

OUTSTANDING SCIENCE TRADE BOOKS 2024



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Deadline for Book Submissions: **July 6, 2023**

ABOUT THIS LIST

Nine science educators appointed by NSTA read and evaluate the submitted books. Their selections are displayed at the NSTA National Convention in March. The annotated list appears in the February issue of the NSTA journals *Science and Children*, *Science Scope*, and *The Science Teacher*.

ELIGIBILITY

- Books must be published in calendar year 2023
- Fiction is eligible if the book has substantial science content
- Books must be intended for grades K-12
- All books must originate with a children's publishing company or division and must be published (not simply distributed) by a publisher incorporated in North America.
- Books originally published abroad are eligible only if they have a 2023 North America publication date; reprints or licensed editions of titles initially published in North America before 2023 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.
- Revised editions of books originally published in North America before 2023 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. **[For math books, submit to [Best STEM Books list](#)]**
- Textbooks, workbooks, kits, activity, and experiment-only books are not eligible.

- Spanish-language editions of titles published in English before 2023 are not acceptable. Spanish-language editions published in North America simultaneously with English-language editions in 2023 are eligible.
- Books published in October, November, or December 2022 may be eligible. [Contact Jena](#) for details.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Books should have value for both classroom studies and library collections supporting students' work. The selection panel 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. Books need to reflect current scientific research. Books may contain mathematics as is encouraged in the endeavor of science; however, the science content in the book must be able to stand alone and the math should be integrated as part of the endeavor of doing science.

The [Framework for K-12 Science Education](#) and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) 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 suitable for the intended audience and, when appropriate, advances the Nature of Science (NOS), scientific thinking, and has general compatibility with book content and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

Science books for children (particularly picture books with minimal text) **should be without**

significant personification, teleology, 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
- Teleology: the use of design or purpose as an explanation of natural phenomenon
- 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

Please keep the following items in mind to better curate your submissions to the OSTB list:

- The content in the book is factually correct and not contrary to current scientific thought.
- Books including English measure must also include metric equivalent if available. Metric measure by itself is acceptable.
- Suggested activities, investigations, and/or experiments are safe, feasible, and appropriate for the intended age level.
- Presentation is logical and the sequence of ideas is clear.
- The information is free of gender, ethnic, or socio-economic bias, whenever possible.
- 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 are in harmony with the text and enhance the presentation.
- Illustrations are appropriate for the content of the book and the intended age level.
- Illustrations showing people should portray cultural diversity and gender equity whenever possible.
- Layout is well-organized and advances the text.

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

[SEE spast year's elected titles](#) for an idea of what the committee looks for.

HOW TO SUBMIT

[Download the 2023 Submissions Spreadsheet](#), fill it out, and email it to jena.groshek@cbcbooks.org. The spreadsheet contains four different tabs: one tab for publisher info and three others corresponding to NSSTB, OSTB, and BSB lists. Please be sure to enter your title information in the correct sheet.

SHIPPING YOUR BOOKS

Do not ship any books until instructed to.

You will be asked to send each title to nine reviewers (**9 copies in total**). The CBC will send the list of shipping instructions and addresses in July. **Books must reach reviewers by October 21, 2023.**

- Ship titles as early as possible. Do it in batches as they're available, don't wait for one large shipment.
- Titles with pub date October, November, December 2023 can be submitted again the following year if you're unable to ship them.

FEES

The submission fee structure is as follows:

CBC Regular Members: No fee

CBC Associate Members: \$75 \$60 per title, per list

Non-Member Publishers: ~~\$300~~ \$250 per title, per list

Fees are per title, per list and non-refundable. Titles may not be substituted at a later date.

An invoice and payment instructions will be emailed to you after you submit your titles.

if you need to set up a payment plan, please [email Jena](#).

[The CBC website](#) has the above information. For questions or more information [contact Jena](#).