

Blinded by Science (and maths and technology) May 2009

Reading is the gateway skill that makes all other learning possible, from complex word problems and the meaning of our history to scientific discovery and technological proficiency. Barack Obama

As our lives are becoming more and more technology based, an appreciation of science, mathematics and technology is needed from an early age. It can be fun. It can be scary. Just like the growth of our science-based world. The books selected are not textbooks, but explore the subjects in different ways – including poetry and fiction. We have tried to steer away from dystopian views of technology, although such themes are prevalent in teen fiction.

Contributors to this list are: Kerry Aluf; Helen Beckingsale; Annie Coppell; Helen Schwarcz; Rosemary Tisdall; Helen Villers.

For under 6s

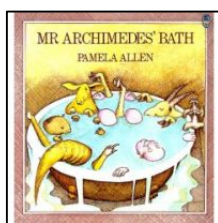
Mr Archimedes' Bath

Pamela Allen

Collins 1980; ISBN 000661938X

Eureka! Here is an oldie but a goodie! What an easy, humorous way for very young children to learn about water displacement and one of the best scientific tales of all time!

The text is large enough to use as a shared book in class but small enough to be read again and again as a bedtime story. The illustrations develop the characters at once and the sight of the pink and naked Mr Archimedes will engage many a small child with a wicked sense of humour. Readers will want to take their own baths at once, just to test the theory. This is real science in action! HV.



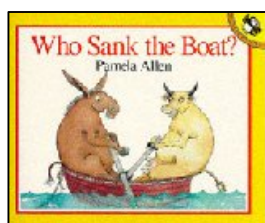
Who Sank the Boat?

Pamela Allen

Puffin Books 1988

ISBN 0140509402

A cow, a donkey, a sheep, a pig and a tiny little mouse decide to go for a row in their boat. One by one each animal gets in and the illustrations show how the boat sinks a little lower in the water with each addition. A great sense of anticipation is built each time a really big animal climbs in, but it's a surprise which one finally does tip the balance. The illustrations and written text work really well together using rhyme, humour and anticipation to engage and amuse young (and not so young readers). HS.



Stellaluna

Jannel Cannon

Koala Book Company (1993) 1995; ISBN 1875846212

A little bat, Stellaluna, is separated from her mother before she can fly.

She is taken in by a bird, and brought up acting like a bird. But one night she flies too far and is found by other bats – including her mother. Stellaluna is taught how to act like a bat. When she visits her bird family, they all learn the differences between their species – but realise that they are still friends. Includes bat notes. AC.



Counting on Frank

Rod Clement

William Collins 1990; ISBN 0207173222

A boy asks all kinds of 'what if' questions about the ordinary things around him. He uses his dog Frank as a unit of measurement and wonders how many Franks would fit into his bedroom but then, what if Frank were a humpback whale? Having a bath provides time to calculate how long it would take to fill the whole bathroom with water (with both taps running).

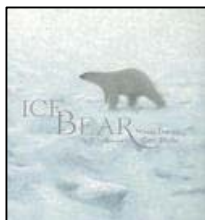
Then there's the question of peas and how high the mountain would be if the 15 peas rolled off his plate every night were piled up? Would Mum finally understand that her son does not like peas? Great illustrations, a book full of questions and brilliant ideas for maths investigations. HS.



Ice Bear

Nicola Davies, illus Gary Blythe.
Walker Books 2005; ISBN 1844287319

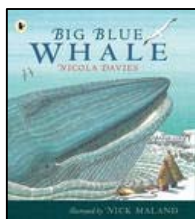
If you enjoyed Gary Blythe's illustrations in *The Whales' Song* or *The Garden* you will love the artwork in this factual and very moving book about polar bears. Blythe positions the viewer so closely to these majestic creatures you can almost feel their breath. The narrative is written from the perspective of 'we Inuit' and each page of text is complemented by factual material. Davies is a gifted writer and a zoologist to boot. The message is clear; these animals will need enormous support to survive the ravages of global warming and this book is excellent way to introduce children in the primary school to the issue. HV.



Big Blue Whale

Nicola Davies, illus Nick Maland
Walker Books 1997; ISBN 0744563003

This was Nicola Davies first picture book and it uses the same narrative and non-fiction approach as *Ice Bear* above. The two text forms on each page are distinguished by different fonts which she terms 'this kind' and 'that kind' and at the end of the book she reminds readers to look at 'both kinds of word' in order to separate the factual 'bites' from the storyline. It is ably illustrated by Nick Maland in a clear, old-fashioned manner which emphasises the size and the beauty of these wonderful creatures. Children in the primary school will cherish this book as an accessible beginning to their understandings about whales. HV.



When Elephants Lived in the Sea

Jane Godwin; illus Vincent Agostino
Lothian Books 2006; ISBN 0734408420

Millions of years ago the ancestors of modern elephants lived in the sea, as their closest relatives – manatees and dugongs – still do. This picture book introduces children to the evolution of the elephant from marine to land based life, with a tiny bit of plate tectonic theory added in. The illustrations, done in acrylics, and layout add to the value of this book as an introduction to evolutionary theory. 5+. AC.

A Second is a Hiccup: A Child's Book of Time

Hazel Hutchins, illus Kady MacDonald Denton
Arthur A. Levine Books (Scholastic) 2007
ISBN 9780439831062

This is a whimsical introduction to time – through minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years... All wrapped up in the familiar world of family and friends. AC.

Mechanical Harry

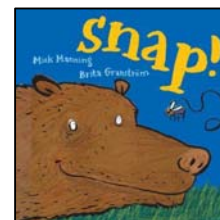
Bob Kerr
Mallinson Rendel 1996; ISBN 9780836822489

Harry Newton's house is full of marvellous mechanical gadgets. In the course of one day Harry demonstrates, in his own unique way, Isaac Newton's three laws of motion, as illustrated inside the front cover. Kids will love following the pulleys and ramps to see how the gadget works and have fun imagining their own bedrooms with amazing inventions to make their lives easier and more fun! This very visual book was the winner of the Children's Choice Award in the 1997 New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards, and is still an all-time favourite. 3+. HS & RT.

Snap!

Mick Manning and Brita Granström
Frances Lincoln 2006; ISBN 9781845076115

A fun tale all about the food chain – suitably illustrated by cutaway views of the bellies described. The bright illustrations make this fun rather than horrifying. Look for other science-based books from this UK husband-and-wife pairing, including *Yuck!* a book about what different baby animals eat. 3+. AC.



How Big Is a Million?

Anna Milbourne; illus Serena Riglietti
Usborne Publishing 2007
ISBN 9780746077696

Pipkin, a little penguin, wants to know *how big is a million?* Every one he asks has a slightly larger number – 10 fish with his Mama, 100 penguins huddled together, 1000 snowflakes – but a million is bigger than all of those big numbers. But Mama shows Pipkin how big is a million – in stars – all on a giant poster than comes in a pocket inside the back cover of this hardback picture book. AC.



One Is a Snail Ten Is a Crab: A Counting By Feet Book

April Pulley Sayre & Jeff Sayre; illus Randy Cecil
Walker Books 2003
ISBN 0744585252

If one is a snail, and two is a person, then that means that three is a person and a snail... and so it goes in this fun introduction to simple addition and multiplication. You'll learn, for example, that 80 is eight crabs... or ten spiders, and 90 is nine crabs... or ten spiders and a crab. AC.



For 6 to 10 years

Hello H₂O

John Agard; illus Satoshi Kitamura
Hodder Wayland 2003; ISBN 0750242892

The world of science is explored in this poetry collection, bringing magic back into the subject.

To you / I'm blowing bubbles. / To me / I'm conducting / an orchestra / of swirling light waves / and rainbow octaves. Notes for each poem are included at the end. AC.



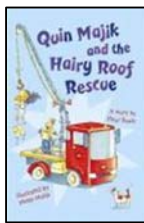
Quin Majik and the Hairy Roof Rescue

Fleur Beale; illus Philip Webb

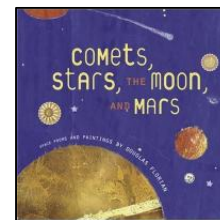
Mallinson Rendel 2009

ISBN 9781877423284

Quin Majik, first introduced in *Quin Majik and the Marvellous Machine*, is back! The parents of Tidy Street still feel he is a bad influence, but his talent for invention is needed when Fred Smart's dad gets marooned on the roof of the family home. A fun look at having fun and being true to yourself. AC.



The art is amazing, and the production values are of a very high standard, making this a wonderful resource to introduce space and our solar system to younger children. *Pluto was a planet. / But now it doesn't pass. / Pluto was a planet. / They say it's lacking mass. / Pluto was a planet. / Pluto was admired. / Pluto was a planet. / Till one day it got fired.* AC.

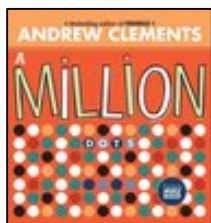


A Million Dots

Andrew Clements, illus Mike Reed

Simon Schuster 2006; ISBN 0689858248

Not many of us can imagine what a million looks like. This picture book contains exactly one million dots. Along the way from the very first dot to the final one there is an assortment of random and interesting facts. A person blinks about 134,000 times each week. It would take 234 days to eat 675,000 Hershey Bars. That is, if you ate one bar every two minutes non-stop throughout the 234 days. As you progress through the book a running total is kept until the final dot is reached and you have a new sense of just how big a million really is. HS.



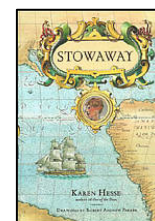
Stowaway

Karen Hesse, illus Robert Andrew Parker

Margaret K McElderry Books 2000

ISBN 0689839871

I love this book! I love the bite-sized diary entries, the reference to latitude and longitude and for Karen Hesse's carefully researched details of the real journey of the *HMS Endeavour* as it sailed away in search of the lost continent. The adventures of 11-year-old 'young Nick' are tracked from the time the ship leaves Plymouth in August 1768 until it returns in July 1771. Young Nick, nothing but a stowaway in the beginning, triumphs over adversity and wins the respect and friendship of Captain Cook and the other 'esteemed gentlemen' on board. The rest of this well told tale, for an 8 to 12-year-old audience, is history! HV.



The Weather-Makers

Shirley Corlett

Scholastic NZ 2001; ISBN 1869434285

Inspired by a school trip to the Meteorological Service, and tired of his parents' complaints over yet another wrong weather forecast Peter goes on the net for some information. When he clicks on an unusual link he suddenly finds himself in a control room, in another dimension – The Dimension of Natural Forces, home to Altus the weatherman who is tired of all the complaints. Left alone to run the local weather, Peter and his friends soon end up in trouble... cyclone trouble. 8+. KA.

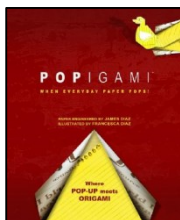
Popigami: When Everyday Paper Pops!

James Diaz & Francesca Diaz

Intervisual Books 2007

ISBN 9781581176414

A feast of intricate and beautifully crafted paper engineering. Each model is made from the paper and wrappings we use everyday. The good news page flying out between the pages is made from newspaper while left over art paper creates creatures from the past. On the final page the Chinese take away at the Dragon Restaurant is a scrumptious feast made from the menus and take away containers at the restaurant. A beautiful book, but it's a little disappointing that there are no instructions. HS.



Black Day [Kiwi Bites]

David Hill, illus Lotte Wotherspoon

Penguin 2007; ISBN 9780143303084

It's science fair time and Chad, Jordan, Zoe and Keisha want to come up with a fabulous project. They enlist the help of Chad's Auntie Kym and try to make a black hole, but bully Shaun is determined to ruin it for them, as always. As the four work on their project they – and the readers – learn a lot about the universe. 7+. AC.



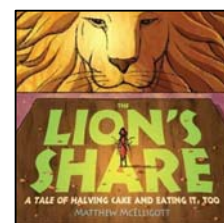
The Lion's Share

Matthew McElligott

Walker & Company 2009

ISBN 9780802797681

Every year the lion invites a small group to dinner, and this year it is the ant's first time. When the lion passes the cake around, each animal – so as not to seem greedy – takes half of the cake, until it reaches the ant, who has a couple of crumbs and is unable to share with the lion. Ashamed, the ant offers to make a cake for the lion, and bring it to him the next day. Wishing to outdo each other, the animals each offer to make double the amount – until elephant has to promise to make 256 cakes! A cute introduction to division and multiplication. AC.



Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars

Douglas Florian

Harcourt Inc 2007; ISBN 9780152053727

A collection of poems and paintings about space.

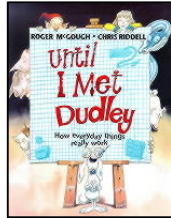
Until I Met Dudley: How Everyday Things Really Work

Roger McGough, illus Chris Riddell

Frances Lincoln 1997; ISBN 9780711211292

How does a toaster really work? Is it the work of the toast gnomes operating cogs and wheels while a fiery dragon breathes on a piece of bread?

A girl thinks she knows exactly how a range of household appliances work until Dudley provides a scientific explanation. The imaginative versions are detailed and engaging and over the page factual texts explain with clearly labelled diagrams exactly how things work. However there are some readers who might prefer the fantasy versions. HS.

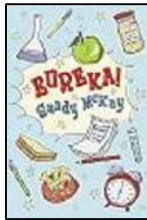


Eureka!

Sandy McKay

Mallinson Rendel 2008; ISBN 9781877423154

Joey and Todd are struggling to come up with an idea for their science fair project. Their teacher encourages them to think of something in their every day lives that they could improve, but they're stuck for ideas. Joey has a 'eureka' moment thanks to his frazzled mother. A great way to show how science and technology can add value to everyday life. 8+. AC.



Chute Thru

Janice Marriott

Mallinson Rendel 2006

ISBN 9780958262637

In a future where the oceans have risen to cover most of the land, Arlo lives with his family on a no-hoper raft, a crowded slum with over 100,000 others and controlled by cyborg security. Arlo has been sending out emails through the now antiquated internet in the hope of contacting an alien coming to visit Earth and one day he gets a visitor, ULA (Unidentified Landed Alien). 9+. KA.

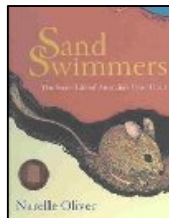


Sand Swimmers: The Secret Life of Australia's Dead Heart

Narelle Oliver

Lothian 1999; ISBN 0850917689

The evocative artwork and the sparkling text belie the scientific weight of this picture book. Four stories run parallel to one another as the secrets of the desert are revealed. We are left in no doubt about the fierce heat and inhospitable landscape and of the hardy creatures that inhabit it. The Aboriginal people and their specialised knowledge whisper to us throughout the text and the clumsy attempts of Charles Sturt to discover an inland sea are communicated through a visual subtext and quotes from his diary at the bottom of each page. A bibliography and index is provided at the back of the book for further reference. HV.



The Whizbanger that Emmental Built

Reuben Schwarz

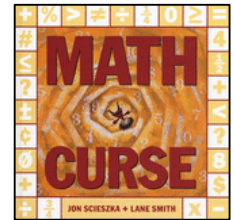
Puffin 2006; ISBN 0143318381

Emmental (Emme for short) is the daughter of the town weirdo, and has a weird name. Those factors mean she struggles to make friends, but she is drawn to the house with the spinning things outside. So Emme meets Chaida Manning and his bizarre inventions – finding a friend and a purpose in life. 8+. AC.

Math Curse

Jon Scieszka; illus Lane Smith
Viking 1995; ISBN 0670861944

One morning a girl wakes up suffering from a math curse – everything is a maths problem! *If my bus leaves at 8:00 will I make it on time? How many minutes in 1 hour? How many teeth in 1 mouth?* It's all because of her teacher, Mrs Fibonacci!



Followed by *Science Verse* [Viking 2004; ISBN 0670910570] in which

we learn that there is poetry in science, for example:

Eenie, meanie, mynie, mo. / Catch a virus, watch it grow. / Once it's got you, it won't go. / Eenie, meanie, my – oh no! Zany and fun – as is to be expected by these collaborators. AC.

The Lorax

Dr Seuss

Random House 1971; ISBN 000170012X

Was there ever a time when you didn't know what a Once-ler or a Lorax was? It is now nearly 40 years since Dr Seuss introduced us to these strange creatures from the far end of town where only the grackle grass blew but where once grew the truffula trees 'mile after mile in the fresh morning breeze'. Seuss can be credited as the captain of environmental awareness. After all, it is this book that alerted most of us to the perils of environmental destruction and to the possibilities of sustainability. It is a great family read aloud at a time when we have all begun to understand that sustainability begins at home and no better way to introduce the most important science of all to children at any level of the primary school. HV.



The Tree of Life

Peter Sis

Walker Books 2003; ISBN 0744598702

This is an extraordinary picture book that tells the story of the life and ideas of Charles Darwin. The intricate, detailed illustrations and multilayered text connect his personal and private lives, his father's plans for him and his own developing passions and interest. Maps, charts, diary notes, lists and sketches convey a wealth of information and actively involve the reader in making the same close observations and connections that Darwin himself applied to his work. HS.



Walter's Planet

Richard Wolfe, illus Pamela Wolfe

Random House NZ 2001; ISBN 1869414632

Walter McWhirter loves collecting bits and pieces and making them in to new things, which worries his parents. One night his latest creation does something amazing – it discovers a new planet! His father phones an astronomer, who confirms the find – and names the planet after Walter. Walter goes on inventing, and spending time out playing. AC.

For 10 to 12 years

The Roar

Emma Clayton

The Chicken House 2008; ISBN 9781905294633

A man-made plague has killed most of the animals and ruined the planet. Now everyone must live behind the Wall for protection, most people live in squalor and forced to live on food derived from mould. When a new organisation, the Youth Development Foundation (YDF), appears on the scene, opening arcades where children can play a fantastic pod-fighter simulation game, Mika becomes one of the top players. Then the YDF announce a competition based on the game with fantastic prizes but their ultimate plan is more sinister. An enthralling science fiction adventure for 10-12yrs. KA.



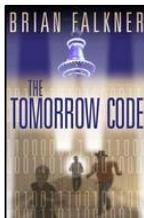
The Tomorrow Code

Brian Falkner

Walker Books Australia 2008; ISBN 9781921150340

[Note: also published in the US by Random House; ISBN 9780375843648 – a different edition]

Rebecca and Tane receive messages from their future selves, setting them off on a quest to stop an ecological disaster. As they race to solve the clues they've been given, readers are taken on an action-packed journey through science, ecology and technology. AC.

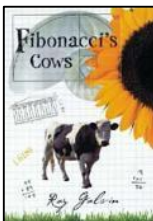


Fibonacci's Cows

Ray Galvin

Shortland Publications 2001; ISBN 0790125501

Ryan's teacher gives him a special assignment – solve the puzzle of Fibonacci's cows. If he doesn't, he'll miss the football match of the year. A quirky introduction to Fibonacci's numbers. AC.



The Dumpster Saga

Craig Harrison

Scholastic 2007; ISBN 9781869438166

This has so often been reviewed with the words 'a laugh-out loud story'. But it's so true and I found myself on re-readings as well, still being caught up in the way the family talk to each other, the mum and dad's sense of fun and long-suffering patience with their well-meaning sons. A brother who actually cares about his younger sibling and has fun with him. A happy family. Fifteen-year-old Ben tells the story of his younger brother, Chesney who finds a propeller-topped hat that allows him to see into the future. The two boys get themselves into some crazy, almost unbelievable situations, but the way they occur, you feel they actually could happen. It is a fun, enjoyable read, and a good read-aloud story. The realism of the story is overtaken by the fantastical elements, creating a book that will be enjoyed by many. 10+. RT.



Hoot

Carl Hiaasen

Alfred A. Knopf 2002; ISBN 0375821813

Roy Eberhardt has just moved to Florida but is homesick for the mountains and space of Montana. As a new kid he expects to be bullied but while he is being attacked on the bus he sees a 'strange-running' boy. He goes looking and when he finds the boy he is soon involved in helping him save the burrows of tiny owls from the bulldozers that will destroy their habitat. Funny and well written, *Hoot* shows Roy and his friends questioning authority and taking action to protect their environment. HS.

The High Wind Blows

David Hill

Puffin 2001; ISBN 0141313366

Adam is into astronomy and winning a chance to watch a satellite launch is like a dream come true. But when he arrives at Mt Dauntless Launch Station he learns about the terrorist group, God's Soldiers, who believe that space exploration is bad. Science, scientists, religion, mystery and girls combine in this fast-paced novel for 11+. Other David Hill astronomy-inspired novels, for this age group, include *Impact* and *Where All Things End*. AC.



Cyberia

Chris Lynch

Scholastic 2008; ISBN 9780545027939

Zane's world is wireless. There's a microchip in his ankle so his parents can keep track of him. When his devices are synchronised, he also gains the ability to hear his dog, Hugo. And lots of other animals. Which leads him to work against Dr Gristle, an experimental veterinarian. The book sets up a dichotomy between science and nature, making the reader question how far we go in incorporating technology in our lives – but in a fun way. AC.



Mind Over Matter

Heather McQuillan

Scholastic 2006; ISBN 186943742X

Jono's life has been pretty rough lately, what with the school bully and his dad and all. The arrival of an alien named Arial-Su changes all that. Arial needs Jono's help to save the world, but Jono's not sure if he's the right one for the job. A great fictional introduction to the world of quarks, atoms, matter and other physics concepts. AC.

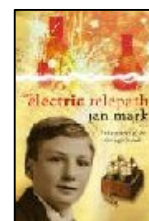


The Electric Telegraph

Jan Mark

Red Fox 2005; ISBN 0099432358

Elijah longs to be a scientist, but his family's religious beliefs prohibits this. Trapped between his modern leanings and the ancient belief system his family adheres to, Elijah struggles to reconcile the two until he discovers a scientific apparatus that brings his two worlds together. AC.



Aquila

Andrew Norris

Hamish Hamilton 1997; ISBN 0241137144

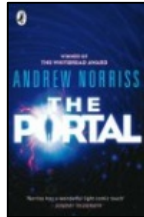
Whitbread Children's Book of the Year 1997, Smarties Silver Medal 1998. This is an entertaining story in which two young boys discover a Roman flying machine buried in an underground cave in the Peak District. It is equipped with a laser beam and an invisibility switch and learning to operate it motivates two notoriously unmotivated and under-achieving boys to take an interest in subjects such as maths, physics, geography and Latin, much to the astonishment and suspicion of their teachers. 9-12. HB.

The Portal

Andrew Norris

Puffin 2007; ISBN 014132158X

The fascinating story of two boys whose parents mysteriously disappear without trace. Eventually it is revealed that there is an intergalactic portal under their house which provides a stopover for people travelling from various parts of the universe, which does nothing to explain where their parents have gone. They are eventually located by asking the right question of the sophisticated computer system (just like answering a riddle in a fairy tale!) In the meantime William does a stellar job of managing the portal in his father's absence and discovers he has a flair for people management. Recommended. 9-12. HB.



A Single Shard

Linda Sue Park

Oxford University Press 2006

ISBN 0192719580

[first published by Clarion Books 2001]

Tree-ear is an orphan, living under a bridge in medieval Korea. He is fascinated by Min, a master potter, and is determined to become a potter himself. His chance comes, but is nearly ruined by robbers. The author offers an insight into the lives of the artists, and the pottery process. AC.

The Inventors

Alexander Gordon Smith & Jamie Webb

Faber and Faber 2007

ISBN 9780571233106

Nate and Cat have just won a scholarship to work with the world's best inventor – their dream! But it all starts to go wrong when they realise there's a secret plot – and they're going to have to outwit the world's greatest inventor in order to get home and see their families again. Written by 28-year-old author Alexander, with the help of his inventive 11-year-old brother, Jamie. AC.

S.T.O.R.M.: The Infinity Code

E L Young

Macmillan Children's Books 2007; ISBN 9780330446402

Will is into making gadgets, which draws the attention of STORM, a covert organisation who want him. With nothing left in his life – his father has just died, his mother has vanished – Will is perfectly placed to join them. STORM is the brainchild of a 14-year-old software billionaire, and the other members are also young teens. AC.

For Teens

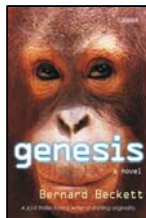
Genesis

Bernard Beckett

Longacre Press 2006

ISBN 9781877361524

Anaximander is undergoing an examination to determine whether she is worthy of entrance to the Academy. Through her cross-examination we learn of New Zealand's history – how it became The Republic, separate from the rest of the world, which is plague-ridden. Anaximander looks at Adam Forde's rebellion, and his debates with Artfink, a computer. What makes us human? What is consciousness? Thought-provoking and surprising, this book should inspire intense debate. AC.



Little Brother

Cory Doctorow

Tor Teen 2008; ISBN 9780765319852

Marcus (aka w1n5t0n) is a technogeek, capable of fooling his school's gait-recognition system so he and his mates can escape for a few hours. However, on one of their jaunts, they are caught near the site of a terrorist attack and taken into custody. Held by Homeland Security for six days of interrogation, he vows revenge upon his release. An edge-of-the-seat thriller with implications for our lives here and now. As part of the author's philosophy, you can download the book free, at craphound.com/littlebrother/download/. AC.

The House of the Scorpion

Nancy Farmer

Simon & Schuster 2004; Pb ISBN 9780689852237

Matt slowly learns that he is the clone of El Patrón, lord of a country called Opium – once known as Mexico. Most clones are animals – with all intelligence gone – bred only to be organ donors for their rich progenitors. But not Matt. Matt is different. He is self-aware – and wants his own life. A chilling look into science – and what it means to be human. 13+. AC.

The Christopher Killer

Alane Ferguson

Viking / Sleuth 2006; ISBN 9780142408117

Cameryn Mahoney is assistant to her father, the coroner, and uses her forensic knowledge to catch her friend's killer. A great read for fans of CSI-type television series, where the science is an integral part of the storytelling. This is the first in a series featuring 17-year-old Cameryn. For a more boy-focused title, try the Luke Harding Forensic Investigator series by Malcolm Rose. AC.

Bodies and Soul

David Hill

Scholastic 2005; ISBN 9781869436582

By 2025 machines and computers have replaced many working humans. The country is divided into Uppers (who live in gated estates, rich enough to afford to live in luxury and buy whatever they need), Towners (who live in the city huddling together to survive in derelict buildings and

finding work where they can) and the Misfits and Druggers (who are dirty and must not be trusted at any cost). Cal is a Towner and like many others he believes that Global are good for the community. If you co-operate with them and agree to participate in their experiments they will provide you with money, a commodity that is very scarce. The trouble is that many people who co-operate with Global become sick – when he sees a 10-year-old girl accidentally killed as Global forces her to give her rare AB blood – he knows something is up. He has to flee the city. 12+. RT.

Unwind

Neal Shusterman

Simon & Schuster 2007; ISBN 9781416912040

Unruly teens are able to be signed away by their parents for unwinding, this means being harvested for their body parts. Thanks to new technology and an open market, every organ and tissue can be relocated so the teenager goes on living just not in one body but as part of many bodies. Connor goes on the run when he discovers that he is about to become an Unwind. Creepy and horrific, this makes you aware of how precious a life really is. 14+. KA.

Box

Penelope Todd

Longacre Press 2005; ISBN 1877361127

In a very-near future, New Zealand is the site of an experiment – a vaccination against new, deadly viruses. Sounds good in theory, but in practice, it also means all will be altered – all emotional highs and lows will be

neutralised. AC.

Extras

Scott Westerfeld

Simon Pulse 2007; ISBN 9781416954804

The fourth book in the Uglies series and set a few years after the previous books. The world has moved on from uglies, bubbleheads and specials and now life is a huge fame and popularity contest based on face rank. Aya, a 14-year-old is just starting out and needs to master the game or she will stay just an extra and on the sidelines.

Highlighting the consequences of a media-obsessed world of face ranking, hovercams, feeds and cliques that mirrors our current obsession with celebrity, plastic surgery and social networking such as Facebook and Twitter. 14+. KA.

Bogus to Bubbly: An Insider's Guide to the World of Uglies by Scott Westerfeld [Simon Pulse 2008; ISBN 9781416974369]. For those who can't get enough of Tally's world and all its technogadgets, this guide is a welcome companion to the series.

Planetes Volume 1

Makoto Yukimura

Tokyopop 2003; ISBN 1591822629

Yuri is part of a three-person crew clearing out debris from Earth's orbit. He dreams of being part of the first manned mission to Jupiter, but a terrorist group is determined to halt the perceived exploitation of the solar system's resources. Science and its effects on humanity – and individuals – feature strongly in this manga title. AC.

Technology Gone Bad: a short select list of teen fiction



Juno of Paris by Fleur Beale. Random House New Zealand 2008; ISBN 9781869419882

Eva by Peter Dickinson. Macmillan 2001; ISBN 9780330483841 [originally published in 1988]

Salt by Maurice Gee. Penguin 2007; ISBN 9780143303350 [followed by *Goo!*]

Turnabout by Margaret Peterson Haddix. Simon & Schuster 2000; ISBN 0689821875

Because We Were the Travellers by Jack Lasenby. Longacre Press 1997; ISBN 9781877135743

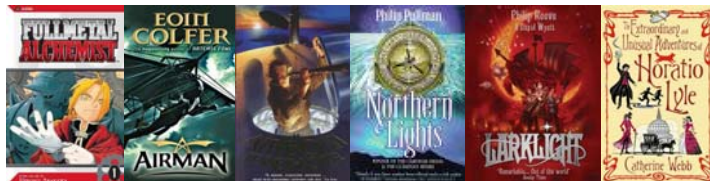
The Declaration by Gemma Malley. Bloomsbury 2008; ISBN 9780747587743

The Adoration of Jenna Fox by Mary E Pearson. Allen & Unwin 2009; ISBN 9781741756401

Mortal Engines [Hungry City Chronicles, book 1] by Philip Reeve. Scholastic 2001; ISBN 0439979439

Steampunk: a short select list of teen fiction

Steampunk is a subgenre of science fiction, set in a world where steam power is still widely used – mostly the Victorian era – often with technology ahead of its time, or alternative technological paths to our world. Although the genre came into prominence in the 1980s, early examples include *The Time Machine* by HG Wells and Jules Verne's work.



Fullmetal Alchemist series by Hiromu Arakawa [manga]

Airman by Eoin Colfer. Penguin 2007; ISBN 9780141383361

Airborn by Kenneth Oppel. Hachette 2005; ISBN 9780340878569

His Dark Materials trilogy by Philip Pullman

Larklight by Philip Reeve, illus David Wyatt; Bloomsbury 2007; ISBN 9780747584407 [note: for 9+]

The Extraordinary and Unusual Adventures of Horatio Lyle by Catherine Webb. Little, Brown 2007; ISBN 9781904233619

Storylines Notable Books list 2009



Storylines Notable picture Books

Herbert, the Brave Sea Dog by Robyn Belton (Craig Potton Publishing)

The Apple written by Ben Brown, illustrated by Tracy Duncan (Puffin)

Kei te Pehea Koe?: How Do You Feel? By Tracy Duncan (Puffin)

Every Second Friday written by Kiri Lightfoot, illustrated by Ben Galbraith (Hodder Children's Books)

Piggity-Wiggity Jiggity Jig written by Diana Neild, illustrated by Philip Webb (Scholastic)

The Seven Stars of Matariki written by Toni Rolleston-Cummins, illustrated by Nikki Slade-Robinson (Huia)

Roadworks written by Sally Sutton, illustrated by Brian Lovelock (Walker Books)

The Were-Nana (Not a Bedtime Story) written by Melinda Szymanik, illustrated by Sarah Nelisiwe Anderson (Scholastic)

Special Mentions:

The judging panel would like to make special mention of *Bubble Trouble* written by Margaret Mahy, illustrated by Polly Dunbar (Frances Lincoln Children's Books). Margaret's poem has been in print for many years and therefore not eligible for inclusion in the list. However the panel considers *Bubble Trouble* to be a treasure for New Zealand children.

The judging panel would like to make special mention of *Jack* written by Mike and Esther Fitzpatrick, illustrated by Bruce Madden (JacksBooks). For a self-published book, the design and production values are worthy of special mention.

Storylines Notable Junior fiction

Five (and a Bit) Days in the Life of Ozzie Kingsford written by Val Bird, illustrated by Rebecca Cundy (Random House)

Night Hunting written by Deborah Burnside, illustrated by Jeff Fowler (Puffin)

Big Fish, Little Fish by Melanie Drewery (Raupo)

Payback by Michelle Kelly (Scholastic)

Old Drumble by Jack Lasenby (HarperCollins)

Thornspell by Helen Lowe (Alfred A. Knopf)

Land of Promise: The Diary of William Donahue, Gravesend to Wellington, 1839-40 [My Story] by Lorraine Orman (Scholastic)

"Why I Hate School" by Michael Fatarsky by Kris Stanhope (Scholastic)

Freaky Fish written by Feana Tu'akoi, illustrated by Eleanor Meecham [Kiwi Bites] (Puffin)

Storylines Notable Young adult fiction

Juno of Paris by Fleur Beale (Random House)

The 10 PM Question by Kate De Goldi (Longacre Press)

The Tomorrow Code by Brian Falkner (Walker Books)

Scorched Bone by Vince Ford [Chronicles of Stone, Book 1] (Scholastic)

Gool by Maurice Gee (Puffin)

Shadow of the Mountain by Anna Mackenzie (Longacre Press)

Storylines Notable Non-fiction

Piano Rock: A 1950s Childhood by Gavin Bishop (Random House)

High-tech Legs on Everest by Mark Inglis with Sarah Eil (Random House)

Let's Get Art: Children Look at Contemporary New Zealand Art by Brad Irwin, illustrated by John Ward Knox (Random House)

Juicy Writing: Inspiration and Techniques for Young Writers by Brigid Lowry (Allen and Unwin)

Atoms, Dinosaurs & DNA: 68 Great New Zealand Scientists by Veronika Meduna & Rebecca Priestley (Random House)

Back and Beyond: New Zealand Painting for the Young and Curious by Gregory O'Brien (Auckland University Press)

Learn to Skateboard with Luka - Ko te Akonga ki te Papa Retireti I te Taha o Luka by Lee and Errol Petra, translation Tokikapu Peta (Raupo)

How to Make a Piupiu by Leilani Rickard (Raupo)
