



SUGGESTED READING LIST

Genetics and DNA make us who we are. As our world and community is gripped by a fearsome pandemic, we are all increasingly aware of the power of genes and the importance of genetic research. PBS Books compiled a list of books to read with your children to better understand the history of genes and DNA. In April 2020, Ken Burns Presents **The Gene: An Intimate History** – a two-part, four-hour film based on Pulitzer Prize-winning author Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee's book – was released on PBS. It weaves together science, history and personal stories for a historical biography of the human genome. Check out a companion animated series **The Gene Explained (For Those Without Microscopes)** streaming online at pbs.org/thegene; it includes seven videos (<3 minutes), which explain mysteries of how genes work, how they make us, and how they may look in the future.

The One and Only Me: A Book About Genes. <<23andMeInc. (Author) Ariana Kiloran (Illustrator)

Ages 4-8

In this book, young readers will learn how red-haired and blue-eyed Poppy became herself as she traces her unique traits through her family tree and explores the world of her genetics. Discover how your genes and the world around you can shape who you are.

The Baby Biochemist: DNA
<< Margot Alesund

Ages 2-8

Through this book, kids will learn about DNA, the molecule that makes them unique. In the book, cartoon-faced cells and molecules discover the amazing world of biochemistry.

You Share Genes With Me
<<23andMeInc. (Author) Ariana Kiloran (Illustrator)

Ages 1-5

This board book enables the youngest readers to explore DNA and genetics in a playful way through rhyme and whimsical illustration as they explore what they have in common with a monkey, a fish, a fruit fly, even each other.

Gregor Mendel: The Friar Who Grew Peas
<<Cheryl Bardone (Author) Jos. A. Smith (Illustrator)

Ages 5-9

This book explores the first geneticist Gregor Mendel. Readers will learn how Mendel developed experiments with different types of peas to discover that animals and plants inherit and pass down traits through the same process—a fundamental aspect of genetics.

Inheritance of Traits: Why Is My Dog Bigger Than Your Dog? (Show Me Science)
<<Jen Green (Author)

Ages 6-10

This fun book examines how inheritance and traits are passed down by investigating the breeding of dogs. It traces them from their ancient beginnings to how genes work.

James Watson and Francis Crick
<<Matt Annis (Author)

Ages 8-12

This book explores the lives of scientists Watson and Crick, who won the Pulitzer prize for discovering DNA. Learn about the different backgrounds of these two gifted scientists and what ultimately led them to each other in the mid-twentieth century. The author also explains about how DNA works.

To Catch A Thief: The D.N.A. Detectives
<<Dr. Mandy Hartley (Author)

Ages 8-12

This is the first children's book where the children in the story use DNA and forensic science to solve a crime. Annabelle and Harry have a pet dog Milly who goes missing. They collect clues, learn about DNA to try to find out the identity of the pet thief and bring their beloved Milly safely back home. This book is website supported with DNA, cells and forensic science activities for kids.

Rosalind Franklin: Air-Raid Warden, Scientist, Pioneer <<Michael Ford (Author) Mike Phillips (Illustrator)

Ages 8-12

This book highlights the life of trailblazing scientist Rosalind Franklin, who discovered DNA. With illustrations and timelines, this book tells of an inspiring scientist whose story often goes untold and discusses the gender inequities in science.

Germ: Fact and Fiction, Friends and Foes
<<Leslie Cline-Ransome (Author) James Ransome (Illustrator)

Ages 5-8

This informative picture book introduces young readers to helpful and harmful germs and is narrated by Sam the Salmonella, who explores the discovery of germs, the breakout of historic diseases, the invention of pasteurization, vaccination, and penicillin, as well as other details about the world of microscopic organisms

Rosalind Franklin: Unlocking DNA
<< Megan Borgert-Spaniol (Author)

Ages 8-12

In this book, readers learn about chemist Rosalind Franklin from her early career in coal research and x-ray crystallography to her groundbreaking photo that showed the structure of DNA.

National Geographic Investigates: Genetics: From DNA to Designer Dogs
<<Kathleen Simpson (Author)

Ages 8-12

This book investigates genetics, which has become a hot-button topic since the birth of Dolly, a cloned ewe in Scotland in the mid 1990s. *Genetics* brings readers the inside story and looks objectively at this fascinating modern science, exploring the Human Genome Project, stem cell research, and the National Geographic's Genographic Project.

The Stuff of Life: A Graphic Guide to Genetics and DNA

<<Mark Schultz (Author) Zander Cannon & Kevin Cannon (Illustrators)

Ages 8-12

This graphic book explains the history and science of genetics and DNA from the perspective of Bloort, who is an alien scientist whose race is threatened by disease.