

Narrative Nonfiction Genre Study

August 4, 2022, 2-4 PM

Assignment for Nature, Science, and Health

- Read two or more nonfiction books about nature, science, or health. The list of books below includes some suggestions divided by famous Chicago Museums. Try to visit different "museums" or topics, but feel free to read other titles not listed below.

Some titles to consider:

Field Museum

- *River of the gods: genius, courage, and betrayal in the search for the source of the Nile* by Candice Millard
- *Origin: a genetic history of the Americas* by Jennifer Raff
- *A brief history of everyone who ever lived: the human story retold through our genes* by Adam Rutherford
- *We are the middle of forever: Indigenous voices from Turtle Island on the changing Earth* by Various authors
- *Krakatoa: the day the world exploded, August 27, 1883* by Simon Winchester
- *The invention of nature: Alexander von Humboldt's new world* by Andrea Wulf

Adler Planetarium

- *The last stargazers: the enduring story of astronomy's vanishing explorers* by Emily Levesque
- *A Beautiful Mind* by Sylvia Nasar
- *Hidden Figures: the untold true story of four African-American women who helped launch our nation into space (young readers' edition)* by Margot Lee Shetterly
- *The Smallest Lights in the Universe* by Sara Seager (a memoir of a neurodiverse astrophysicist; it's a memoir but it's filled with talk about stars, space and how we study it)
- *Astrophysics for people in a hurry* by Neil deGrasse Tyson

Museum of Science & Industry

- *The Great Influenza* by John Barry
- *The body: a guide for occupants* by Bill Bryson
- *Invisible women: data bias in a world designed for men* by Caroline Criado-Perez
- *Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History* by Erik Larson
- *Liquid rules: the delightful and dangerous substances that flow through our lives* by Mark Miodownik
- *Thing Explainer: Complicated Stuff in Simple Words* by Randal Munroe
- *How we die: reflections on life's final chapter* by Sherwin B. Nuland.
- *Monster's Bones: The Discovery of T. Rex And How It Shook Our World* by David K. Randall
- *The stuff of life: a graphic guide to genetics and DNA* by Mark Schultz
- *Why we sleep: unlocking the power of sleep and dreams* by Matthew P. Walker.
- *The Adventures of Alexander Von Humboldt* by Andrea Wulf (Author), Lillian Melcher (Illustrator)

Brookfield Zoo & Shedd Aquarium

- *Life on the rocks: building a future for coral reefs* by Juli Berwald
- *Diary of a Young Naturalist* by Dara McAnulty (a diary of a neurodivergent teen eco activist and an avid birder. This book has so much about birds!)
- *H is for Hawk* by Helen Macdonald
- *The soul of an octopus: a surprising exploration into the wonder of consciousness* by Sy Montgomery

- *World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments* by Aimee Nezhukumatathil
- *Fuzz: when nature breaks the law* by Mary Roach
- *Bird brother: a falconer's journey and the healing power of wildlife* by Rodney Stotts
- *Rats* by Robert Sullivan

Chicago Botanic Garden & Morton Arboretum

- *Lab girl* by Hope Jahren
- *Two Trees Make a Forest* by Jessica J. Lee (a nature memoir by a Taiwanese American woman)
- *The Orchid Thief: A True Story of Beauty and Obsession* by Susan Orlean
- *Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds and Shape Our Futures* by Merlin Sheldrake
- *The food explorer: the true adventures of the globe-trotting botanist who transformed what America eats* by Daniel Stonel
- *The hidden life of trees: what they feel, how they communicate: discoveries from a secret world* by Peter Wohlleben
- *Founding Gardeners: The Revolutionary Generation, Nature, and the Shaping of the American Nation* by Andrea Wulf

Classics:

- *Flatland* by Edwin Abbott - Mathematics "classic" that is technically fiction, but not really
- *Selfish Gene* by Richard Dawkins
- *Guns, Germs, and Steel* by Jared Diamond (or *Collapse* by Jared Diamond)
- *Gorillas in the Mist* by Dian Fossey
- *Animals in Translation* by Temple Grandin
- *Gödel, Escher, Bach* by Douglas Hofstadter
- *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold
- *The Hot Zone* by Richard Preston
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot
- *Longitude* by Dava Sobel
- *The Map that Changed the World* by Simon Winchester

More authors to look at:

Diane Ackerman, David Attenborough, Rick Bass, Timothy Ferris, Richard P. Feynman, James Gleick, Jane Goodall, Stephen Jay Gould, Stephen Hawking, Sam Keen, Alan Lightman, Peter Matthiessen, Bill McKibben, Oliver Sacks, Carl Sagan, Edward O Wilson

Other places to look for titles:

- [The Ten Best Science Books of 2021](#) by Smithsonian Magazine
- [The Best Science Books of 2021](#) by Science Friday
- [Science and Nature Books](#) from GoodReads
- [20 Must-Read Books for Nature Lovers](#) from Book Riot – older
- Library Aware - Nature and Science - (bimonthly)