

Reading List 2004

Science

K-4

Science with Plants, ISBN: 0746009763

Mike Unwin

This lively book is packed with exciting science activities that encourage children to explore the intriguing nature of plants. Readers can find out how to change the color of a leaf, how to tell the age of a tree and why a seedling always grows the right way up. All the experiments and tricks are safe to do, using only ordinary household equipment.

Science Arts: Discovering Science through Art Experiences, ISBN: 0935607048

MaryAnn F. Kohl, Jean Potter

This includes fun, beautiful art projects that illustrate basic principles of science. Aimed at children ages 3 to 10, these projects are open-ended and easy to do, each focusing on one scientific concept inherent in the art experience. Projects include Paint Racing, Crystal Pictures, Floating Sculpture, and more. 135 line drawings.

Energy Makes Things Happen, ISBN: 0064452131

Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Simple language and humorous illustrations show how energy comes originally from the Sun and can be transferred from one thing to another.

1001 Things to Spot in the Sea, ISBN: 0794502296

Katie Daynes

Suitable for readers ages 3 and up, this book is brimming with things to find, count and talk about, this charming picture book provides hours of puzzle-solving fun. Readers will delight in discovering the secrets of the sea, whether spotting whales on the horizon, looking for fish in a coral reef or searching for coins on a deep-sea dive.

1001 Things to Spot in the Town, ISBN: 1580863329

A. Milbourne

Suitable for readers ages 3 and up, this book is bursting with things for young children to find, count, and talk about. This charming picture book provides hours of fun. It also helps develop vital word and number skills. A lively carnival, a bustling fishing port, a town park and



a crowded shipping street—these are just a few of the places young readers will visit on a whirlwind tour of towns around the world.

Astronomy and Space, ISBN: 0794501168

Lisa Miles & Alastair Smith

The Usborne Internet-linked Book of Astronomy & Space gives you a breathtaking surface-eye view of the planets. See stars exploding, black holes forming, and zoom through the solar system with comets and asteroids. Navigate the night sky using our clear, detailed maps. This updated edition shows you the universe, using the latest amazing information from astronomers around the world, and space proves around the galaxy. This book also includes practical information on home astronomy and buying and using equipment. What is an Usborne Internet-linked book? An Usborne Internet-linked book contains descriptions of Web sites you can visit to take you further into the subject in a fun and informative way. To visit the sites, go to the Usborne Quicklinks Web site at www.usborne-quicklinks.com, where you will find links to all the Web sites recommended in this book. Web sites do change from time to time, so the recommended sites will be reviewed regularly by Usborne researchers and the links in Usborne Quicklinks will be updated.

Big Book of Experiments, ISBN: 0746022883

A. Smith

Children can investigate the world around them and discover science in action. Specially chosen activities include making electricity, bending light, and weather watching. Helpful descriptions, clearly written text, and explanations show how and why the experiments work. Striking artwork and photographs illustrate all projects with clarity. This book is also available in Spanish

The Magic School Bus Sees Stars: A Book About Stars,

ISBN: 0590187325

Joanna Cole, Bruce Degen

Ms. Frizzle's class loves the idea of buying a star for Dorothy Ann's birthday, but they don't want to buy it sight unseen! So, the Magic School Bus rockets the whole gang into outer space. Your child can join the class for a day of star shopping and intergalactic learning. Offering tons of trivia and suggested activities, this comic-style adventure casts science in a new light.



The Magic School Bus: Gets Programmed, ISBN: 0590187317

Joanna Cole, Bruce Degen

Ms. Frizzle's class has programmed the principal's new computer to do all the class chores. But there seems to be a glitch, and it won't stop going! There's only one solution: Go inside the computer, and figure out what's gone wrong. Your child can join the class as they transform themselves into a floppy disk to discover a network of drives, processors, memory, and motherboards.

Great Black Heroes: Five Notable Inventors, ISBN: 0590480332

Wade Hudson, Illustrator Ron Garnett

This book follows five inventors: Elijah "the real" McCoy, machinery oiling equipment; Madame C.J. Walker, hair products for black women; Granville Woods, electrical signal system for trains; Garrett Morgan, gas masks and traffic signals; and Jan Matzeliger, shoe last machinery.

Great Black Heroes: Five Brilliant Scientists, ISBN: 0590480316

Lynda Jones, Illustrator Ron Garnett

Accessible text describes the early lives and notable achievements of Susan McKinney Steward, the first black female doctor in New York State; George Washington Carver, the world-famous agricultural scientist; Ernest Just, a marine biologist; Percy Julian, an outstanding chemist; and Shirley Jackson, a nuclear physicist.

5-8

Science Lab Ultimate Science, ISBN: 0760709068

Brenda Walpole

Discover electricity, magnetism, jet power and more with over 50 exciting experiments! A 32-page manual guides you through your investigations while clear and lively text explains the results. With an incredible array of equipment and apparatus in your Science Lab, as well as a specially designed "workbench," you can get started right away!

Molly Moon Stop the World, ISBN: 0060514108

Georgia Byng

Spunky heroine Molly Moon is back—and this time she is hypnotizing her way to the Academy Awards in Los Angeles. When Davina Nuttel, star of Broadway's *Stars on Mars*, suddenly disappears, Molly finds herself in the middle of a dangerous investigation. Accompanied by Rocky and Petula the Pig, she flies to Los Angeles to track the sinister activities of American billionaire Primo Cell, who wants to become



president and take over the world. Molly is the only one who can stop him....

Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science, ISBN: 0618052526

John Fleischman

Phineas Gage was truly a man with a hole in his head. Phineas, a railroad construction foreman, was blasting rock near Cavendish, Vermont, in 1848 when a 13-pound iron rod was shot through his brain. Miraculously, he survived to live another 11 years and become a textbook case in brain science. At the time, Phineas Gage seemed to completely recover from his accident. He could walk, talk, work, and travel, but he was changed. Gage "was no longer Gage," said his Vermont doctor, meaning that the old Phineas was dependable and well liked, and the new Phineas was crude and unpredictable. His case astonished doctors in his day and still fascinates doctors today. What happened and what didn't happen inside the brain of Phineas Gage will tell you a lot about how your brain works and how you act human.

Atoms & Molecules, ISBN: 0746009887

Author: P. Roxbee-Cox & M. Parsonage

Suitable for ages 12 and up, this book is described by the Times Educational Supplement as 'a remarkable achievement.' This easily readable and stunningly illustrated book reveals the inner workings of the atom, includes background to historic discoveries—such as the atom bomb—and looks at the latest scientific developments from 'atomic art' to the atom's role in the search for the cure for AIDS.

9-12

Eragon: Inheritance, Book One, ISBN: 0375826688

Christopher Paolini

When Eragon finds a polished blue stone in the forest, he thinks it is the lucky discovery of a poor farm boy; perhaps, it will buy his family meat for the winter. But when the stone brings a dragon hatchling, Eragon realizes he has stumbled upon a legacy nearly as old as the Empire itself. Overnight his simple life is shattered, and he is thrust into a perilous new world of destiny, magic, and power. With only an ancient sword and the advice of an old storyteller for guidance, Eragon and the fledgling dragon must navigate the dangerous terrain and dark enemies of an Empire ruled by a king whose evil knows no bounds. Can Eragon take up the mantle of the legendary Dragon Riders? The fate of the Empire may rest in his hands...



Let's Review Earth Science, ISBN: 0764113917

Edward J. Deneke

Designed As A Review Text For The New York State Physical Setting/Earth Science Course, this book covers all Earth Science topics for high school. The book is organized into three main study units: astronomy; meteorology; and geology.

Isaac Asimov: Scientist and Storyteller, ISBN: 0822504820

Ellen Erlanger

This book relates the life story of the "born storyteller" who came to America from Russia at the age of three and grew up to become one of the world's most prolific writers of science fiction and non-fiction.

Math

K-4

Math-Terpieces: The Art of Problem-Solving, ISBN: 0439443881

Greg Tang

Math and art history? Of course! Best-selling author Greg Tang knows that kids need to develop a variety of skills in order to think creatively when it comes to problem solving. In *Math-terpieces*, Tang's visually oriented problems—inspired by the artwork of 12 great masters, including Cézanne, Degas, Picasso, and Warhol—give children fascinating ways to practice adding. Kids will be stimulated to solve math problems in entirely new ways, and all readers will take away a new understanding and appreciation of the ways we look at art.

Math for All Seasons: Mind-Stretching Math Riddles

ISBN: 0439210429

Greg Tang

Math for All Seasons will challenge every kid—and every parent—to open their minds and solve math problems in new and unexpected ways. By looking for patterns, symmetries, and familiar number combinations displayed within eye-catching pictures, math will become easier, quicker, and more fun than anyone could have imagined!

Skittles Math Riddles, ISBN: 1570914133

Barbara Mcgrath

Using a blend of fun poetry, clearly written helping text, and riddles, this book takes the mystery out of math and makes solving word problems fun. After all, what is a word problem but a cleverly concealed riddle?



The book focuses on fractions, starting with basic fractions and then moving on to more advanced concepts such as equivalent fractions, reduced fractions, and addition with fractions. Readers learn to interpret pie-graph representations of fractions and also learn about negative numbers, number sentences, quantity comparisons, and the concept of infinity. A glossary of math terms and a brief review appear at the end of the book.

5-8

Math Curse, ISBN: 0670861944

Jon Scieszklea

When the teacher tells her class that they can think of almost everything as a math problem, one student acquires a math anxiety that becomes a real curse.

Sir Cumference and the Great Knight of Angleland: A Math Adventure

ISBN: 157091169X

Cindy Neuschwander

Radius is on a quest to earn his knighthood with only a circular medallion, a mysterious poem, and his own wits to guide him. He must find and rescue a missing king.

Everything You Need to Know about Math Homework

ISBN: 0590493590

Anne Zeman, Anne M. Zeman with Kate Kelly

This book provides fourth to sixth grade students and their parents with the information they need to complete math assignments. With the help of Dial-A-Teacher, which has operated a telephone helpline since 1979, the authors have compiled this math reference guide with easy-to-understand answers to students' most frequently asked questions.

9-12

Algebra to Go: A Mathematics Handbook, ISBN: 0669471518

Great Source Education Group

Algebra to Go is a unique new handbook designed to help demystify algebra for students. Modeled after the popular *Math on Call* handbook for middle school, *Algebra to Go* is a student-friendly resource that covers key and often complex math topics in a way that's clear and easily understandable for students—from numeration and number



theory to estimation, linear and non-linear equations, geometry, and data analysis.

Regents Math B Power Pack, ISBN: 0764175327

Lawrence Leff, David Bock

Packaged together for a retail savings of \$2.95 off the price of both books when purchased separately, this two-in-one combination consists of a copy of the new edition of *Barron Let's Review Math B*, packaged with the brand-new *Barron's Regents Exams and Answers, Math B*. Available in most subjects, *Let's Review* books cover topics specified by the New York State Board of Regents and contain subject review material plus practice and review questions all designed to prepare high school students for Regents Exams. Each *Barron's Regents Exams and Answers* book, informally known as Barron's "Redbooks," includes several actual full-length Regents exams given to students throughout New York State at the end of recent school semesters.

Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions, ISBN: 0451522907

Edwin A. Abbott, Kendahl J. Jubb

With wry humor and penetrating satire, *Flatland* takes us on a mind-expanding journey into a different world to give us a new vision of our own. A. Square, the slightly befuddled narrator, is born into a place that is limited to two dimensions—irrevocably flat—and peopled by a hierarchy of geometrical forms. In a Gulliver-like tour of his bizarre homeland, A. Square spins a fascinating tale of domestic drama and political turmoil, from sex among consenting triangles to the intentional subjugation of Flatland's females. He tells of visits to Lineland, the world of one dimension, and Pointland, the world of no dimension. But when A. Square dares to speak openly of a third, even a fourth dimension, his tragic fate climaxes a brilliant parody of Victorian society.

An underground favorite since its publication in England in 1884, *Flatland* is as prophetic a science-fiction classic as the works of H.G. Wells, introducing aspects of relativity and hyperspace years before Einstein's famous theories, and it does so with a wonderful, enduring enchantment.



Classics

K-4

Goodnight Moon, ISBN: 0060207051

Margaret Wise Brown

This classic bedtime story, which has lulled generations of children to sleep, is the perfect first book to share with a child.

Charlotte's Web, ISBN: 0064400557

E.B. White

This is the story of a little girl named Fern who loved a little pig named Wilbur—and of Wilbur's dear friend Charlotte A. Cavatica, a beautiful large grey spider who lived with Wilbur in the barn. With the help of Templeton, the rat who never did anything for anybody unless there was something in it for him, and by a wonderfully clever plan of their own, Charlotte saved the life of Wilbur, who by this time had grown up to be quite a pig.

Dancing Shoes, ISBN: 0679854282

Noel Streatfield

Aunt Cora is determined to turn two orphans, perky Hilary and sullen Rachel, into members of her dance troupe. But, Rachel wants to keep Hilary from being one of Wintle's Little Wonders—is it selfishness or something else? Misunderstandings and a spoiled cousin combine for a tale full of high drama. Originally published in 1957.

5-8

Summer of My German Soldier, ISBN: 014130636X

Bette Greene

The summer that Patty Bergen turns twelve is a summer that will haunt her forever. When her small hometown in Arkansas becomes the site of a camp housing German prisoners during World War II, Patty learns what it means to open her heart. Even though she's Jewish, she begins to see a prison escapee, Anton, not as a Nazi, but as a lonely, frightened young man with feelings not unlike her own.

In Anton, Patty finds someone who softens the pain of her own father's rejection and who appreciates her in a way her mother never will. While patriotic feelings run high, Patty risks losing family, friends—even her freedom—for this dangerous friendship. It is a risk she has to take and one she will have to pay a price to keep.



Treasure Island, ISBN: 1566194733

Robert Louis Stevenson

Originally designed as a story for boys, Stevenson's novel is narrated by the teenage Jim Hawkins, who outwits a gang of murderous pirates led by that unforgettable avatar of amorality, Long John Silver. But, *Treasure Island* has also had great appeal for adult readers and was admired by Mark Twain, Rudyard Kipling, and (reluctantly) Henry James. The story has the dreamlike quality of a fairy tale and has worked its way into the collective imagination of more than five generations of readers, gaining the power of myth.

Adventures of Tom Sawyer, ISBN: 0812504208

Mark Twain

Here is the story of Tom, Huck, Becky, and Aunt Polly; a tale of adventures, pranks, playing hookey, and summertime fun. Written by the author sometimes called "the Lincoln of literature," *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* was surprisingly neither a critical nor a financial success when it was first published in 1876. It was Mark Twain's first novel. However, since then, *Tom Sawyer* has become his most popular work, enjoying dramatic, film, and even Broadway musical interpretations.

9-12

Flowers for Algernon, ISBN: 0151001634

Daniel Keyes

When we first meet Charlie he is about to embark on a compelling but dangerous journey from retardation to genius. He has only a vague understanding of what will happen, but he is aware that knowledge and the ability to write are of paramount importance. So, he doesn't hesitate for a moment to cooperate in a radical experiment designed to increase his intelligence, the key—he hopes—to being valued as a human being and to being loved. Daniel Keyes's powerful and highly original story of a young man whose quest for intelligence and knowledge parallels that of Algernon (the mouse who is an earlier subject of a similar experiment) remains unique in imaginative literature. We follow Charlie Gordon's mental, emotional, and spiritual growth. We watch with excitement as he becomes the focus of attention by the scientific world, his intellectual capacities far surpassing those of the psychologists and neurosurgeons who engineered his metamorphosis. We also follow the progress of his romance with two women, one who knew him before the experiment as well as with another, who knows him only as the attractive, bright, and sympathetic man he has become. And, finally, we hope against



hope that what happens suddenly, unexpectedly, to Algernon will not happen to Charlie.

A Farewell to Arms, ISBN: 0684801469

Ernest Hemingway

The best American novel to emerge from World War I, *A Farewell to Arms* is the unforgettable story of an American ambulance driver on the Italian front and his passion for a beautiful English nurse.

Hemingway's frank portrayal of the love between Lieutenant Henry and Catherine Barkley, caught in the inexorable sweep of war, glows with an intensity unrivaled in modern literature, while his description of the German attack on Caporetto—of lines of tired men marching in the rain, hungry, weary, and demoralized—is one of the greatest moments in literary history. A story of love and pain, of loyalty and desertion, *A Farewell to Arms*, written when he was 30 years old, represents a new romanticism for Hemingway.

The Grapes of Wrath, ISBN: 0140186409

John Steinbeck

Although it follows the movement of thousands of men and women and the transformation of an entire nation, *The Grapes of Wrath* is also the story of one Oklahoma farm family, the Joads, who are driven off their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised land of California. Out of their trials and their repeated collisions against the hard realities of an America divided into Haves and Have-Nots, Steinbeck created a drama that is intensely human yet majestic in its scale and moral vision, elemental yet plainspoken, tragic but ultimately stirring in its insistence on human dignity.

Non-Fiction

K-4

Money Matters for Kids, ISBN: 0802446353

Larry Burkett, Marnie Wooding

Children need to be taught at a young age the importance of stewardship, but giving them financial advice that's too complex can overwhelm and discourage them. In *Money Matters for Kids*, financial author and teacher, Larry Burkett provides fun and creative tools to help children understand and apply the concept of stewardship. It contains jokes, puzzles, and other fun activities and exercises that make it easy for parents to teach children money management principles.



Secret Worlds: Black Holes, ISBN: 0789488450

Alex Barnett, Stuart Clark

Full-color, fun, and crammed with cool facts, DK's Secret Worlds take a fresh look at familiar subjects with brilliant results! Kids ages 9 and up can delve into a wide range of subjects from nature, history, and science for researching school projects, satisfying a curious appetite, or just for the love of reading. Tried-and-tested Web sites and a mega-reference section are just two of the innovative features that will keep kids and parents coming back for more.

Christmas Memory, ISBN: 0679800409

Truman Capote, Celeste Holm

First published in 1956, this much sought-after autobiographical recollection of Truman Capote's rural Alabama boyhood has become a modern-day classic. We are proud to be reprinting this warm and delicately illustrated edition of *A Christmas Memory*—"a tiny gem of a holiday story" (*School Library Journal*, starred review). Seven-year-old Buddy inaugurates the Christmas season by crying out to his cousin, Miss Sook Falk: "It's fruitcake weather!" Thus begins an unforgettable portrait of an odd but enduring friendship between two innocent souls—one young and one old—and the memories they share of beloved holiday rituals.

5-8

The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin, ISBN: 0300098588

Benjamin Franklin

Translated into a dozen languages, printed in hundreds of editions, and read by millions of people, Franklin's autobiography has had an influence perhaps unequaled by any other book by an American writer. Written ostensibly as a letter to his son William, the autobiography offers Franklin's reflections on philosophy and religion, politics, war, education, material success, and the status of women. This edition of the autobiography, prepared by the editors of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, is drawn with scrupulous care from the original manuscript in Franklin's handwriting now in the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery. The introduction by Leonard W. Labaree places the autobiography in literary and historical contexts.

Dignifying Science, ISBN: 0966010612

Donna Barr

Dignifying Science is the newest book from G.T. Labs that tells true stories about scientists in comics form. This 144-page trade paperback features famous women scientists including Marie Curie, Emmy



Noether, Lise Meitner, Rosalind Franklin, Barbara McClintock, Birute Galdikas, and (believe it or not) Hedy Lamarr. Scientists and non-scientists alike will appreciate the human context this award-winning anthology gives to some of the most famous names in the history of discovery.

Conversations with J.K. Rowling, ISBN: 0439314550

J.K. Rowling, Lindsey Fraser

The name *J.K. Rowling* is one that is on the lips of millions of readers worldwide, but before 1997 few people knew the brilliant woman behind the phenomenally successful Harry Potter books. And now, four books into the series, few yet know the real story of Ms. Rowling's childhood and career as a writer. This is the first and only true telling of Ms. Rowling's history because it is in her own words, from her birth in Chipping Sodbury near Bristol, England, to the stories about her favorite and least favorite teachers in school growing up, and to the funny misunderstanding in her first fan letter. It is like a visit with a friend, a friend who has brought you to tears with laughter and told the most enchanting stories you've ever been told.

9-12

An Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments with Truth

ISBN: 0807059099

Mahatma Gandhi

Mohandas K. Gandhi is one of the most inspiring figures of our time. In his classic autobiography he recounts the story of his life and how he developed his concept of satyagraha, or active nonviolent resistance, which propelled the Indian struggle for independence and countless other nonviolent struggles of the 20th century.

Three Weeks with My Brother, ISBN: 0446532444

Nicholas Sparks, Micah Sparks

As moving as his bestselling works of fiction, Nicholas Sparks's unique memoir, written with his brother, chronicles the life-affirming journey of two brothers bound by memories, both humorous and tragic. In January 2003, Nicholas Sparks and his brother Micah set off on a 3-week trip around the world. It was to mark a milestone in their lives, for at 37 and 38 respectively, they were now the only surviving members of their family. As Nicholas and Micah travel the globe, the intimate story of their family unfolds in the details of the untimely deaths of their parents and only sister. Against the backdrop of the wonders of the world, the Sparks brothers band together to heal, to remember, and to learn to live life to the fullest.



It's Not About the Bike: My Journey Back to Life, ISBN: 0425179613

Lance Armstrong, Sally Jenkins

This is the story of a journey from inauspicious beginnings through triumph, tragedy, transformation, and transcendence. It is the personal story of Lance Armstrong's life so far, from childhood through early success, nearly fatal cancer, recovery, survivorship, more triumph (victory in the 1999 Tour de France), marriage, and first-time fatherhood.

Parent/Teacher Resources Non-Fiction

Dealing with Diversity through Multicultural Fiction: Library-Classroom Partnerships

ISBN: 0838906052

Laurie Johnson, Sally Smith

These expert authors detail a wealth of ideas for planning, providing, and evaluating services tailored to young adults. You'll discover thoughtful insights and practical advice focused on helping young adults make the most of the wide-ranging resources available.

Lost Masterworks of Young Adult Literature, ISBN: 0810843609

Connie S. Zitlow

Authors bemoan their favorite literature that isn't read by today's youth.

Teens in Turmoil: A Path to Change for Parents, Adolescents, and Their Families

ISBN: 0140286039

Carol Maxym, Leslie York

Sometimes it's a little thing—the way a teen dresses—or something more serious, like finding drugs in their bedrooms. Whatever the circumstances, say authors Carol Maxym and Leslie York, the turning point comes when your child's out-of-control behavior takes control of the entire family.

Teens in Turmoil helps concerned parents turn fear and desperation into hope and action. Maxym and York guide parents in charting a course to getting their families—and teens—back on track.



Math

Everyday Math for Everyday Life: A Handbook for When It Just Doesn't Make Add Up

ISBN: 0446677264

Mark Ryan

Your dinner bill came to \$78.35, plus tip, divided amongst you and two friends. So, how did you end up paying \$50? In life, there are plenty of instances where a quick calculation would come in handy. Contrary to popular belief, the ability to calculate a tip, eyeball square area, or convert kilometers to miles—without using your fingers or moving your lips—is not inborn. Everyday math skills can be painlessly learned and easily mastered, transforming you from a person who doesn't know the meaning of annual percentage rate (APR) into someone who understands credit card rates and their long-term impact on your wallet. Broken into sections which review basic arithmetic from fractions to percents, provide situational problems from cooking to gambling, and demystify terms from statistics to relative magnitude to probability, this is the one guide that anyone who took "Math for English majors" can't live without.

A Beautiful Mind, ISBN: 1402894937

Sylvia Nassar

In this biography, Sylvia Nasar recreates the life of a mathematical genius whose brilliant career was cut short by schizophrenia and who, after three decades of devastating mental illness, miraculously recovered and was honored with a Nobel Prize. *A Beautiful Mind* traces the meteoric rise of John Forbes Nash, Jr., from his lonely childhood in West Virginia to his student years at Princeton, where he encountered Albert Einstein, John von Neumann, and a host of other mathematical luminaries. At 21, the handsome, ambitious, eccentric graduate student invented what would become the most influential theory of rational human behavior in modern social science. Nash's contribution to game theory would ultimately revolutionize the field of economics. At 30, Nash was poised to take his dreamed-of place in the pantheon of history's greatest mathematicians. Then, he suffered a catastrophic mental breakdown. Nasar details Nash's harrowing descent into insanity—his bizarre delusions that he was the Prince of Peace; his resignation from MIT, flight to Europe, and attempt to renounce his American citizenship; his repeated hospitalizations, from the storied McLean, where he came to know the poet Robert Lowell, to the crowded wards of a state hospital; his "enforced interludes of rationality" during which he was able to return briefly to mathematical research. At age 66, twin miracles—a spontaneous remission of his illness and the sudden decision of the Nobel Prize committee to honor



his contributions to game theory—restored the world to him. Nasar recounts the bitter behind-the-scenes battle in Stockholm over whether to grant the ultimate honor in science to a man thought to be "mad." She describes Nash's current ambition to pursue new mathematical breakthroughs and his efforts to be a loving father to his adult son.

Everything and More: A Compact History of Infinity

ISBN: 0393003388

David Foster Wallace

Since the time of the ancient Greeks, when Zeno proposed his notorious paradoxes, the nature of infinity has perplexed mathematicians and philosophers. Is it a valid mathematical entity or a meaningless abstraction? Plato and Aristotle in their day, Galileo and Newton nearly 2,000 years later, all grappled with it. But, it was the 19th century mathematicians Karl Weierstrass, Richard Dedekind, and Georg Cantor whose work established a whole new mathematics of infinity. In particular, Cantor's counterintuitive discovery of a progression of larger and larger infinities was both enormously controversial and mind-bendingly beautiful—a glimpse of a strange landscape where the everyday rules of arithmetic are broken, and where there truly can be found everything and more.

Science

The Fabric of the Cosmos: Space, Time, and the Texture of Reality

ISBN: 0375412883

Brian Greene

Greene examines space—from Newton's unchanging realm, through Einstein's fusion of space and time, to recent breakthroughs suggesting that ours may be one of many island universes floating in a grand, multidimensional spatial expanse. We encounter the peculiar world of quantum physics, in which space and time are buffeted to and fro by the turbulence of quantum uncertainty. We see the paradoxical nature of time, which, according to the laws of physics, does not necessarily need to run in any particular direction. And, Greene shows us how the tantalizing world of string and M-theory may ultimately provide us with the elusive unified theory of the universe.

***A Short History of Nearly Everything*, ISBN: 0767908171**

Bill Bryson

A Short History of Nearly Everything is a quest, the intellectual odyssey of a lifetime, as this curious writer attempts to understand



everything that has transpired from the Big Bang to the rise of civilization. To that end, Bill Bryson apprenticed himself to a host of the world's most profound scientific minds, living and dead. His challenge is to take subjects like geology, chemistry, paleontology, astronomy, and particle physics and see if there isn't some way to render them comprehensible to people, like himself, made bored (or scared) stiff of science by school. His interest is not simply to discover what we know but to find out how we know it.

Nightwatch: A Practical Guide to Viewing the Universe

ISBN: 1552093026

Terence Dickinson

Now with a completely revised text updated through to 2010, *NightWatch* includes new star charts, tables, and diagrams, plus more than 100 new color photographs and illustrations. Technological advances, including computerized telescopes, new telescope designs and accessories, and astronomy on the Internet are also included. Astrophotographers will appreciate an expanded chapter that lists the best modern films and cameras for shooting the night sky. In addition to writing the lively, informative text, Dickinson also contributed most of the stunning photos in the book.

