

Physics Reading List with Summaries (KS3, KS4, KS5)

Note: These books are broadly considered age-appropriate for school use; however, they may contain mild thematic elements typical for their genres. Always check specific editions if you require full content vetting.

KS3

George's Secret Key to the Universe – Stephen & Lucy Hawking — Fiction

- A space adventure that introduces real scientific ideas through an exciting storyline.

The Many Worlds of Albie Bright – Christopher Edge — Fiction

- A boy uses quantum physics to search for alternate versions of his mother in parallel worlds.

Women in Science – Rachel Ignotofsky — Non-fiction

- Profiles of pioneering women scientists who shaped physics and STEM fields.

How Machines Work – David Macaulay — Non-fiction

- A visual guide explaining the workings of simple machines and mechanical systems.

KS4

The Martian – Andy Weir — Fiction

- A stranded astronaut survives using physics, engineering, and problem-solving on Mars.

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy – Douglas Adams — Fiction

- A comedic sci-fi adventure playing with space, time, and absurd physics concepts.

A Short History of Nearly Everything – Bill Bryson — Non-fiction

- A humorous overview of major scientific discoveries and the people behind them.

Storm in a Teacup – Helen Czerski — Non-fiction

- Explains everyday physics through relatable examples like popcorn, coffee, and kettles.

The Physics of Superheroes – James Kakalios — Non-fiction

- Shows real physics concepts through the lens of superhero powers.

KS5

Contact – Carl Sagan — Fiction

- A scientist uncovers a message from intelligent extraterrestrial life, blending physics and philosophy.

Flatland – Edwin A. Abbott — Fiction

- A mathematical allegory exploring dimensions beyond the familiar three.

The Elegant Universe – Brian Greene — Non-fiction

- An accessible introduction to string theory, spacetime, and modern theoretical physics.

The Disappearing Spoon – Sam Kean — Non-fiction

- Stories from the periodic table that reveal the quirks and history behind elements.

Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman! – Richard Feynman — Non-fiction

- A collection of lively anecdotes from physicist Richard Feynman's life and career.

Seven Brief Lessons on Physics – Carlo Rovelli — Non-fiction

- A concise introduction to relativity, quantum mechanics, and the nature of the universe.