Dear Mr. Blueberry by Simon James: Emily has found that a whale has taken up residence in her family’s fish pond. Wanting to find out more information on whales, she writes to her teacher for guidance. This would be a great mentor text to inspire similar writing tasks with a scientific slant. Call Number: 823 J34D43

On a Beam of Light: the story of Albert Einstein by Jennifer Berne: A picture book biography of the great physicist. Read this to your class to inspire a sense of discovery and questioning mindset in students. Call Number: 530 B37

I wonder by Annaka Harris: Another great resource to help inspire inquiry, curiosity, and wonder in our students. It reads as a conversation between a child and her mother about the mysteries and wonder of the world around them. Call Number: 823 H36975 I96

Manfish: a story of Jacques Cousteau by Jennifer Berne: A beautifully illustrated picture book biography. Use this to encourage students to explore, understand and make a positive change in our world. See the notes at the end of the book! Call Number: 551.46 B47

If ...: a mind-bending new way of looking at big ideas and numbers by David J. Smith: This is a must for the classroom library – and would be an excellent addition to a TOC teacher’s bag of tricks. Encourage students to look at the world through a scaled lens. Includes a note to teachers at the back. Call Number: 500 S658

Star stuff: Carl Sagan and the mysteries of the cosmos by Stephanie Roth Sisson: Another excellent picture book biography. It might be fun to use all three listed here as mentor texts for students to write biographies, or their own autobiographies as young scientists. Call Number: 520 S363
A note about this list from Carol Nahachewsky

This collection showcases ten of my favourite picture books to inspire young scientists. Some of these include biographies of famous scientists (*On a beam of light; Star stuff; Manfish*), while others are written as a conversation between a curious child and adult (*Dear Mr. Blueberry; I wonder*). Included are two resources with an engineer’s ethos (*The most magnificent thing; Rosie Revere Engineer*) – these beautifully depict the importance of creativity in science as well as the need for perseverance to overcome frustration when things don’t always go as planned.

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