**Book List -**

Agosta, William C. Bombardier Beetles and Fever Trees: A Close-Up Look at Chemical Warfare and Signals in Animals and Plants (1997) (NF)
      A book with excellent explanations of the use of chemicals in living organisms.

Agosta, William C. Thieves, Deceivers, and Killers: Tales of Chemistry in Nature (2002) (NF)
      A collection of stories woven together with the thread of chemistry -- antibiotics, enzymes in extremophiles, intricate chemical communication in insects, etc.

Alvarez, Walter T-Rex and the Crater of Doom (1998) (NF)
      A description of the evidence that links the production of the Chicxulub Crater in Mexico by  an asteroid and the extinction of the dinosaurs.

Angier, Natalie The Beauty of the Beastly (1996) (NF)
      A book of essays about organisms on which we don't normally dwell -- divided into seven  chapters entitled "Loving," "Slithering," "Dancing," "Dying," "Adapting," "Healing," and "Creating."

Angier, Natalie Natural Obsessions: Striving to Unlock the Deepest Secrets of the Cancer Cell (1999) (NF)
      The work of young scientists in the areas of molecular genetics and the genetics of cancer.

Anthony, Piers Tatham Mound (1991) (F)
      A native American story woven around skeletons unearthed in a mound discovered on a Boy Scout camp in Florida.

Asimov, Isaac Wellsprings of Life (1960) (F)
      The middle book of a set of three biochemistry books, this one deals with origin of life, molecules (including DNA), spontaneous generation, and evolution.

Asimov, Isaac Fantastic Voyage (1966) (F)
      A medical team is miniaturized and injected into a VIP's bloodstream to destroy a clot that threatens his life.

Bakker, Robert T. The Dinosaur Heresies: New Theories Unlocking the Mystery of the Dinosaurs and Their Extinction (1986) (NF)
      Support for Bakker's controversial view of dinosaurs as active, warm-blooded, intelligent beings.

Bear, Greg Darwin's Radio (1999) (F)
      Something that has slept in our genes for millions of years is waking up and accelerating human evolution.

Benchley, Peter Beast (1993) (F)
      A giant squid terrorizes Bermuda.

Benchley, Peter White Shark (1996) (F)
      Nazis fashion a creature from a man.

Benson, Ann Plague Tales (1997) (F)
      The story of two plagues that are linked despite the plagues being separated by hundreds of years.
Benson, Ann The Burning Road (1999) (F)
       The sequel to Plague Tales.

Bodanis, David The Secret House: 24 Hours in the Strange and Unexpected World in Which We Spend Our Nights and Days (1986) (NF)
      Everything we always wanted to know (or did not want to know) about the microscopic organisms that live on and around us.

Braver, Gary Elixir (paperback 2001) (F)
      A scientist stumbles onto a "fountain-of-youth" drug.

Bronowski, Jacob Science and Human Values (1999) (NF)
      Thought-provoking essays on science as an integral part of our culture.

Bryson, Bill A Short History of Nearly Everything (2003) (NF)
      Reports how humans figured out major concepts in science, from the age of the universe to continental drift to how cells work, complete with interesting dialogue from the world's most famous truth seekers.

Cannell, Stephen J. The Devil's Workshop (1999) (F)
      Prions are used as a bioweapons agent in this story by the man who directed The Rockford Files, The A-Team, and The Commish.

Card, Orson Scott Xenocide (1999) (F)
      The story of an attempt to control a highly adaptive virus on planet Lusitania.

Carroll, Sean Endless Forms Most Beautiful: The New Science of Evo Devo and The Making of the Animal Kingdom (2005) (NF)
      A look at developmental biology and its relationship to evolution; documentation of how genes that regulate embryonic development have "evolved", creating new body\patterns and better adaptations for survival.

Carson, Rachel The Sea Around Us (1951) (NF)
      Recommendations regarding the care of the oceans that are still timely more than 50 years later.

Carson, Rachel Silent Spring (1962) (NF)
      Carson's classic expose of poisons in the environment and how they accumulate in the tissues of animals.

Case, John The First Horseman (2001) (F)
      The influenza epidemic from 1918 may be released again by a bioterrorist.

Close, William T. Ebola: Through the Eyes of the People (paperback 2001) (NF)
      A documentary novel written by Glenn Close's father that chronicles the first emergence of Ebola in a Catholic mission in Zaire.

Colborn, Theo, et al. Our Stolen Future (1997) (NF)
      The impact that synthetic chemicals in the environment have on human reproduction, development, and disease.

Cook, Robin Terminal (1993) (F)
      A Harvard medical student investigates a clinic with a 100 percent cure rate for a rare cancer.

Cook, Robin Acceptable Risk (1995) (F)
      An interesting link between antidepressant drugs and the Salem witch trials.

Cook Robin Chromosome 6 (1997) (F)
      Genetic research, primate development, and cloning for transplantation.

Cook, Robin Toxin (2001) (F)
      An investigation of the beef-packaging and slaughterhouse industries and Eco 0157 infections.

Cornwell, Patricia Portrait of a Killer: Jack the Ripper Case Closed (2002) (NF)
      Cornwell uses current forensic techniques to amass evidence indicating that Walter Sickert, a well-known London artist, was Jack the Ripper.

Cousins, Norman Head First: The Biology of Hope and the Healing Power of the Human Spirit (1990) (NF)
      The author's own account of the use of humor therapy to overcome cancer.

Crichton, Michael The Andromeda Strain (1969) (F)
      A satellite returns from space with an unknown pathogenic "organism."

Crichton, Michael Jurassic Park (1990) (F)
      A new type of theme park complete with cloned dinosaurs goes awry.

Crichton, Michael Congo (1994) (F)
      An investigation of a research team attacked by an "unknown" species.

Darnton, John The Experiment (1999) (F)
      A story of cloning, genetic disease, and ethical issues.

Darnton, John Neanderthal (2001) (F)
      A group of Neanderthals is found in the present.

Darwin, Charles Origin of Species (1859) (NF)
      Darwin's original work that presented natural selection as the mechanism for evolution.

Davidson, Osha G. The Enchanted Braid: Coming to Terms with Nature on the Coral Reef (1998) (NF)
      Evaluation of the condition of Earth's coral reefs reveals that 10 percent are beyond help,and another 30 percent are in serious danger.

Dawkins, Marian Stamp Though Our Eyes Only? The Search for Animal Consciousness (1993) (NF)
      An account of what is currently known about animal consciousness.

Dawkins, Richard The Ancestor's Tale: A Pilgrimage to the Dawn of Evolution (2005 ) (NF)
      Moving backwards in time, the evolution of humans and many other organisms is traced with fossils, DNA, and comparative anatomy to "the beginnings". ("good graphics and photographs")

Dawkins, Richard The Blind Watchmaker: Why the Evidence of Evolution Reveals a Universe Without Design (1986) (NF)
      A discussion that supports Darwinism as an explanation of our existence to counter intelligent design supporters.
Dawkins, Richard The Selfish Gene, 2nd ed. (1989) (NF)
      Dawkins makes the case that our genes maintain us in order to make more genes.

Dawkins, Richard River Out of Eden: A Darwinian View of Life (1995) (NF)
      Looks at genetic and mitochondrial evidence for evolution and takes "gene's eye view" of natural selection.

Dethier, Vincent To Know a Fly (1989) (NF)
      Cartoons and humor relate stories of curiosity and the excitement of the scientific method.

Dillard, Annie Pilgrim at Tinker Creek (1998), Teaching a Stone to Talk: Expeditions and Encounters (1983) (NF)
      Collections of essays on Dillard's observations of nature.

Dixon, Bernard, ed. From Creation to Chaos: Classic Writing in Science (1989) (NF)
      A collection of writings that depict the major scientific investigations of the last 150 years.

Djerassi, Carl Cantor's Dilemma (1989) (F)
      Two scientists who win the Nobel Prize for cancer research are suspected of falsifying data.

Doyle, Rodger P. The Medical Wars (1983) (NF)
      Disease and its causes.

Dugatkin, Lee Alan Cheating Monkeys and Citizen Bees: The Nature of Cooperation in Animals and Humans (1999) (NF)
      An explanation for why animals help each other.

Eckert, Allan W. The Great Auk (1963) (F)
      A fictional but believable story about how humans contribute to the extinction of a species.

Eckert, Allan W. The Silent Sky: The Incredible Extinction of the Passenger Pigeon (1983)(NF)
      Eckert delivers a novel wrapped around man's role of the extinction of the passenger pigeon.

Ellis, Mel, et al. The Land, Always the Land (1998) (NF)
      Essays on nature -- one chapter for each month of the year.

Fairbanks, Daniel Relics of Eden: The Powerful Evidence of Evolution in Human DNA (NF)

Fossey, Dian Gorillas in the Mist (1983) (NF)
      Fossey's own story of working with gorillas in the remote African rain forest.

Franklin, Jon Molecules of the Mind: The Brave New Science of Molecular Psychology (1987) (NF)
      The link between chemical imbalances in the brain and mental illness.

Garrett, Laurie The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance (1995) (NF)
      Garrett's dissertation on emerging and reemerging diseases.

Goodall, Jane In the Shadow of Man (1983) (NF)
      Goodall's story of her work with chimpanzees.

Goodall, Jane Reason for Hope: A Spiritual Journey (1999) (NF)
      An extension of Goodall's first book with more emphasis on her philosophy.

Gould, Stephen Jay Ever Since Darwin: Reflections in Natural History (1977), The Panda's Thumb: More Reflections in Natural History (1980), Hen's Teeth and Horse's Toes (1983), The Flamingo's Smile: Reflections in Natural History (1985), Bully for Brontosaurus: Reflections in Natural History (1991), Wonderful Life: The Burgess of Shale and the Nature of History (1998), The Mismeasure of Man (1999) (NF)
      Essays on evolution and natural history.

Grace, Eric S. Biotechnology Unzipped: Promise and Realities (1997) (NF)
      Provides the basics about DNA and an explanation of genetic engineering.

Hamer, Dean Living with Our Genes: Why They Matter More Than You Think (1998) (NF)
      A look at the possible connections between our genes and our personalities, sexual orientation, high-risk behavior, etc.

Heersink, Mary E. coli 0157: The True Story of a Mother's Battle with a Killer Microbe (1996) (NF)
      A mother writes about the bacterial infection that nearly killed her son after he ingested improperly cooked hamburger on a scout trip.

Henig, Robin A Dancing Matrix: Voyages Along the Viral Frontier (1993) (NF)
      A slightly dated treatment of emerging viruses and how our behavior predisposes us to viral epidemics

Huxley, Aldous Brave New World (1932) (F)
      A provocative piece of futuristic science fiction.

Jones, Steve Darwin's Ghost (2000)(NF)
      Wonderful and easy to read, updated version of Origin of Species using Darwin's exact table of contents (and many of Darwin's original words) but replacing the 1800s examples with modern ones that support Origin's arguments concerning natural selection.

Karlen, Arno Napoleon's Glands and Other Ventures in Biohistory (1984) (NF)
      A discussion of how disease has affected human history.

Kingsolver, Barbara Prodigal Summer (2000) (F)
      Nature themes run throughout the telling of three stories set in Appalachia.

Kingsolver, Barbara  Animal, Vegetable, Miracle
      A journal dialoging her family's year of living off the land.

Kolata, Gina Flu: The Story of the Great Influenza Pandemic (2001) (NF)
      Story of how the flu virus killed 40 million people at the end of World War I, researching survivors' stories and analyzing the causes of this terrible epidemic and its legacy.

Kyle, Stephen Beyond Recall (2000) (F)
       A virus is released on the world by a bioterrorist.

Leakey, Richard, and Roger Lewin The Sixth Extinction: Biodiversity and Its Survival (1996) (NF)
      There is uncertainty about the causes of the first five mass extinctions, but man is the culprit of the present sixth mass extinction of species.

Leopold, Aldo Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There (1949) (NF)
      A series of essays on the plants and animals associated with the author's Wisconsin farm.

Leroi, Armand Marie Mutants: On Genetic Variety and The Human Body (2003) (NF)
      Relates variability to human embryology and growth; discusses race and strange genetic conditions such as those of the ostrich-footed people and conjoined twins.

Levi, Elinor and Mark Fischetti   The New Killer Diseases

Lynch, Patrick Carriers (1996) (F)
      An organism that is one hundred times more contagious than Ebola is hatching in the rainforest.

Lynch, Patrick Omega (1997) (F)
      Superbugs (bacteria resistant to all known antibiotics) are on the loose in Los Angeles, and only a superantibiotic can control them.

Lyons, Jeff Playing God in the Nursery (1985) (NF)
      A cautionary discussion about the use of extreme efforts to save premature and handicapped babies.

Maddox, Brenda Rosalind Franklin: The Dark Lady of DNA (2003) (NF)
      A very personal look at a brilliant scientist who never got the credit she deserved for her X-ray crystallographs of DNA that helped Watson and Crick solve the mystery of the double helix.

Maples, William Dead Men Do Tell Tales: The Strange and Fascinating Cases of a Forensic Pathologist (1994) (NF)
      Dr. Maples tells the stories of his strangest, most interesting, and most macabre cases.

Marion, Robert Was George Washington Really the Father of Our Country? (1994) (NF)
      Speculation on the effects that genetic disorders and disease may have had on historical characters like JFK, Lincoln, Bonaparte, etc.

Marr, John S. The Eleventh Plague (1999) (F)
      The 10 plagues of Egypt are visited on the world by a bioterrorist.

Masson, Jeffrey Moussaieff and Susan McCarthy When Elephants Weep: The Emotional Lives of Animals

Mayr, Ernst The Growth of Biological Thought: Diversity, Evolution, and Inheritance (1982) (NF)
      Discusses man's attempts to classify and understand the diversity of life forms on Earth.

Mayr, Ernst Towards a New Philosophy of Biology: Observations of an Evolutionist (1988) (NF)
      Merges the science of biology, philosophy, and evolution.
Mayr, Ernst This Is Biology: The Science of the Living World (1997) (NF)
      Traces the development of biology from ancient Greeks to age of biotechnology, weaving in relationships to history and ethics.

Mayr, Ernst What Evolution Is (2001) (NF)
      Argues evolution is not a theory but a fact -- provides evidence interesting populational evidence and ends with "How Did Mankind Evolve?"

McNamee, Gregory, ed. The Sierra Club Reader (paperback 1995) (NF)
      A collection of writings from The Sierra Club.

Mitchell, W. J. T. The Last Dinosaur: The Life and Times of a Cultural Icon (1998) (NF)
      A look at the evolving image of the dinosaur.

Moalen, Sharon Survival of the Sickest: a Medical Maverick Discovers Why We Need Disease

Mones, Paul Stalking Justice (1996) (NF)
      Mones chronicles the first time DNA fingerprinting evidence was used in the U.S. to convict  a serial murderer.

Morris, M. E. Biostrike (paperback 1996) (F)
      A runaway freighter filled with lethal bacteria must be stopped.

Nesse, Randolph M., M.D., and George C. Williams Why We Get Sick: The New Science of Darwinian Medicine (1995) (NF)
      Describes illness as important to honing our adaptations to our environment (development of fever, sneezing, etc.) and hypothesizes new ways to treat problems based on Darwinian principles.

Oldstone, Michael Viruses, Plagues, and History (1998) (NF)
      The impact of communicable diseases on history.

Oppel, Kenneth The Devil's Cure (2001) (F)
      A prison inmate may possess the cure for cancer in his blood, but getting it may be more than Dr. Laura Donaldson bargained for.

Peters, C. J., et al. Virus Hunter: Thirty Years of Battling Hot Viruses Around the World (1997) (NF)
      C. J. Peters saw most of the emerging viruses during his CDC years and lived to tell the story.

Plotkin, Mark J. Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest (1993) (NF)
      Plotkin has attempted to learn all he can about the medicinal uses of plants from South American shamans before they become extinct.

Poole, Joyce Coming of Age with Elephants: A Memoir (1996) (NF)
      The story of elephants, their habitat, and how humans endanger them.

Preston, Richard The Hot Zone (1995) (F)
      A frightening story of an Ebola outbreak.

Preston, Richard The Cobra Event (1997) (F)
      A bioterrorist story of the dispersal of genetically engineered pathogens.
Preston, Richard The Demon in the Freezer: A True Story (2002) (NF)
      The history and eradication of the small pox virus.

Quammen, David Flight of the Iguana: A Sidelong View of Science and Nature (1988) (NF)
      A collection of nature essays that originally appeared in Outdoors magazine.

Quammen, David The Song of the Dodo: Island Biogeography in an Age of Extinctions (1996) (NF)
      A study of island biogeography and how it impacts extinction and conservation.

Raup, David M. Extinction: Bad Genes or Bad Luck (1991) (NF)
      Theories on extinction.

Reichs, Kathy Deja Dead (1997), Death du Jour (1999), Deadly Decisions (2000) (F)
      Reichs is a forensic anthropologist whose main character, Temperance Brennan, is the same and who splits her time between North Carolina and Canada just like Reichs.

Restak, Richard Receptors: The Brain Has a Mind of Its Own (1994) (NF)

Rhodes, Richard Deadly Feasts: The "Prion" Controversy and the Public Health (1997) (NF)
      A look into decades of research into diseases like kuru, scrapie, and mad-cow disease.

Ridley, Matt Nature Via Nurture -- Genes, Experience & What Makes Us Human (2003)(NF)
      Explores nature versus nurture arguments, and presents emerging evidence that intricate relationships between genes and the environment make them dependent upon each other.

Roberts, Royston M. Serendipity: Accidental Discoveries in Science (1989) (NF)
      A collection of stories about accidental discoveries that have changed science.

Roueche, Berton Eleven Blue Men and Other Narratives of Medical Detection (1953) The Orange Man and Other Narratives of Medical Detection (1971) (NF)
      A collection of essays on medical disorders and their detection.

Ryan, Frank Virus X: Tracking the New Killer Plagues Out of the Present and into the Future (1997) (NF)
      A less sensationalized story of emerging and reemerging viruses than Laurie Garrett's book.

Sagan, Carl The Demon-Haunted World: Science As a Candle in the Dark (1996) (NF)
      A look at how science works and how scientific critical-thinking skills can be used in other disciplines.

Sagan, Carl, and Ann Durian Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors: A Search for Who We Are (1992) (NF)
      A look at the evolution of man starting with the Big Bang.

Sayre, Anne Rosalind Franklin and DNA (1978) (NF)
      Franklin did not live to share the Nobel prize for the discovery of DNA structure, but her contributions were invaluable.

Schlosser, Eric Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal (2001) (NF)
      A disturbing look at the empty and excess calories, unhealthy menus, and dangerous
      practices and processing that may affect those who dine at fast food restaurants.

Schreiber, Whitley, et al. Nature's End: The Consequences of the Twentieth Century (1986)(F)
      A cautionary tale of what will happen if we continue to destroy the environment at the rate we did in the twentieth century.

Shnayerson, Michael and Mark Plotkin The Killers Within:The Deadly Rise of Drug-Resistant Bacteria (2003 ) (NF)
      Focusing on staph, strep, and enteric bacteria, antibiotic resistance is explained and cautions made concerning drug overuse in both humans and livestock. Suggestions on both lessening the problems and searching for new antibiotic sources are discussed.

Silverstein, Herman Threads of Evidence (1997) (NF)
      A look at forensic technology with examples from actual cases.

Skloot, Rebecca  The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (NF)

Sykes, Brian The Seven Daughters of Eve: The Science That Reveals Our Genetic Ancestry (2001) (NF)
      How decoding mitochondrial DNA answers questions of human origins.

Vonnegut, Kurt Galapagos (1987) (F)
      A futuristic, end-of-the-world story set in the Galapagos Islands.

Wambaugh, Joseph The Blooding (1991) (F)
      A novel based on the case of the first use of DNA fingerprinting evidence in a British rape and murder investigation.

Watson, James The Double Helix (1968) (NF)
      Watson's account of the events that led to the discovery of DNA structure.

Watson, James DNA: The Secret of Life (2003) (NF)
      A history of DNA from Mendel to genome sequencing.

Weinberg, Samantha A Fish Caught in Time: The Search for the Coelacanth (2000) (NF)
      The history of the search for the coelocanth.

White, Ryan, and Ann Marie Cunningham Ryan White: My Own Story (1991) (NF)
      A biography of Ryan White, one of most famous AIDS victims.

Wills, Christopher Yellow Fever, Black Goddess: The Convolution of People and Plagues (1997) (NF)
      A look at how disease has affected history in addition to an analysis of current diseases.

Wilson, Charles Extinct (1997) (F)
      The Gulf Coast is terrorized by a megalodon, "assumed to be extinct" ancestor of the great white shark (only bigger).

Wilson, Edward O. The Diversity of Life (1992) (NF)
      A look at the loss of diversity, its effects, and some solutions.
Wimpier, Eric P. Why Geese Don't Get Obese (and We Do): How Evolution's Strategies for Survival Affect Our Everyday Lives (1998) (NF)
      Takes a look at how animals (including humans) have evolved strategies to help them survive.

Zimmer, Carl At the Water's Edge: Fish with Fingers, Whales with Toes, and How Life Came Ashore and Went Back to Sea (1998) (NF)
      The history of vertebrate evolution with elaborate examples.

Zimmer, Carl Parasite Rex: Inside the Bizarre World of Nature's Most Dangerous Creatures (2000) (NF)
      A thorough look at parasites.

Zimmer, Carl Evolution: The Triumph of an Idea (2001) (NF)
      A history of evolution for the layperson.

Zimmerman, Barry E. Killer Germs: Microbes and Diseases That Threaten Humanity (1996) (NF)
      A graphic treatment of emerging and reemerging diseases.