



A Level Biology Reading List

- Magazines, Newspapers and journals
 - New Scientist
 - Scientific American
 - Nature
 - Science
 - Biological Sciences Review
 - British Medical Journal
 - Any scientific articles in newspapers (eg the Guardian on Wednesday)
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Books

Richard Dawkins:

- The Selfish Gene
- The Blind Watchmaker.
- Unweaving the Rainbow
- Climbing Mount Improbable
- The Ancestor's Tale

Steve Jones:

- Y: The Descent of Men
- In the Blood: God, Genes and Destiny
- Almost Like a Whale: The 'Origin of Species' Updated
- The Language of the genes

Matt Ridley:

- Genome: The Autobiography of a Species in 23 Chapters
- The Red Queen: Sex and the Evolution of Human Nature
- The Language of Genes
- Francis Crick: Discoverer of the Genetic Code
- Nature Via Nurture: Genes, Experience and What Makes Us Human

James Watson:

- DNA: The Secret of Life
- The Double Helix: Personal Account of the Discovery of the Structure of DNA

Lewis Thomas:

- The Lives of a Cell: Notes of a Biology Watcher.
- The Medusa and the Snail: More Notes of a Biology Watcher Barry Gibb: The Rough Guide to the Brain (Rough Guides Reference Titles)

Oxford research:

- Putting ticks on the map
 - Poetry in motion
 - Discovering the rainforest 'diversity police'
 - Super-materials made by silkworms
 - Defeating dengue with GM mosquitoes
 - The loneliness of the long-distance seabird
 - Balancing conservation and commerce in the world's forests
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Research videos

- The surprising uses of silk
 - Bringing back the large blue butterfly - Jeremy Thomas
 - Preserving Endangered Trees: A Chilean case study
 - Jatropha Curcas in the Global Race for Biofuels
 - Peru's Data Collectors
 - Researching the Reef: fish and coral of the Caribbean
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Websites

- <http://www.ibiblio.org/virtualcell/index.htm> – An interactive cell biology site
 - <http://www.accessexcellence.org/RC/VL/GG> – A web site showing illustrations of many processes of biotechnology
 - <http://www.uq.oz.au/nanoworld> – Visit the world of electron-microscopy
 - <http://www.dnai.org/a/index.html> – Explore the genetic code
 - <http://nobelprize.org> – Details of the history of the best scientific discoveries
 - <http://nature.com> – The site of the scientific journal
 - <http://royalsociety.org> – Podcasts, news and interviews with scientists about recent scientific developments
 - <http://www.nhm.ac.uk> – The London Natural History Museum's website with lots of interesting educational material
 - <http://www.bmj.com> – The website of the British Medical Journal
 - http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science_and_environment - The BBC news page for Science and the Environment
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Biology Film and Documentary List

- **Gattaca (1997)** - A genetically inferior man assumes the identity of a superior one in order to pursue his lifelong dream of space travel.
- **The Constant Gardener (2005)** – A widower is determined to get to the bottom of a potentially explosive secret involving his wife's murder, big business, and corporate corruption.
- **Life story (1987)**- Life Story (known as The Race for the Double Helix or Double Helix in the United States) is a 1987 TV film dramatisation of the discovery of the structure of DNA in 1953. The film was directed by Mick Jackson for the BBC's Horizon science series and won several prizes including the 1988 BAFTA TV Award as the Best Single Drama.
- **World War Z (2013)**- Former United Nations employee Gerry Lane traverses the world in a race against time to stop the Zombie pandemic that is toppling armies and governments, and threatening to destroy humanity itself.
- **Jurassic Park (1993)** - During a preview tour, a theme park suffers a major power breakdown that allows its cloned dinosaur exhibits to run amok.
- **Contagion (2011)**- Healthcare professionals, government officials and everyday people find themselves in the midst of a worldwide epidemic as the CDC works to find a cure.
- **Jane (2017)** - The life and work of the renowned primatology scientist, Jane Goodall, especially on her research about chimpanzees.
- **Blueprint (2003)** - The story of the first cloned human being - told in her own words.
- **Mission Impossible 2 (2000)** - IMF Agent Ethan Hunt is sent to Sydney, to find and destroy a genetically modified disease called "Chimera".
- **Darwin's Struggle: The Evolution of the Origin of Species (2009)** - A documentary about Charles Darwin's struggle writing his theory of evolution
- **Philadelphia (1993)**- When a man with HIV is fired by his law firm because of his condition, he hires a homophobic small time lawyer as the only willing advocate for a wrongful dismissal suit.
- **Planet Earth (2006)** - Emmy Award-winning, 11 episodes, five years in the making, the most expensive nature documentary series ever commissioned by the BBC, and the first to be filmed in high definition.
- **Blackfish (2013)** - A documentary following the controversial captivity of killer whales, and its dangers for both humans and whales.
- **The Blue Planet (2000)** - Mammoth series, five years in the making, taking a look at the rich tapestry of life in the world's oceans.
- **Dynasties (2018)** - Follow the true stories of five of the world's most celebrated, yet endangered animals; penguins, chimpanzees, lions, painted wolves and tigers. Each in a heroic struggle against rivals and against the forces of nature, these families fight for their own survival and for the future of their dynasties.
- **Life on Earth**
- **Babies: Their wonderful world (2018)** -Pediatrician Guddi Singh offers advice to parents with questions about their newborns.

- **Galapagos (2006)** - The history of these beautiful Islands from their creation as uprising lava to their being studied by Darwin to their modern day inhabitants.
- **Frozen Planet (2011)** - Focuses on life and the environment in both the Arctic and Antarctic.
- **Planet Earth 2 (2016)** - David Attenborough returns in this breathtaking documentary showcasing life on Planet Earth.
- **The truth about... (series) (2015)** - Science documentary series tackling everyday issues that affect us all.
- **Dr Gunther von Hagens, Anatomy for Beginners (series) (2005)** - Controversial anatomist Dr. Gunther von Hagens shows the beauty of the human body and shows the mysteries of our own bodies. In each episode is a human dissection, carried out by Dr. Guthur von Hagens along side him is pathologist Professor John A. Lee.
- **Gorillas in the Mist (1988)** - The story of Dian Fossey, a scientist who came to Africa to study the vanishing mountain gorillas, and later fought to protect them.
- **Temple Grandin (2010)** - A biopic of Temple Grandin, an autistic woman who has become one of the top scientists in the humane livestock handling industry.
- **Creation (2009)** - Torn between faith and science, and suffering hallucinations, English naturalist Charles Darwin struggles to complete 'On the Origin of Species' and maintain his relationship with his wife.
- **Breaking the Mould (2009)** - A historical drama that tells the story of the development of penicillin in the 1930's/40's, by a group of scientists in Oxford at The Dunn School of Pathology
- **Planet of the Apes (2001)** - In 2029, an Air Force astronaut crash-lands on a mysterious planet where evolved, talking apes dominate a race of primitive humans.
- **Children of Men (2006)** - In 2027, in a chaotic world in which women have become somehow infertile, a former activist agrees to help transport a miraculously pregnant woman to a sanctuary at sea.