

Spark a Reaction: Science For Teens

Science...but not Science Fiction!

Fiction:

Fat Cat by Robin Brande (2009)

Overweight teenage Catherine embarks on a high school science project in which she must emulate the ways of hominids, the earliest ancestors of human beings, by eating an all-natural diet and foregoing technology.

Wolves Boys and Other Things that Might Kill Me by Kristen Chandler (2010)

Two teenagers become close as the citizens of their town fight over the packs of wolves that have been reintroduced into the nearby Yellowstone National Park.

Half Brother by Kenneth Oppel (2010)

In 1973, when a renowned Canadian behavioral psychologist pursues his latest research project--an experiment to determine whether chimpanzees can acquire advanced language skills--he brings home a baby chimp named Zan and asks his thirteen-year-old son to treat Zan like a little brother.

Endangered by Eliot Schrefer (2013)

Sophie is not happy to be back in the Congo for the summer, but when she rescues an abused baby bonobo she becomes more involved in her mother's sanctuary--and when fighting breaks out and the sanctuary is attacked, it is up to Sophie to rescue the apes and somehow survive in the jungle.

Threatened by Eliot Schrefer (2014)

Luc is an orphan, living in debt slavery in Gabon, until he meets a Professor who claims to be studying chimpanzees, and they head off into the jungle--but when the Professor disappears, Luc has to fend for himself and join forces with the chimps to save their forest.

Deb Hopkinson book great trouble

Non-Fiction:

Faces From the Past: Forgotten People of North America by James Deem (2012)

Combining sensitivity and solid scientific style, Deem reveals the history the science of facial reconstruction, as well as the forgotten lives and the faces of the dead, to contemporary generations so that at last their stories can be told.

Trinity: A Graphic History of the First Atomic Bomb by Jonathan Fetter-Vorm (2012)

Depicts in vivid detail the dramatic history of the race to build and the decision to drop the first atomic bomb. This sweeping historical narrative traces the spark of invention from the laboratories of nineteenth-century Europe to the massive industrial and scientific efforts of the Manhattan Project, explaining the science behind it clearly.

Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95 by Phillip Hoose (2012)

Documents the survival tale of an intrepid shorebird who has endured annual migrations between Argentina and the Canadian Arctic throughout the course of a long lifetime while his species continues to decline.

Temple Grandin: How The Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World

by Sy Montgomery (2012)

An authorized portrait about Grandin's life with autism and her groundbreaking work as a scientist and designer of cruelty-free livestock facilities describes how she overcame key disabilities through education and the support of her mother.

Primates: The Fearless Science of Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Birute Galdikas

by Jim Ottaviani (2013)

A brief, history of three female primatologists who made great contributions to their fields. Told in graphic novel format, this book takes a look at each woman's significant achievements in the natural sciences.

Radioactive Boy Scout: The True Story of a Boy and His Backyard Nuclear Reactor

by Ken Silverstein (2004)

In the summer of 1995, a teenager in a Detroit suburb, a mediocre student with a relentless scientific curiosity, managed to build a rudimentary nuclear breeder reactor in a shed behind his mother's house, using radioactive elements obtained from items as ordinary as smoke detectors.

For the Good of Mankind? The Shameful History of Human Medical Experimentation

by Vicki Oransky Wittenstein (2014)

How to do you make something is safe? This title discusses several medical advances that were achieved through unethical medical experimentation on humans.

Science Fiction: Computers, Robots, Genetics and More

Feed by M.T. Anderson (2002)

In a future where most people have computer implants in their heads to control their environment, a boy meets an unusual girl who is in serious trouble.

Eye of Minds by James Dashner (2013)

Michael is a skilled internet gamer in a world of advanced technology. When a cyber-terrorist begins to threaten players, Michael is called upon to seek him and his secret's out.

Don't Turn Around by Michelle Gagnon (2012)

After waking up on an operating table with no memory of how she got there, Noa must team up with computer hacker Peter to stop a corrupt corporation with a deadly secret. First in a series.

BZRK by Michael Grant (2012)

In the near future, the conjoined Armstrong twins, under the guise of the Armstrong Fancy Gifts Corporation, plot to create their own version of utopia using nanobots, while a guerilla group known as BZRK develops a DNA-based biot that can stop bots, but at risk of the host's brain. First in a series.

Insignia by S.J. Kincaid (2012)

Tom, a fourteen-year-old genius at virtual reality games, is recruited by the United States Military to begin training at the Pentagon Spire as a Combatant in World War III, controlling the mechanized drones that do the actual fighting off-planet. First in a series.

Virals by Kathy Reichs (2010)

Tory Brennan is the leader of a band of teenage 'sci-philes' who live on an island off the coast of South Carolina and when the group rescues a dog caged for medical testing, they are exposed to an experimental strain of canine parvovirus that changes their lives forever. First in a series.

Altered by Jennifer Rush (2013)

Seventeen-year-old Anna finds herself on the run from her father's enigmatic Agency, along with the four teen boys the Agency had been experimenting on, as they try to make sense of erased memories, secret identities, and genetic alteration. First in a series.

Winter of the Robots by Kurtis Scaletta (2013)

There's something lurking in the junkyard in Jim Knox's neighborhood, and it's up to him and his friends (and science-fair rivals) to put their robot-building skills together in order to defeat it.

Variant by Robison Wells (2011)

After years in foster homes, seventeen-year-old Benson Fisher applies to New Mexico's Maxfield Academy in hopes of securing a brighter future, but instead he finds that the school is a prison and no one is what he or she seems. First in a series.

Double Helix by Nancy Werlin (2004)

Eighteen-year-old Eli discovers a shocking secret about his life and his family while working for a Nobel Prize-winning scientist whose specialty is genetic engineering.

Please remember that not every book is the perfect fit for every teen. If you have questions about any of these titles, or need other suggestions, feel free to contact any of the South Kingstown Public Library branches. We're glad to help.

This list created for the South Kingstown Public Library by Brandi Kenyon. Updated 2/14