read after *The Double Helix*. (adult)

The Dragons of Eden/Speculations on the Evolution of Human Intelligence by Carl Sagan- In this Pulitzer Prize winning novel, Dr. Sagan offers his vivid and startling insight into the brain of man and beast, the origin of human intelligence, the function of man's most haunting legends--and their amazing links to recent discoveries. This one comes highly recommended by everyone I talked too!! (adult)

The Year of the Gorilla by George B. Schaller - The story of two years of travel and exploration in East and Central Africa, and of a unique study of the mountain gorilla, a species in danger of becoming extinct. As a behaviorist, anthropologist, and naturalist, Schaller gives a vivid picture of an aspect of Africa that may well be doomed, and carries the feel of remote adventure clearly. (adult)

The Naked Ape by Desmond Morris - In this controversial classic of man's origins, Zoologist Morris examines sex, child-rearing, exploratory habits, fighting, feeding, and much more to establish man's surprising bonds to the animal kingdom. (adult)

On Aggression by Konrad Lorenz - A thought-provoking survey of "the fighting instinct in beast and man which is directed against members of the same species." This book has been the target of criticism and controversy ever since it was first published in the 1960s. A must read for anyone interested in the study of human and animal behavior. (adult)

King Solomon's Ring by Konrad Lorenz – a classic book of animal behavior. In a readable, friendly, often humorous style, Lorenz uses illustrations from his everyday life among animals to illustrate a variety of fascination points. The balance between anecdotes and theory is well handled and the book stands out both as education and as entertainment. (adult)

The Hot Zone by Richard Preston – The dramatic and chilling story of an Ebola virus outbreak in a suburban Washington D.C. laboratory, with descriptions of frightening historical epidemics of rare and lethal viruses. More hair-raising than anything Hollywood could think of, and it's all true! (adult)

Virus Hunter: Thirty Years of Battling Hot Viruses Around the World by C. J. Peters – The author, an ex-army colonel, has spent his professional life studying deadly pathogens in the lab and in the wild. He spins an adrenaline filled drama of true stories of virus hunters from around the world: the New Mexico hantavirus outbreak in 1993; the Kikwit, Zaire, Ebola epidemic of 1995; as well as earlier cases of Rift Valley fever in Egypt and Junin virus in Argentina. This book is for those with a strong stomach for gory details. (adult)

The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World out of Balance by Laurie Garrett – “While the human race battles itself, the advantage moves to the microbes’ court. They are our predators, and they will be victorious if we do not learn how to live in a rational global village that affords the microbes few opportunities,” and so begins this powerful book in which this Pulitzer-winning journalist shows a clear understanding of the patterns lying beneath the new diseases in the headlines (AIDS, Lyme) and the old ones resurgent (tuberculosis, cholera). Don’t let the size of this one stop you; feel free to read selected chapters, as many or as few as needed. (adult)

Level 4: Virus Hunters of the CDC by Joseph McCormick and Susan Fisher-Hoch – McCormick and Fisher-Hoch tell the story of those who hunt—at their peril and for our protection—the emerging diseases making global headlines. With scientific rigor and emotional honesty, these virus hunters share what they have lived, literally taking us along as they confront the dangerous unknown. This inspiring story of two scientists working at the frontiers of knowledge shows how dedication, intelligence, and courage can prevail—and gives us hope for the future of global health. (adult)

Flu by Jina Kolata – a fascinating look at the 1918 epidemic that wiped out around 40 million people in less than a year and afflicted more than one of every four Americans. This tragedy, just on the heels of WWI and far more deadly, so traumatized the survivors that few would talk about it afterward. Kolata reports on the scientific investigation of this bizarre outbreak, in particular the attempts to sequence the virus’ DNA from tissue samples of victims. She also looks at the social and personal effects of the disease, from improved public health awareness to the loss of productivity. (adult)

The Lives of the Cell by Lewis Thomas—world famous book on biology. This is a compilation of reflective articles originally published in a medical journal. Chapter topics range from molecular biology to Gaia to sociobiology. There is a wealth of information appropriate from high school students, undergraduates, and professionals alike. (young adult - adult)

The Medusa and the Snail: More Notes of a Biology Watcher by Lewis Thomas—nonfiction essays—middle and high school—Thomas will make you fall in love with topics you thought would put you to sleep. (young adult)

The Fragile Species by Lewis Thomas—nonfiction essays—middle and high school--Most of these 14 essays (some based on lectures, others revised from *Foreign Affairs*, *Missouri Review*, etc.) bear the Thomas watermarks of elegant prose and humanistic values. He discusses a variety of topics, including a piece on AIDS, descriptions of a bacteria we all carry; explanations of the two key discoveries that formed modern medicine, one being that traditional methods such as bleeding don’t work, the other that antibiotics can kill the disease without killing the patient. Like an oyster working a grain of sand, Thomas accretes around these few facts some glistening pearls of prose--among them, a call for massive public-health programs in the Third World; a look at the Gaia hypothesis; a sermon against war; and a worried appraisal of our failure to provide good preschool education. Invariably, he wants to see crises resolved through scientific

research, often high-tech. A literary stethoscope: polished, professional, and predictable. (adult)

Alien Invaders: The Continuing Threat of Exotic Species by Sneed B. Collard—non-fiction young adult science essays—“Alien invaders” are species of any kind, from insects to plant and animals or viruses and bacteria, that have wandered far from their homes, sometimes with disastrous (though never boring) results. (young adult)

People of the Lake: Mankind and Its Beginnings by Richard E. Leakey - brings the general audience an engaging account of some of the latest and best research about the origins of our humanity. (adult)

The Fifth Miracle: The Search for the Origin and Meaning of Life by Paul Davies – How did life begin? Did it start here, by blind chance or by necessity, or was Earth seeded by extraterrestrial visitors? Physicist and science writer Davies tackles these heavy questions and more in this wide-ranging survey of the field of biogenesis. His willingness to consider any possibility makes for a fun, fascination journey through our solar system and beyond. (adult)

Medicine

The Youngest Science: Notes of a Medicine-Watcher by Lewis Thomas - A doctor's fascinating view of what medicine was, and what it has become. Thomas first learned about medicine by watching his father practice in an era when doctors comforted rather than healed. Looking back upon his experiences as a medical student, young doctor, and senior researcher, Thomas notes that medicine is now rich in possibility and promise. (young adult)

Surgeon! A Year in the Life of an Inner City Doctor by Dr. Richard T. Caleel - The true story of Dr. Caleel's first twelve months in the surgical department of a hospital in the heart of Chicago's slums. This is a harrowing look at the life of a ghetto surgeon--a glimpse into a world riddled by disease, ravaged by ignorance, yet dominated by some of the bravest characters you will ever meet. Above all, this is a human story of a doctor and his patients that offers a rare picture of the costs and rewards of a medical career. A must read if you plan to pursue a career in medicine. (This is out of print—but can be found at used bookstores; it is well worth the effort). (adult)

Five Patients by Michael Crichton - behind the scenes look at a modern day hospital—a startling, human drama that reads like a novel. (adult)

Medical Ethics: Life and Death Issues by Karen Judson – Judson presents an overview of medical ethics from many different perspectives. She explains how organ donation developed in the United States and how recipients are selected for this potentially life-saving procedure, as well as the process family member have to go through when making decisions that mean life or death for their loved ones. She also explores whet people having to make medical decisions about their own lives experience, and discusses the role of medical ethics committees in making decisions about life and death. (young adult)

Biomedical Ethics: Opposing Viewpoints from the Opposing Viewpoint Series by Perma-Bound – “Those who do not know their opponent’s arguments do not completely understand their own.” These easy to read books present all sides of the issues. Both shrill and moderate--written by experts policy makers and concerned citizens—it includes complete articles and speeches, long book excerpts, and occasional cartoon and boxed quotations. This is just one of an excellent series of controversial topic books. (young adult)

Biography

The Origin: A Biographical Novel of Charles Darwin by Irving Stone – written by one of the greatest biographers of our time, this book gives us a beautiful depiction of the character of the real Charles Darwin, and how he came to his breakthrough scientific insights. Darwin was an immensely likeable character, with an adventuresome spirit, immense energy, a genuine humility, and warm sense of humor. (adult)

Charles Darwin: The Life of a Revolutionary Thinker by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent— Drawing on Darwin’s journals and correspondence, Hinshaw Patent provides a thorough and intriguing biography of one of the most influential figures in modern thought. Dispelling common misconceptions, she explains how he devised his groundbreaking principle on evolution by natural selection and describes his loving family that was often beset by tragedies. She places Darwin in the context of his times as one of the inventors of modern science. This easily readable book is engaging and accurate—a perfect choice for the reluctant reader. (young adult)

The Ingenious Mr. Peale: Painter, Patriot, and Man of Science by Janet Wilson – An exceptionally well-written, highly engaging account of the life of the fascinating Renaissance man, Charles Wilson Peale. (young adult)

The Cry and the Covenant by Morton Thompson – The true story of Ignaz Semmelweis, a doctor who sacrificed his own life to fight a deadly scourge that was killing countless mothers and the children they bore. Semmelweis’s discovery of the importance of hygiene revolutionized medicine, but cost him his career. (adult)

Galileo’s Daughter: a Historical Memoir of Science, Faith, and Love by Dava Sobel – Sobel is a master storyteller who, with her choice of excerpts and her strong sense of story, has brought a great scientist to life. (adult)

Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Problem of His Time by Dava Sobel - The thorniest scientific problem of the eighteenth century was how to determine longitude. Many thousands of lives had been lost at sea over the centuries due to the inability to determine an east-west position. This is the engrossing story of the clockmaker, John "Longitude" Harrison, who solved the problem that Newton and Galileo had failed to conquer, yet claimed only half the promised rich reward. (adult)

Women of the Four Winds by Elizabeth Fagg Olds - Annie Smith Peck attempted seven times to climb Peru's highest mountain; Delia Akeley hunted big game in Africa; Marguerite Harrison spied in Russia for America; Louise Arner Boyd led expeditions to perilous East Greenland. Precursors of the modern Jane Goodalls and Sally Rides, these women represent a fascinating but forgotten era in the literature of exploration. (adult)

The Chimpanzees I Love—Saving Their World and Ours by Jane Goodall and Scholastic—Beautifully illustrated with striking photographs, Dr. Goodall's account of her life with the chimpanzees is a powerful story of achievement, a compelling call to action, and a message of hope for all. (young adult)

My Journey to Lhasa by Alexandra David-Neel – In any time, Alexandra David-Neel would have been considered an extraordinary woman, but in the Victorian era, she was truly exceptional. Born in 1868, she eschewed the dances, dinners, and formal marriages common to women of her era and social standing in order to indulge her fierce independence and insatiable intellectual curiosity. She spent years traveling in India and China, but perhaps her most daring adventure was the trip to Tibet's forbidden city of Lhasa. She was 55 years old at the time, fluent in Tibetan and well versed in both Sanskrit and Buddhism. Disguised as a man, she spent four treacherous months on the road before finally becoming the first European woman ever to enter Lhasa. *My Journey to Lhasa* is David-Neel's own account of her astounding journey, one fraught with hardship and danger. It is both a chronicle of a bygone time and a testimonial to a remarkable human. (adult)

Jonas Salk: Conquering Polio by Stephanie Sammartino McPherson – an easy to read, illustrated book from the A Lerner Biography Series (young adult)

Fiction

The Andromeda Strain by Michael Crichton – The United States government stands warned that sterilization procedures for returning space probes may be inadequate to guarantee uncontaminated re-entry to the atmosphere. When a probe satellite falls to the earth two years later, and lands in a desolate area of northeastern Arizona, the bodies that lie heaped and flung across the ground, have faces locked in frozen surprise. The terror has begun...”relentlessly suspenseful...a hair-raising experience.” (adult)

Contact by Carl Sagan -It is December 1999, the dawn of the millennium, and a team of international scientists is poised for the most fantastic adventure in human history. After years of scanning the galaxy for signs of somebody or something else, this team believes they've found a message from an intelligent source--and they travel deep into space to meet it. Pulitzer Prize winner Carl Sagan injects *Contact*, his prophetic adventure story, with scientific details that make it utterly believable. It is a Cold War era novel that parleys the nuclear paranoia of the time into exquisitely wrought tension among the various countries involved. Sagan meditates on science, religion, and government--the elements that define society--and looks to their impact on and role in the future. His

ability to pack an exciting read with such rich content is an unusual talent that makes *Contact* a modern sci-fi classic. (adult)

Shark Beneath the Reef by J.C. George – Fourteen-year-old Tomas Torres wants to become a marine biologist and struggles with staying or dropping out of school. (young adult)

Changes in Latitudes by W. Hobbs – A family vacation in Mexico leads to Teddy's interest in turtles and efforts to protect their welfare as endangered species. (young adult)

California Blue by David Klass – John, the main character, discovers the double-edged sword of trying to protect an endangered butterfly in a small logging community.

Gentle Ben by Walt Morey - Thirteen-year-old Mark convinces his father to purchase Ben, a brown bear, from his abusive master, but when Ben maims his former owner after being attacked, the townspeople insist that he be destroyed. Morey's tale pulls at the heartstrings. (late elementary, 4-8 grade)

The Call of the Wild by Jack London – this powerful and exciting adventure book has been a classic for years. The story narrates the life of a dog, Buck, who was stolen from his suburban home to go to the Yukon as a sled dog during the gold rush. There he learns the rules of rugged life and survival, and the opposing ways of the wild towards the traditional house pet setting. Buck becomes almost human through the situations he encounters, and the lessons he learns. He starts to realize there is much more to life than being a simple domestic pet, there are people out there who are very nice, and yet very evil, and he has to adapt to both. (young adult)

White Fang by Jack London – another powerful and exciting adventure story by London, *White Fang* is about a wolf that learns about life through his experiences at the hands of man. A favorite of all ages, London combines his knowledge of the vast Yukon Territory and his respect for the wolf with his knowledge of human nature and life. A tragic and hauntingly beautiful story—a must read for all ages. (young adult)

Picture Books

A Drop of Water by Walter Wick – In this book of science and wonder, Wick embraces two disciplines, art and science, and stimulates the reader as aesthetic and scientific observer. The most spectacular photographs ever created on the subject of water.

Water Dance by Thomas Locker – In this innovative and beautiful book, travel with author-illustrator Thomas Locker and follow water's constant dance. Complementing a poetic text and inspiring paintings are hundreds of fascinating scientific facts about water.

Just a Dream by Chris Van Allsburg—picture book--Young Walter litters and refuses to sort trash for recycling, until he dreams of an overcrowded and polluted future which terrifies him into taking care of the earth. "Van Allsburg reaches a new pinnacle of

excellence in both illustration and storytelling . . . His fable builds to an urgent pleas for action as it sends a rousing message of hope."

Yuck!: A Big Book of Little Horrors by Sober Snedden and Steve Parker—picture book--
A microscope reveals the disgusting, secret horrors of home. Tiny hidden dust mites, bacteria, fungi, parasites, hairs, and food particles are shown hugely magnified in close-up color photographs astonishing, and the science is amazing.

Blood & Gore by Vicki Cobb—nonfiction picture book suitable for elementary through high school—technical writing and illustrations at their best.

Kingdom of the Sun: A book of the Planets by Jacqueline Mitton and Christina Balit—
Distinguished astronomer and writer Dr. Jacqueline Mitton takes us on a fascination tour of the planets our Solar System. In a lyrical, poetic text, she explores the features of the planets and compares them to the gods of old who are their namesake.

Cells, Genes, and Chromosomes by Nuria Roca and Marta Serrano—This picture book takes the reader on an exciting journey back to the time when life first emerged on earth. It explores the fascinating world of cell, the smallest units of life, and explains the different kinds of cells that make up the human body. This book is part of the Invisible World Series by Perma-Bound.

Hidden Worlds: Looking Through a Scientist's Microscope by Stephen Kramer –
Through the lenses of powerful microscopes, examine objects most people have never even thought about: a mosquito's foot, a crystal of sugar, a grain of pollen. This engaging text and dramatic photographs provide a fascinating look at the work of a microscopist and the remarkable worlds he explores.

There's a Hair in my Dirt by Gary Larson – the famous creator of *The Far Side* takes a humorous, yet authentic look at the chain of life.