

OUTSTANDING SCIENCE TRADE BOOKS FOR STUDENTS K-12 2017

Selection Guidelines

Eligibility

Books are for grades K-12.

Titles must be published in the United States, October 2015 through December 2016. Reprints or licensed editions of titles initially published in the U.S. before October 2015 are not eligible.

Titles originally published abroad are eligible if they have a 2016 U.S. publication date. The publication date is the determinant, not the copyright date. If in doubt, contact Matt Poulter at Matthew.Poulter@cbebooks.org before removing a title from your review list.

Revised editions are eligible only if the revisions are substantial, i.e., the book is re-illustrated or substantial text, constituting at least one-quarter of the book, has been changed or added.

Content: The book is about science

The content in the book is factually correct.

Information in the book is not contrary to current scientific thought.

The book is devoid of significant content errors and does not lead to misconceptions.

Facts are not oversimplified so that information becomes misleading.

Generalizations are supported by current research and recent findings are not omitted.

Any activities, investigations or experiments suggested for children lead to an understanding of basic principles, support inquiry, and are labeled correctly as an activity, investigation and/or experiment. Suggested activities, investigations, and/or experiments are safe, feasible and appropriate for the intended age level.

Where conflicting scientific theories exist, as many views as possible are represented.

Presentation is logical and sequence of ideas is clear.

The information is free of gender, ethnic, or socio-economic bias, whenever possible.

The NSES suggest grade level appropriate content/process for grade bands, therefore, material submitted should be designated appropriately. If material does not suit the submitted age level, the committee may recommend an alternative age level appropriate for the content and presentation.

The depth of content is appropriate for the intended audience and when appropriate advances the Nature of Science (NOS), scientific thinking, and has general compatibility with book content and the National Science Education Standards (NSES).

Science books for children (particularly picture books with minimal text) should be without significant personification, teleology, or animism, or inaccurate anthropomorphism. When considering these terms, it is important to note that animals do have behaviors similar to people and that to be eligible for this award information in the books needs to reflect current scientific research. If depicted, it should be done in such a way that does not influence or create misconceptions or detract from the science content of the book.

- Personification: representation of an inanimate object with human qualities or form

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- Animism: The belief in the existence of individual spirits that inhabit natural objects and phenomena
- Anthropomorphism: Attribution of human motivation, characteristics, or behavior to inanimate objects, animals, or natural phenomena

Books including English measure must also include metric equivalent if available. Metric measure by itself is acceptable.

Genre-specific

Biographies should convey the full sense of the person's character. The books might inspire as well as convey the facts of the person's accomplishments.

Nature books should offer the natural history and/or the life cycles of organisms.

Books may contain stories, folktales, and poetry based in science or nature, but should stand on their own as science books.

Illustrations (drawings, paintings, pictures, diagrams, photos, charts, graphs)

Illustrations are in harmony with the text and enhance the presentation.

Illustrations are appropriate for the content of the book and the intended age level.

Illustration labels are clear, legible, and accurate (match what is depicted in the illustration).

Items shown are accurate in size, color, and scale.

Illustrations showing people should portray cultural diversity and gender equity whenever possible.

Format/Layout/Design

Trim size and format of book are appropriate to subject.

Layout is well-organized and advances the text.

Typeface must be clear, legible, and age-appropriate.

Binding quality and paper engineering must be satisfactory.

There should be no spelling, text, or illustration errors.