Great Big Science Read 2014

Children’s Books

The Weirdstone of Brisingamen
The Moon of Gomrath
Author: Alan Garner
They draw on mythology and the deep English landscape, as Susan and Colin get drawn into a battle between good and evil.

   Recommended by Alice Gorman

The Magic of Reality
Author: Richard Dawkins
Clear explanations of how we got to where we are, with some beautiful illustrations along the way.

   Recommended by Dr Allie Ford

Sophie's World
Author: Jostein Gaarder
Incredibly ambitious tour through the history of philosophy and scientific thinking with some fantastic though experiments that will make you look at the world around you with new eyes, yet amazingly kept approachable for 9-18yo with an inspiring female protagonist.

   Recommended by Dr Alan Duffy

Young Adult

Discworld Series
Author: Terry Pratchett.
There are now over 40 books in the series, they bring together, science, politics, magic and fantasy in a way that is laugh out loud funny?

   Recommended by Dr Alan Duffy

His Dark Materials: a trilogy
Author: Philip Pullman

   Recommended by Dr Alan Duffy
**Adults Books**

**Boneland**  
Author: Alan Garner  
Set around the massive Jodrell Bank telescope in England. It's about science, but also the unknown and unseen in the universe. It stuck in my head and I carried it with me for weeks after I read it. Just breathtaking.  
Recommended by Alice Gorman

**A Brief History of Almost Everything**  
Author: Bill Bryson  
Recommended by Paul Willis

**A Brief History of Time and Black Holes and Baby Universes**  
Author: Stephen Hawkins  
Recommended by Dr Alan R Duffy

**Flatland**  
Author: Edwin Abbott Abbott.  
Written 130 years ago (and before Einstein!) yet does a better job of explaining higher dimensions and curved spacetime than anything since, through picturing a world with one less dimension "Flatland".  
Recommended by Dr Alan R Duffy and Simon Pampena

**The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks**  
Author: Rebecca Skloot  
A page-turning story of how the cells of a poor black woman in 1950s America have made their way into almost every biology laboratory in the world. It reminds the reader that we can't take anything for granted, and highlights vast discrepancies between different levels of society that persist today.  
Recommended by Dr Allie Ford