

# KS5 Reading List for Chemistry

Enhanced Reading list	Author
<p><b>The Disappearing Spoon</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>This book tells the fascinating history of the periodic table and its elements, with engaging anecdotes about the scientists and stories behind the discovery of each element. It's full of quirky, fun, and informative tales that make chemistry feel alive and exciting.</li></ul>	Sam Kean
<p><b>The Periodic Table</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Written by the chemist and Holocaust survivor Primo Levi, this is a poetic and introspective exploration of the elements. Each chapter is a meditative reflection on a different element, blending science with personal narrative and historical context.</li></ul>	Primo Levi
<p><b>Napoleon's Buttons: How 17 Molecules Changed History</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>This book explores the role of 17 different molecules in shaping history, such as how certain chemicals have influenced war, food, and human health. It's an engaging way to understand the real-world significance of chemistry.</li></ul>	Penny Le Couteur and ay Burreson
<p><b>The Chemical Choir</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A historical novel that combines chemistry with adventure, this book explores the quest for the philosopher's stone in alchemy, offering a historical and scientific journey through early chemistry and its mysterious pursuits.</li></ul>	Frank Krötzel
<p><b>The Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A gripping nonfiction book that reads like a mystery novel. It focuses on the development of forensic chemistry and the role of early chemists in solving crimes during the Prohibition era in New York. It's a great blend of chemistry, history, and crime-solving.</li></ul>	Deborah Blum
<p><b>The Elements: A Visual Exploration of Every Known Atom in the Universe</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Though not a novel, this book uses stunning photography and narrative-style descriptions to explore the elements of the periodic table. It's visually engaging and helps to make chemistry more accessible by telling the story of each element.</li></ul>	Theodore Gray
<p><b>The Man Who Loved Only Numbers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>While primarily a biography of mathematician Paul Erdős, this book touches on the importance of chemistry and science in general, with engaging narratives about how mathematics and chemistry intersect, especially in the realm of numbers and molecular structures.</li></ul>	Paul Hoffman

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Invisible Man</b></p> <p>A classic science fiction novel that explores themes of scientific experimentation, chemistry, and its ethical implications. While not directly about chemistry in the academic sense, it provides thought-provoking material on the consequences of scientific discovery.</p>	<p><b>H.G. Wells</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A Beautiful Mind</b></p> <p>This biography of mathematician John Nash delves into the mind of a genius and touches upon the role of mathematics and chemistry in the world of theoretical science, offering valuable insights into the interdisciplinary nature of scientific discovery.</p>	<p><b>Sylvia Nasar</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Death of Grass</b></p> <p>A post-apocalyptic novel that explores a world where a virus destroys all grass, affecting the food chain and making chemistry crucial for survival. It's a thought-provoking read on the potential consequences of scientific discoveries when misused or uncontrolled.</p>	<p><b>John Christopher</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Alchemist</b></p> <p>While more philosophical than scientific, this novel offers metaphors and lessons that draw heavily on the concept of transformation, a fundamental idea in chemistry. The quest for the philosopher's stone also ties into historical alchemy, making it a symbolic read for chemistry students.</p>	<p><b>Paulo Coelho</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Andromeda Strain</b></p> <p>A gripping science fiction novel about a deadly extraterrestrial microorganism that threatens humanity. The novel touches on biochemistry, molecular biology, and the ethics of scientific experimentation, making it a fascinating read for chemistry students interested in the application of science in real-world scenarios.</p>	<p><b>Michael Crichton</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Man Who Knew Infinity</b></p> <p>This biography of Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan not only explores his life but also touches on his contributions to mathematical theories that intersect with chemistry and physics. It's an inspiring look at the interdisciplinary nature of scientific work.</p>	<p><b>Robert Kanigel</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Sea Around Us</b></p> <p>This classic book focuses on the chemistry and biology of the sea, explaining scientific phenomena through narrative and storytelling. Carson's exploration of nature will help students see the role of chemistry in the environment and the world around us.</p>	<p><b>Rachel Carson</b></p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lab Girl</b></p> <p>A memoir by a geobiologist, this book blends science and personal narrative, discussing the author's experiences in the lab and her passion for science. It provides an intimate look at the life of a scientist and the chemistry of plants and the environment.</p>	<p><b>Hope Jahren</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Science of Writing Characters: Using Psychology to Create Compelling Fictional Characters</b></p> <p>Although this book is not specifically about chemistry, it uses scientific principles from psychology, which intersect with chemistry in understanding human behavior. It's an excellent resource for students interested in exploring how science and character development can be tied together.</p>	<p><b>Kira-Anne Pelican</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Secret Life of the Periodic Table: Unlocking the Mysteries of All 118 Elements</b></p> <p>This book tells the story of each element in the periodic table in a fun and engaging way, blending historical anecdotes, chemistry, and personal stories behind the discoveries.</p>	<p><b>Ben Still</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Alchemist's Daughter</b></p> <p>A historical fiction novel about a young woman in 18th-century England who gets involved in her father's alchemy experiments. The novel incorporates chemistry and alchemy, focusing on both the scientific and personal aspects of these fields.</p>	<p><b>Katharine McMahon</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</b></p> <p>A compelling and tragic biography of Henrietta Lacks, whose cancer cells were used for scientific breakthroughs in cell biology and chemistry. This book is a mix of science, ethics, and human experience, perfect for students interested in the intersection of chemistry with medicine and ethics.</p>	<p><b>Rebecca Skloot</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The God Particle: If the Universe Is the Answer, What Is the Question?</b></p> <p>While focused on physics, this book provides fascinating insights into the nature of atoms and the particles that make up the universe, with strong connections to the fields of chemistry and the search for fundamental understanding in science.</p>	<p><b>Leon Lederman and Dick Teresi</b></p>
<p><b>Revision Guides</b></p>	<p><b>Author</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OCR A-Level Chemistry Textbook (Cambridge)</b></p> <p>This is the official textbook that covers all aspects of the OCR specification, with clear explanations, practice questions, and exam-style questions. It's well-structured and easy to follow.</p>	<p><b>Lawrie Ryan, Richard Parsons, and John Atkinson</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chemistry A-Level: OCR A Student Book (Oxford University Press)</b></p> <p>This textbook is another comprehensive resource for the OCR A-Level syllabus, providing in-depth explanations of concepts and a wide range of practice problems.</p>	<p><b>Rob Ritchie and Paul Ingram</b></p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chemistry for A-Level</b></p> <p>This revision guide is tailored specifically for OCR A-Level Chemistry, offering concise explanations, diagrams, and practice questions with answers. It's ideal for both revising and reinforcing content.</p>	<b>GCP</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OCR A-Level Chemistry Revision Guide</b></p> <p>This guide is an excellent resource for revision and includes exam-style questions, tips, and summaries of key concepts. It's great for quick revision before exams.</p>	<b>GCP</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chemistry: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford University Press)</b></p> <p>This book provides a brief yet insightful look at the key ideas in chemistry, perfect for students who want to develop a deeper understanding of the subject.</p>	<b>Peter Atkins</b>