Books to inspire Girls in STEM

Here are lists of books, some fiction and some non-fiction, all designed to inform, inspire and entertain girls while helping them see the future of possibilities in STEM fields.

CLICK TO SEE  AGES 5-9  AGES 8-12  AGES 12+

FOR GIRLS AGE ~ 5-9

**Cool Chemistry Activities for Girls**
by Jodi Wheeler-Toppen, PhD
Chemistry is easy when you’re having fun creating candy necklaces and stress-relieving putty.

**The Girl Who Could Dance in Outer Space – an Inspirational Tale about Mae Jemison**
by Maya Cointreau
This book tells the story of young Mae Jemison, the creative girl who became a doctor, an engineer, a dancer and an astronaut.

**Have You Thanked an Inventor Today?**
by Patrice McLaurin
This book is a journey into the often forgotten contributions of African-American inventors who have contributed to the American landscape.

**Hello Ruby: Adventures in Coding**
by Linda Liukas
This book is half picture book and half activity book that introduces programming without requiring a computer at all. It introduces kids to the fundamentals of computational thinking, like how to break big problems into small ones, create step-by-step plans, look for patterns and think outside the box through storytelling.
Marvelous Mattie: How Margaret E. Knight Became an Inventor
by Emily Arnold McCully
This book is an introduction to a prolific female inventor who created many inventions—some which are still in use today. During her life, she earned the title of “the Lady Edison.”

Look Up!: Henrietta Leavitt, Pioneering Woman Astronomer
by Robert Burleigh
Read the story of Henrietta Swan Leavitt who changed the course of astronomy when she was just twenty-five years old. She made discoveries that made it possible for astronomers to measure greater distances—leading to our present understanding of the vast size of the universe.

Rosie Revere, Engineer
by Andrea Beaty
Where some people see rubbish, Rosie Revere sees inspiration and she constructs great inventions from odds and ends. But she keeps her inventions a secret, fearful of failure, until her great-great-aunt shows her that a first flop isn’t something to fear, it’s something to celebrate.

Motion: Push and Pull, Fast and Slow (Amazing Science)
by Darlene R. Stille and Sheree Boyd
Explore early concepts of motion by learning about movement, speed, force and inertia.

Ada Lovelace, Poet of Science: The First Computer Programmer
by Diane Stanley
Read the story of Ada Lovelace who envisioned the computer-driven world a hundred years before the dawn of the digital age. In demonstrating how the machine would be coded, she wrote the first computer program and is now known historically as the world’s first computer programmer.
To the Stars! The First American Woman to Walk in Space
Carmella Van Vleet and Kathy Sullivan
Learn about Dr. Kathy Sullivan who followed her heart, became a NASA astronaut and the first women to walk in space.

FOR GIRLS AGE ~8-12

Women Who Launched the Computer Age (the “You Should Meet” series)
by Laurie Calkhoven
After years of searching, they find conclusive radio proof of intelligent aliens. Important female character: Dr. Ellie Arroway—a scientist who finds strong evidence of extraterrestrial life and is chosen to make first contact.

Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women
by Catherine Thimmesh
Read about women inventors who have invented ingenious innovations that have made our lives simpler and better. What inspired these women, and how did they turn their ideas into realities?

Hidden Figures, Young Readers’ Edition
by Margot Lee Shetterly
This is the amazing true story, written for young readers, of four African-American female mathematicians at NASA who helped achieve some of the greatest moments in the space program.

Untamed: The Wild Life of Jane Goodall
by Anita Silvey
A girl of humble beginnings and training, Jane Goodall made scientific breakthroughs thought impossible by more experienced field observers when she was only in her twenties.
BatGirl Super Hero High (Elementary/Middle school age audience)
by Lisa Yee
Batgirl is an off-the-charts super genius and tech whiz who uses her brains to become a super hero.

Women in Space: 23 Stories of First Flights, Scientific Missions and Gravity-Breaking Adventures
by Karen Bush Gibson
Women in Space profiles 23 pioneers in the space industry and their stories help demonstrate the vital role women have played in the quest for scientific understanding.

Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World
by Rachel Ignotofsky
This book highlights the contributions of fifty notable women to the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics from the ancient to the modern world.

Ada Byron Lovelace and the Thinking Machine
by Laurie Wallmark
Ada understands the first mechanical computer better than anyone else, and writes the world’s first computer program to demonstrate its capabilities.

Elizabeth Blackwell: Girl Doctor
by Joanne Henry
Read the story of the first woman doctor in the United States, who worked in England and America to open the field of medicine to women.

Project Mc2: Smart is the New Cool
by Jade Hemsworth
Meet the smartest girls in school who join a top-secret organization of super smart women and work together to complete a mission with the help of high tech gadgets, culinary chemistry and awesome teamwork.
FOR GIRLS AGE ~12+

**Girl Code: Gaming, Going Viral and Getting it Done**  
by Andrea Gonzales and Sophie Houser  
Read the true story of two teenage tech phenoms who met a Girls Who Code summer camp, teamed up to create a viral video game and ended up becoming world famous.

**Sally Ride: Life on a Mission (A Real-Life Story)**  
by Sue Macy  
Sally Ride was more than the first woman in space, she was a real-life explorer and adventurer whose life story is a true inspiration for all those who dream big.

**Headstrong: 52 Women Who Changed Science – and the World**  
by Rachel Swaby  
*Headstrong* offers some powerful examples of female role models in science whose discoveries have influenced and continue to influence our everyday lives.

**Nobel Prize Women in Science: Their Lives, Struggles, and Momentous Discoveries**  
by Sharon McGrayne  
Only 3% of the Nobel Prizes for the sciences have been awarded to women. This book explores the reasons for this astonishing disparity by examining the lives and achievements of the 15 women scientists who either won a Nobel Prize or played a crucial role in a Nobel Prize-winning project.

**Rosalind Franklin and DNA**  
by Anne Sayre  
This book aims to give credit to Rosalind Franklin for her research and central role in the discovery of the double-helix structure of DNA.
The Glass Universe: How the Ladies of the Harvard Observatory Took the Measure of the Stars
by Dava Sobel
This is the story of the hidden history of the women whose contributions to the burgeoning field of astronomy forever changed our understanding of the stars and our place in the universe.

Rise of the Rocket Girls: The Women Who Propelled Us, From Missiles to the Moon to Mars
by Nathalia Holt
This is the story about the elite group of women in the 1940s and 1950s who broke gender and science boundaries to transform rocket design and lay the groundwork for US space travel.

Magnificent Minds: 16 Pioneering Women in Science and Medicine
by Pendred E. Noyce
This book introduces the lives, sayings and dreams of sixteen women over four centuries and chronicles their contributions to mathematics, physics, chemistry, astronomy, computer science and medicine.

by Sy Montgomery
When Temple was diagnosed with autism, her mother ignored medical advice to send Temple to live in a hospital and instead sent her to school. Today, Dr. Temple Grandin is a scientist and professor of animal science at Colorado State University, and advocate for autism and her career has revolutionized the livestock industry.

Up Close: Rachel Carson
Ellen S. Levine
Rachel Carson combined her love of science and writing in her award-winning and controversial book, Silent Spring. This biography analyzes how Rachel Carson’s work contributed to a greater public understanding of the dangers of pollutants and became the impetus for the environmental movement.