

OUTSTANDING SCIENCE TRADE BOOKS



BOOK CONTENT GUIDELINES

Deadline for Book Submissions: April 15, 2026

ABOUT THE LIST

Nine science educators appointed by the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) will read and evaluate the books submitted for Outstanding Science Trade Books (OSTB) in the fall. After voting and discussion, the CBC coordinates a major announcement in January to our wide network of teachers, librarians, booksellers, and parents. The annotated list will appear in the 2027 February issue of the NSTA journals, *Science and Children*, *Science Scope*, and *The Science Teacher*, and books will be displayed in March at the NSTA National Convention.

ELIGIBILITY

- Books must be published in 2026. Books published in Oct.-Dec. 2025 may be eligible. (Email Sommer at sommer.wissner@cbcbooks.org for details).
- Books must be intended for grades K-12.
- Textbooks, workbooks, kits, activity, and experiment-only books 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 2026 are eligible only if they have been newly illustrated or if substantial text—at least 25%—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, the CBC will issue a separate call for Best STEM books.]
- Spanish-language editions published in North America simultaneously with English-language editions in 2026 are eligible.
- Fiction is eligible if the book has substantial science content.

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.

- 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.
- The presentation is logical and the sequence of ideas is clear.
- The information is free of gender, ethnic, or socio-economic bias.
- 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 on 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.
- Typeface must be clear, legible, and age-appropriate.
- There should be no spelling, text, or illustration errors.

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 while animals do have behaviors similar to people, 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, such as:

- Personification: representation of an inanimate object with human qualities or form.
- Teleology: the use of design or purpose as an explanation of natural phenomena.
- 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.

See previous winners for additional insights into what the committee looks for.

HOW TO SUBMIT

There are two ways to obtain the required spreadsheet that needs to be completed:

- If you prefer to download into Excel, [click this link](#) for a downloadable Google Sheet that can only be edited once it's opened in Excel (please see instructions on the spreadsheet for downloading). Once you have completed the sheet, please email to [Sommer](#).
- If you prefer to work in Google Sheets, [click this link](#) and then click on the blue USE TEMPLATE button in the upper right corner. This will create a duplicate spreadsheet for you to complete and save as your own. Once you have completed the sheet, please send to Sommer by hitting the SHARE button in the upper right-hand corner, adjusting permissions to Edit, and entering her email address: sommer.wissner@cbcbooks.org.

SHIPPING YOUR BOOKS

- Do not ship any books until we email you shipping instructions in July.
- You will be asked to send one copy of each title to each reviewer (9 in total).

FEES

- CBC Regular Members: No fee
- CBC Associate Members: ~~\$75~~ \$60 per title
- Non-Member Publishers: ~~\$300~~ \$250 per title

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