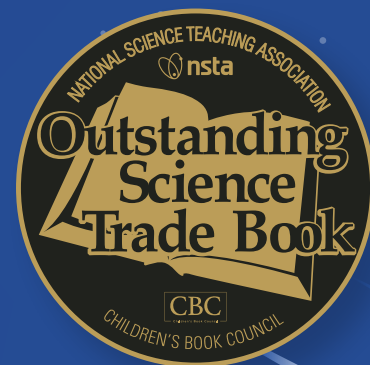


Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students 2026

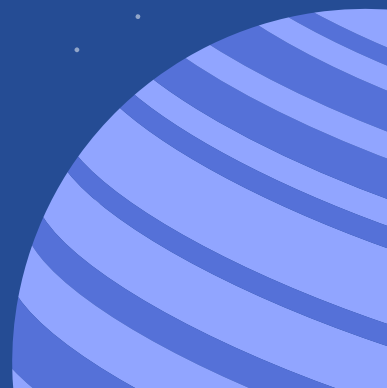
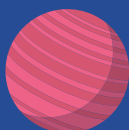
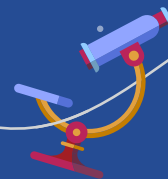
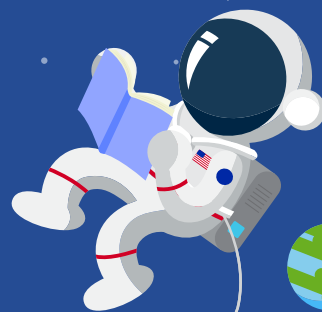
We invite you to explore this year's list of Outstanding Science Trade Books, which builds upon our 53-year history of identifying the very best in science books for children. In the award-winning titles below, you'll find not only traditional science content but also engineering and design. We hope you'll enjoy enhancing your own spirit of inquiry as you and the children in your life investigate science through the year's best trade books.



About the Reviews

In addition to standard publishing information, the reviews indicate the following:

1. International Standard Book Numbers (ISBN) are included for the reviewed edition.
2. The prices are current as of January 2026.
3. Reading levels (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12) are provided by the reviewers. They are intended as guidelines and are not meant to limit the potential use of titles.
4. The reviewer's initials follow each description (see Members of the Book Selection Panel listed on page 5).
5. The most relevant Next Generation Science Standards are indicated by codes (see page 2).



The Three Dimensions of the Framework

(from A Framework for K-12 Science Education, National Research Council, 2012)

SCIENTIFIC AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES

- SEP1:** Asking questions (for science) and defining problems (for engineering)
- SEP2:** Developing and using models
- SEP3:** Planning and carrying out investigations
- SEP4:** Analyzing and interpreting data
- SEP5:** Using mathematics and computational thinking
- SEP6:** Constructing explanations (for science) and designing solutions (for engineering)
- SEP7:** Engaging in argument from evidence
- SEP8:** Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS

- CCC1:** Patterns
- CCC2:** Cause and effect: Mechanism and explanation
- CCC3:** Scale, proportion, and quantity
- CCC4:** Systems and system models
- CCC5:** Energy and matter: Flows, cycles, and conservation
- CCC6:** Structure and function
- CCC7:** Stability and change

DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS

Physical Sciences

- PS1:** Matter and its interactions
- PS2:** Motion and stability: Forces and interactions
- PS3:** Energy
- PS4:** Waves and their applications in technologies for information transfer

Life Sciences

- LS1:** From molecules to organisms: Structures and processes
- LS2:** Ecosystems: Interactions, energy, and dynamics
- LS3:** Heredity: Inheritance and variation of traits
- LS4:** Biological evolution: Unity and diversity

Earth and Space Sciences

- ESS1:** Earth's place in the universe
- ESS2:** Earth's systems
- ESS3:** Earth and human activity

Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science

- ETS1:** Engineering design
- ETS2:** Links among engineering, technology, science, and society

In keeping with the National Science Teachers Association's Strategic Goal 3 (Next Generation Science Standards and STEM), for this year's annotations, titles that have been awarded the *Outstanding Science Trade Book* award from NSTA/CBC will be aligned to the Scientific and Engineering Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, and Disciplinary Core Ideas from *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*, on which the NGSS is based.

All titles will be listed primarily by the prevailing Disciplinary Core Idea (DCI). This will allow teachers to quickly identify books that may be used with specific concepts.

Titles will receive notations of secondary DCIs, Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs), and Crosscutting Concepts (CCCs) at the end of each notation. Titles are not being listed primarily by SEPs and CCCs as these should be woven throughout all science concepts.

PS1: Matter And Its Interactions

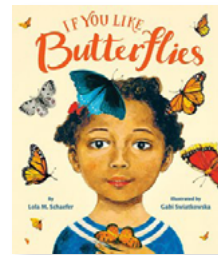


Next Time You See a Snowflake

EMILY MORGAN. NSTA Press / NSTA Kids. ISBN 9781681409900. \$17.99. (K-2, 3-5)

This book invites readers to wonder as they take a closer look at snowflakes. How do they form? How do temperature, water vapor, and molecular structure work together to create each crystal's unique shape? The book nurtures curiosity about winter weather while grounding the beauty of snow in clear physical science explanations. [SW] **SEP2, SEP8, CC1, ESS2**

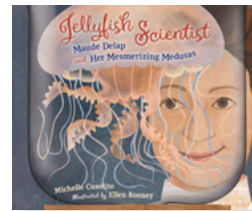
LS1: From molecules to organisms: Structures and processes



If You Like Butterflies

LOLA M. SCHAEFER. Illustrated by Gabi Swiatkowska. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers / Christy Ottaviano Books. ISBN 9780316337670. \$18.99. (K-2, 3-5)

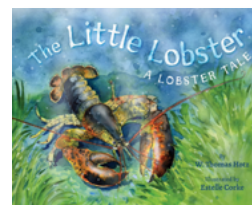
A lyrical and informative picture book exploring each stage of the butterfly's life cycle. Detailed illustrations and labels provide scientific details about different species and aspects of butterflies throughout their life cycle. Additional Information, Activities, Further Reading, Websites. [BP] **CC6**



Jellyfish Scientist: Maude Delap and Her Mesmerizing Medusas

MICHELLE CUSOLITO. Illustrated by Ellen Rooney. Charlesbridge. ISBN 9781623545819. \$18.99. (3-5)

Set in 1899 Ireland, the story chronicles the research of self-taught scientist Maude Delap. Organized into dated journal entries, readers follow Delap as she captures jellyfish and brings them to her lab. Over the course of a year, she studies the jellyfish life cycle from larva, to polyps, to ephyrae, and back to medusa. She was the first person to raise jellyfish in captivity. Although she lacked a formal education, her scientific work was respected by the scientists of her time. Additional information about Jelly Fish and about Maude Delap's life and work, Diagram of the Jellyfish Life Cycle. [MCS] **SEP1, SEP3, SEP4, SEP6, SEP8, CCC5, CCC6, LS3, LS4**



The Little Lobster: A Lobster Tale

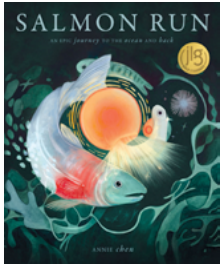
W. THOMAS HOTZ. Illustrated by Estelle Corke. Star Bright Books. ISBN 9781649090805. \$17.99. (3-5)

Follow the life cycle of a lobster from eggs clinging under a mama lobster's tail to birth. Then follow the little lobster's growth through three stages of larval development and a fourth, or post-larval stage, when it begins to look like a lobster. The lobster then undergoes an astonishing seven to ten molts in its first year of life. The illustrations include drawings of each of the larval stages of the lobster and a life cycle diagram. Lobster History, Glossary. [MCS] **SEP2, SEP6, CCC1, CCC5, LS3, LS4**

Salmon Run: An Epic Journey to the Ocean and Back

ANNIE CHEN. Illustrated by Annie Chen. Red Comet Press. ISBN 9781636551654. \$19.99. (K-2, 3-5)

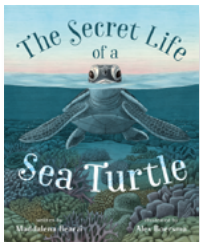
The life cycle and extraordinary journey of a salmon, a keystone species, is remarkable. This perilous journey begins and ends in the cool river waters of the Pacific Northwest, but the adult life of a salmon is spent in the Pacific Ocean. This is a beautiful story that exposes the complexities and intricacies of the natural world. A Note from the Author, The Life Cycle, Coho Salmon. [LB] **CCC7**



The Secret Life of a Sea Turtle

MADDALENA BEARZI. Illustrated by Alex Boersma. Macmillan Children's Publishing Group / Roaring Brook Press. ISBN 9781250901675. \$19.99. (K-2, 3-5)

Follows the lifecycle of a sea turtle through, highlighting the remarkable structures and behaviors that help it survive in the ocean. This vivid narrative nonfiction introduces young readers to marine biology and the ecological challenges sea turtles face. Author's Note, Action Items, Activities. [SW] **SEP2, SEP6, CC4, CC6, LS3**



LS2: Ecosystems: Interactions, energy, and dynamics

3 Weeks in the Rainforest

JENNIFER SWANSON. Charlesbridge. ISBN 9781623543167. \$21.99. (6-8, 9-12)

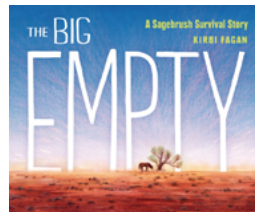
This book immerses readers in Colombia's Bajo Caguán-Caquetá Region during Rapid Inventory 30, a three week biodiversity survey led by the Chicago Field Museum. The Rapid Inventory program quickly documents species and ecosystem health in threatened areas by uniting scientists, social researchers, and local knowledge holders to inform conservation decisions. The book highlights collaboration among scientists, Indigenous communities, NGOs, and government partners as the R130 team surveys plants, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals alongside Indigenous experts whose ecological knowledge is vital to understanding and protecting the rainforest. Photo credits, Index. [JG] **SEP1, SEP3, SEP8, LS2, LS4**



The Big Empty: A Sagebrush Survival Story

KIRBI FAGAN. Illustrated by Kirbi Fagan. Lerner Publishing Group / Millbrook Press. ISBN 9798765627242. \$19.99. (K-2, 3-5)

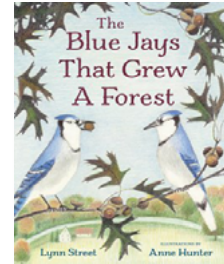
This book creatively illustrates and describes the importance of big sagebrush in North America's western shrublands. It provides shelter and food for a variety of animals and has adapted to survive in hot, dry, and fire-prone areas. Additional information about sagebrush habitat. [CF] **SEP8, CCC5, CCC6, CCC7, LS1, LS4**



The Blue Jays that Grew a Forest

LYNN STREET. Illustrated by Anne Hunter. Peachtree. ISBN 9781682636046. \$18.99. (K-2, 3-5)

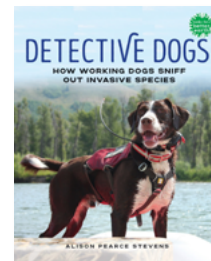
The lyrical picture book follows blue jays through the seasons, highlighting their habit of gathering and burying acorns. The jays unintentionally help spread and grow new oak trees that eventually become forests. The book showcases the interdependent relationship of the jays and the oaks. Additional Information, Author's Note, Glossary, Further Reading, Websites. [BP] **CC2, CC4**



Detective Dogs: How Working Dogs Sniff Out Invasive Species

ALISON PEARCE STEVENS. Holiday House. ISBN 9780823455645. \$20.99. (3-5, 6-8)

This book introduces readers to the problem of invasive species and how scientists work with dogs in Wyoming, Manitoba, and the Hudson Valley to find and deal with invasive plants, mussels, and insects. Full of photos of working dogs in action, this book helps readers understand how dogs can support human conservation efforts. Additional resources, Bibliography, Index [CF] **SEP1, SEP3, SEP4, SEP7, SEP8, CCC2, CCC4, CCC6, CCC7, LS4, ESS3**



About CBC and NSTA

The Children's Book Council (CBC) is the nonprofit trade association for children's book publishers in North America. The CBC creates educational programming, promotes diversity in employment and in book publishing, compiles curated reading lists and resources for teachers, librarians, and booksellers, and fights against the banning of books. Alongside the NSTA on both the Outstanding Science Trade Books and Best STEM Books, the CBC further oversees a portfolio of national book award programs including CBC Favorites, Youth Book Prize for Social Justice, Free Speech Award, and more. The CBC also manages the national programs of **Every Child a Reader.**

The books that appear in these lists were chosen by a review panel made up of educators and other subject-area experts, all appointed by the National Science Teachers Association. NSTA and CBC have joined forces on developing this annual list since 1973, and over the years it has become the go-to resource for school librarians, science teachers, and parents eager to cultivate a love of science in young readers. Initially, the list was primarily targeted at grades K through 8. Beginning in 2002, it expanded to include high school. Through the years, this effort has had but a single mission—to highlight the very best in science trade books for young audiences.

Firefly Song: Lynn Frierson Faust and the Great Smoky Mountain Discovery

COLLEEN PAEFF. Illustrated by Ji-hyuk Kim. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing / Margaret K. McElderry Books. ISBN 9781665931847. \$19.99. (K-2, 3-5)

A young girl follows childhood wonder into her adult life, never forgetting summers in the Great Smoky mountains, especially watching fireflies from the porch of her cabin. Because of her observations, perseverance, and tenacity when faced with opposition, people now acknowledge the synchronized fireflies that put on a spectacular show for a few weeks each summer. How to Spot a Firefly, Catching Fireflies, Fireflies Welcome! [LB] **SEP4, SEP7, SEP8, CCC1**



Forests

NELL CROSS BECKERMAN. Illustrated by Kalen Chock. Scholastic / Orchard Books. ISBN 9781546130970. \$19.99. (K-2, 3-5)

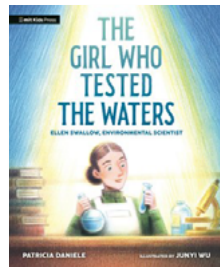
A sensory-rich journey through the diverse ecosystems of forests. Poetic narration is combined with accessible nonfiction for deeper learning about each highlighted forest. Author's Note, Further Reading, Websites, Activities. [BP] **CC2, CC4, LS4, ESS3**



The Girl Who Tested the Waters: Ellen Swallow, Environmental Scientist

PATRICIA DANIELE. Illustrated by Junyi Wu. Candlewick Press / MIT Kids Press. ISBN 9781536230055. \$18.99. (3-5)

Growing up on a rural farm surrounded by clean air, fresh food, and unspoiled water, Ellen Swallow Richards developed a natural curiosity that drove her to ask questions, investigate patterns, and pursue scientific learning despite significant societal barriers. This biography traces her path as she pioneered the study of ecology and applied scientific principles to environmental challenges, leading to groundbreaking work in water analysis, sanitation, and public health. Ellen's research laid the foundation for the first water quality standards and pure food laws in the United States, demonstrating the powerful connections among ecosystems and human activity. Timeline, Source Notes, Bibliography. [JG] **SEP1, SEP3, SEP 4, SEP6, SEP8, CCC2, ESS3**



Mud to the Rescue! How Animals Use Mud to Thrive and Survive

TANYA KONERMAN. Illustrated by Melanie Cataldo. Web of Life Children's Books. ISBN 9781970039092. \$18.95. (K-2, 3-5)

Need protection from the sun? Want to combat parasites? Looking for building materials for your nest or home? Want to calm your stomach? Explore the many ways animals use mud for survival. This book will shed new light on the importance of mud. Back notes include additional information about the mud-lovers mentioned in the book. Glossary. [MCS] **SEP1, SEP6, CCC2, CCC5**



Nature Explained: A Family Guide to 20 Nature Cycles

HELEN BROWN. Illustrated by Claire Scully. Abrams Books / Magic Cat. ISBN 9781917044226. \$22.99. (3-5, 6-8)

Through beautiful illustrations and captions, some of nature's cycles are simply, yet thoroughly, explained. Trees, leaves, flowers, seeds, mushrooms, and seasons—each page is full of interesting details told in a step-by-step process to showcase the natural world. The science details use art and high-interest information to capture the attention of young and old. There's something for everyone. Glossary. [LB] **ESS2, LS1, CCC1, CCC4, CCC6, CCC7**



Our Plastic Problem: A Call for Global Solutions

MEGAN DURNFORD. Orca Book Publishers. ISBN 9781459836709. \$21.95. (3-5)

The book explores the history and uses of plastics including effects on the environment, global ramifications of discarded plastics on the land and the ocean, and viable solutions beyond recycling. Solutions focus on innovative ideas developed in countries in Europe. Ideas of what you can do, Resources, Glossary, Index. [AMV] **ESS3, SEP1, SEP6**



Rachel Carson's Wonder-Filled World: How the Scientist, Writer, and Nature Lover Changed the Environmental Movement

JESSICA STREMER. Illustrated by Josée Masse. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing / Beach Lane Books. ISBN 9781665958165. \$19.99. (K-2, 3-5)

Rachel initially wanted to be an author but then discovered the joy of studying biology. She thrived at university; however, the Great Depression ended her schooling and Rachel returned to writing. The book shows many aspects of her life: describing her sense of wonder in the world around her, pointing out her disappointments, and highlighting her persistence in studying and writing about the ecological science in which she believed. Author's Note, Timeline, Glossary, Additional Resources, Bibliography. [AMV] **SEP8, CCC2**



Stuck! The Story of La Brea Tar Pits

JOYCE UGLOW. Illustrated by Valerya Milovanova. Bushel & Peck Books. ISBN 9781638191889. \$18.99. (K-2, 3-5)

Go on a journey into one of the most extraordinary natural wonders in Los Angeles, California. Millions of years ago, sticky tar began trapping unsuspecting creatures—preserving their bones and stories for generations to come. The illustrations help to bring this real-life phenomenon to life, showing how scientists have uncovered a treasure trove of fossils from saber-toothed cats to mastodons. Time Capsule, Glossary, Who's Trapped, More About LaBrea Tar Pits. [HJA] **SEP4, SEP7**



Sun Bird: The Amazing Journey of the Arctic Tern

LINDSAY MOORE. Illustrated by Lindsay Moore. HarperCollins / Greenwillow Books. ISBN 9780063061002. \$19.99. (K-2, 3-5)

From the Arctic Circle to Antarctica and back home again, arctic terns journey farther than any other migratory bird. This book shares the amazing journey of a small bird, no heavier than a handful of sand. The story highlights the instinct of an arctic tern as it follows the sun, experiencing more sunlight than any other animal on Earth, and the interactions in various ecosystems along the way. Map, Journey of the Arctic Tern. [LB] **LS1, CCC1, CCC5, CCC7**



About the Books and the Selection Process

The books that appear in this annotated bibliography selected as Outstanding Science Trade Books were published in 2025. They are intended primarily for grades K-12. They were selected by members of a book review panel appointed by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) and assembled in cooperation with the Children's Book Council (CBC). NSTA and CBC have cooperated on this bibliographic project since 1973.

The panel looks at both content and presentation. Selection is based generally on the following criteria:

- The book has substantial science content.
- Information is clear, accurate, and up-to-date.
- Theories and facts are clearly distinguished.
- Facts are not oversimplified to the point that the information is misleading.
- Generalizations are supported by facts, and significant facts are not omitted.
- Books are free of gender, ethnic, and socioeconomic bias.

The panel also uses rigorous selection guidelines relating to the presentation of material, including the following: logical presentation and a clear sequence of ideas; appropriate content level for the intended audience; compatible text and illustrations; illustrations that are accurate representations in size, color, and scale; appropriate trim size and format of the book for the subject and audience; and well-organized layout that advances the text. The panel also gives attention to the quality of binding, paper, reproduction, and the appropriateness of typeface. Each panel member reads all the books, but reviews reflect only the appraisal of the individual panelist whose initials appear at the end of each entry.

Publishers' names appear in abbreviated form; complete names and addresses are available from the CBC and in standard reference works such as Children's Books in Print. CBC's Member List is available at <https://www.cbcbooks.org/publishers/our-members/>.

Titles are arranged by subject category. Although some titles are appropriate for more than one category, the books have been placed where their usefulness in science education appears greatest. Panelists have also indicated the Next Generation Science Standard (see About the Reviews on page 1) to which the books relate. Where more than one standard is listed, the most applicable standard is given first.



Members of the Book Selection Panel

Heather J. Allen [HJA]

Elementary Curriculum Coordinator,
Columbus City Schools

Lea Barch [LB]

Educator, Overall Creek Elementary School

Caitlin Fine [CF]

Assistant Professor, MSU Denver

Julie Geary [JG]

STEAM Teacher, Mead Valley Elementary

Carly Norris [CRNH]

Teacher, Howard County Public Schools

Beth Pesnell [BP]

Teaching Assistant Professor, KSU

Melissa Sleeper [MCS]

Science Teacher,
Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy

Annette Venegas [AMV]

Retired Educator

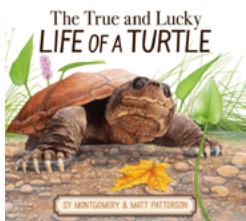
Stephanie Westhafer [SW]

First Grade Teacher-Gifted,
West Jackson Elementary School

The True and Lucky Life of a Turtle

SY MONTGOMERY. Illustrated by Matt Patterson. HarperCollins / Clarion. ISBN 9780063325166. \$19.99. (K-2, 3-5)

Meet Fire Chief, a beloved snapping turtle who has long ruled the quiet pond beside a firehouse. To the firefighters, he isn't just a neighbor—he's part of the crew. When Fire Chief is injured by a passing car, the community rushes into action. With the help of the local Turtle Rescue League and a clever, heartfelt solution devised by the fire department, Fire Chief gets a second chance at life. This is a True Story, About Snapping Turtles, Resources. [CRNH] **SEP 1, SEP6, SEP8, CCC2, CCC4, CCC6, LS1, ESS3, STS1, ETS2**



Wonderfully Wild: Rewilding a School and Community

JESSICA STREMER. Illustrated by Josée Masse. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing / Beach Lane Books. ISBN 9781665958165. \$19.99. (K-2, 3-5)

Citizen science and sustainability are explored when students decide to grow new willow trees. Their everyday observations lead to meaningful discoveries about how plants thrive or struggle in different environments, and what we can do to support healthy ecosystems. The story empowers readers to take action right from their own backyard. More About Rewilding, No Mow May, Rewilding Your Home and Community, Praise for Plants, Growing New Plants. [HJA] **SEP3, SEP4, SEP8**

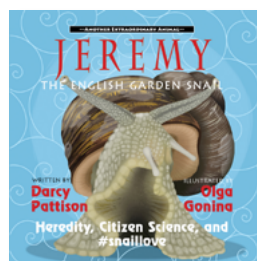


LS3: Heredity: Inheritance and variation of traits

Jeremy, the English Garden Snail: Heredity, Citizen Science, and #snaillove

DARCY PATTISON. Illustrated by Olga Gonina. Mims House. ISBN 9781629442556. \$24.99. (3-5, 6-8)

This book introduces readers to Jeremy, a rare left coiling garden snail whose unique inversus mutation captured the attention of geneticist Dr. Angus Davison. The book explains how Jeremy's unusual shell pattern sparked a global citizen scientist project, inviting people around the world to search for and report other left coiling snails. Through social media outreach and widespread community participation, the project helped scientists gather valuable data on inheritance patterns and genetic variation. Glossary. [JG] **SEP1, SEP8, LS4**



The Spider Lady: Nan Songer and Her Arachnid World War II Army

PENNY PARKER KLOSTERMANN. Illustrated by Anne Lambelet. Astra Books for Young Readers / Calkins Creek. ISBN 9781662680359. \$18.99. (3-5)

Growing up under the guidance of a famed naturalist, young Nan developed a fierce curiosity for living things—especially the tiny, overlooked creatures right outside her door. When she discovered that spider silk could be used for precision crosshairs in scientific instruments and military scopes during World War II, Nan set out to learn everything she could from the spiders in her own backyard. Through patience, observation, and a self-taught expertise, she became an unlikely but indispensable arachnologist, contributing vital knowledge to her country's wartime efforts. This remarkable true story celebrates curiosity, perseverance, and the extraordinary impact of one determined girl who followed the threads of wonder. Author's Note, Bibliography, Acknowledgments, Picture Credits. [CRNH] **SEP1, SEP2, SEP3, SEP4, SEP6, SEP8, CCC1, CCC3, CCC6, LS1, ETS2**



LS4: Biological evolution: Unity and diversity

Alberto Salas Plays Paka Paka con la Papa

SARA ANDREA FAJARDO. Illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal. Macmillan Children's Publishing Group / Roaring Brook Press. ISBN 9781250838612. \$19.99. (K-2, 3-5)

This book tells the story of Alberto Salas, Peruvian scientist and potato expert, as he travels through the Peruvian Andes playing 'potato hide and seek' to find and preserve Peru's diverse varieties of potatoes before they go extinct. Illustrations are playful and text includes Spanish and Quechua languages. A Spanish-language version, translated by Mariana Llanos is also available. Cultural dictionary, Extra information and photos about Alberto Salas and about potatoes, Author's Note, Illustrator's Note [CF] **SEP1, SEP3, SEP4, SEP8, CCC2, CCC6, CCC7, LS2, ESS3**

(Also in Spanish, *Alberto Salas juega a la paka paka con la papa*, by Sara Andrea Fajardo. Translated by Mariana Llanos. Illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal)



The Black Mambas: The World's First All-Woman Anti-Poaching Unit

KELLY CRULL. Illustrated by Kelly Crull. Lerner Publishing Group / Millbrook Press. ISBN 9798765627259. \$19.99. (3-5)

The true story of the world's first all-woman anti-poaching unit, working to protect endangered wildlife in South Africa. These courageous women—drawn from different tribes and backgrounds—come together, united by a mission and guided by science, not weapons. Despite the dangers they face and the language barriers, they patrol without guns, relying on teamwork, training, and deep knowledge of the land. Meet the animals, NATO Phonetic Alphabet, Author's Note, Books, Websites. [HJA] **SEP8, CCC2**



Call for 2027 Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12

Deadline for submissions: April 15, 2026

ELIGIBILITY

- Books must be intended for grades K-12.
- All titles must originate from a children's publishing company or division and must be published (not simply distributed) by a publisher incorporated in the United States.
- Titles must be published in 2026. Books published in Oct.-Dec. 2025 may be eligible.
- Titles originally published abroad are eligible only if they have a 2026 U.S. publication date; reprints or licensed editions of titles initially published in the United States before 2026 are not eligible.
- Original paperbacks are eligible; paperback reprints are not. If a book is published simultaneously in hardcover and paperback, either edition may be submitted. If both editions are submitted, they constitute separate entries.
- Revisions are eligible only if the book has been newly illustrated or if substantial text, constituting at least 25% of the book, has been changed or added.
- Math books are not eligible unless the mathematical principles are applied to scientific functions such as measuring for experiments, using statistical models for scientific research, etc.
- Textbooks, workbooks, kits, experiment-only books, and activity books are not eligible.
- Spanish-language editions published simultaneously with English-language editions in 2026 are eligible.
- Fiction is eligible if the book has substantial science content.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

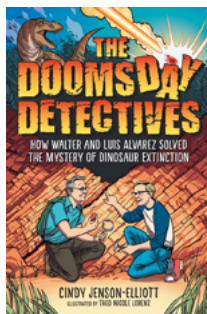
Books should have value for both classroom studies and library collections supporting students' work. The committee looks for well-presented books that contain substantial science content (which could include natural science, social science, neuroscience, and other emergent science areas) that are clear, accurate, and up to date.

Full submission guidelines will be available throughout the months of March and April 2026 at <https://cbcbooks.org/awards-and-book-lists/outstanding-science/>.

FEES

- CBC Regular Members: No fee
- CBC Associate Members: \$75 per title
- Non-Member Publishers: \$300 per title

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The Dinosaur Detectives: How Walter and Luis Alvarez Solved the Mystery of Dinosaur Extinction

CINDY JENSON-ELLIOTT. Illustrated by Theo Nicole Lorenz. Lee & Low Books / Tu Books. ISBN 9781643791098. \$21.95. (6-8)

This book uses traditional text, graphic novel elements, photos, maps, diagrams and more to engage readers in the fascinating true story of how father-son scientists Luis and Walter Alvarez collaborated with physicists, paleontologists, astronomers, and geologists to explain the mystery of dinosaur extinction. The book highlights the importance of asking questions and taking a multi-disciplinary approach to build a body of evidence to support scientific claims. Glossary, Source Notes, Endnotes, Index. [CF] **SEP1, SEP2, SEP3, SEP4, SEP5, SEP6, SEP7, SEP8, CCC1, CCC2, CCC3, CCC4, CCC5, CCC6, CCC7, ESS1, ESS2**

ESS1: Earth's place in the universe



The Six: The Untold Story of America's First Women Astronauts

LOREN GRUSH. Illustrated by Rebecca Stefoff. Simon & Schuster / Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. ISBN 9781534497047. \$17.99. (6-8, 9-12)

The inspiring story of the first six American women [Anna Fisher, Shannon Lucid, Judy Resnik, Sally Ride, Margaret "Rhea" Seddon, and Kathy Sullivan] that went into space. The book chronicles how these outstanding female scientists blazed the trail for women to become astronauts. Enduring rigorous training and often sexist work conditions, they persevered through years of struggles and sacrifice to earn the title, astronaut. Timeline, Short Biographies of the Six Women. [MCS] **SEP1, SEP2, SEP3, SEP4, SEP5, SEP6, SEP7, SEP8, CCC2, ETS2**

ESS1.A: The Universe and Its Stars



Wanda Hears the Stars: A Blind Astronomer Listens to the Universe

AMY S. HANSEN AND WANDA DÍAZ MERCAD. Illustrated by Rocio Arreola Mendoza. Charlesbridge. ISBN 9781623544874. \$18.99. (3-5)

This story follows the true-life journey of Wanda Díaz Mercad. The book describes her initial wonder in the universe, her progressive loss of sight caused by diabetes, how she coped and thrived at university, her work at NASA, and finally to her presentations and continued work on sonification. Glossary, Spanish Terms, Notes from the Authors, Wanda's Journey as a Scientist, Explore More. [AMV] **SEP4, SEP8**

ESS3: Earth and human activity



Just in Case: Saving Seeds in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault

MEGAN CLENDENAN. Illustrated by Brittany Cicchese. Charlesbridge. ISBN 9781623544805. \$17.99. (K-2, 3-5)

Deep in the mountains of Norway, the Svalbard Seed Bank stores seeds of the world's food supply. Seeds are deposited; seeds are withdrawn. Though there are other seed banks around the world, none are like this one. We all need to learn about this bank because at some point, the future of our food sources may depend on this knowledge. The science and engineering behind the vault's design is explained. Additional explanations about keeping seeds, Author's Note, Resources, Bibliography. [AMV] **CCC2, CCC7**

Magic in a Drop of Water: How Ruth Patrick Taught the World about Water Pollution

JULIE WINTERBOTTOM. Illustrated by Susan Reagan. Penguin Young Readers / Rocky Pond Books. ISBN 9780593620229. \$19.99. (3-5)

Follows scientist Ruth Patrick as she uses the microscopic life in a single drop of water to reveal how human activities shape the health of freshwater ecosystems. Includes examples of how scientists monitor environmental change and guide efforts to protect water resources. More About Ruth, Timeline. [SW] **SEP3, SEP4, CC2**



Marjory's River of Grass: Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Fierce Protector of the Everglades

JOSIE JAMES. Illustrated by Josie James. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers / Christy Ottaviano Books. ISBN 9780316446914. \$18.99. (3-5)

Marjory Stoneman Douglas was an advocate for social justice and environmental preservation. She had a vision and the perseverance to preserve the Florida Everglades. The everglades are one of the world's most diverse ecosystems and home to countless species of plants and animals. Author's Note, Source Notes, Selected Bibliography, Locations to Visit. [HJA] **SEP7, CCC7**



Pearls in the Sand: Protecting Sea Turtles in Oaxaca

BEATRIZ GUTIERREZ HERNANDEZ. Macmillan Children's Publishing Group / Godwin Books. ISBN 9781250257789. \$18.99. (K-2, 3-5)

Inspired by real people along the Oaxacan coast, this story follows a devoted tortuguero grandfather and his curious, big-hearted granddaughter as they protect one of the ocean's most treasured creatures—sea turtles. Together, under starlit skies, they gently collect freshly laid turtle eggs and move them to a safe haven, guarding the clutch from danger. Their nightly mission honors a generations-old tradition of stewardship and celebrates the vital role sea turtles play in our oceans. A tender tale of family, conservation, and the power of passing down a love for the natural world. Glossary, Life Cycle, The Oaxacan Coast, Author's Note, Acknowledgements, Additional Resources. [CRNH] **SEP2, SEP7, SEP8, CCC1, CCC2, CCC4, CCC6, LS2, LS3**



Safe Crossing

KARI PERCIVAL. Chronicle Books. ISBN 9781797214566. \$18.99. (K-2, 3-5)

It's spring, and the Amphibian Migration Team is off to help the frogs and salamanders navigate their dangerous journey across roads developed through their habitats. An empowering story of young citizen scientists who are raising awareness, finding solutions, driving change and working together as a community. Additional Information, Action Steps, Glossary, Activities. (BP) **SEP8, CC2, CC4**



ETS1: Engineering design

Spark: Jim West's Electrifying Adventures in Creating the Microphone

AINISSA RAMIREZ. Illustrated by Setor Fiadzigbey. Candlewick Press / MIT Kids Press. ISBN 9781536225280. \$18.99. (3-5)

Introduces inventor Jim West and details his journey in developing the electret microphone, weaving together engineering creativity, scientific curiosity, and the physics of sound. Highlights how problem-solving and persistence drive scientific innovation that shapes everyday technology. Author's Note, Timeline, Biographical Extras. [SW] **SEP1, CC1, CC5, PS3**



ETS2: Links among engineering, technology, science, and society

Rewriting the Rules: How Dr. Kathleen Friel Created New Possibilities for Brain Research and Disability

DANNA ZEIGER. Illustrated by Josée Bisailon. Lerner Publishing Group / Millbrook Press. ISBN 9798765647271. \$19.99. (K-2, 3-5)

This inspiring true-story of Kathleen Friel, born with cerebral palsy (CP), expected by doctors to "never get better." Her parents refused to accept those limits—seeking support and championing her potential at every turn. With grit, humor, and a stunning career in brain research, Kathleen rewrote every rule placed before her and changed the world for others with CP. A dynamo of determination and joy, she shows us that labels don't define us and that possibility grows with science and someone who believes in you. Author's Note, More About Kathleen, Her Research, and Her Advocacy, More About Cerebral Palsy, More About The Brain, Quotation Sources, Selected Bibliography, Find Out More. [CRNH] **SEP1, SEP2, SEP3, SEP4, SEP5, SEP6, SEP7, SEP8, CCC1, CCC2, CCC6, LS1, ETS1**

