

About Jacqueline Houtman

Jacqueline Houtman has studied the sense of smell in rats, cholesterol in rabbits, the chicken immune system, and a virus that paralyzes mice. That last one earned her a PhD in Medical Microbiology and Immunology from The University of Wisconsin-Madison. Since leaving the lab in 1996, she had been a freelance science writer, covering topics ranging from cancer to asthma to jackalopes.

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The Reinvention of Edison Thomas

(Front Street/Boyds Mills Press)

Tofte/Wright Award for Children's Literature

Cited for Outstanding Achievement by the WLA
Read On Wisconsin!

Kansas State Reading Circle
NYSRA's Charlotte Award Suggested Reading List
Charlie May Simon Award Reading List
Garden State Children's Book Award Reading List
CCBC Choices

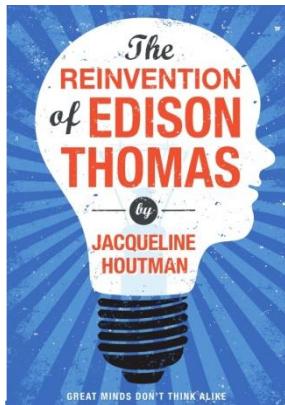
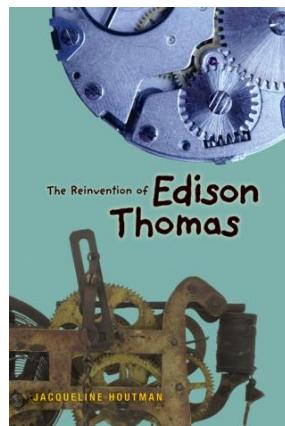
* **starred review** "...this book deserves a place on every elementary and middle school shelf." *Library Media Connection*

"The author. . . lets her love of science shine through Eddy." *GeekDad (wired.com)*

"...The author has a particularly engaging way of tracking Eddie's thought processes" *Kirkus Reviews*

"...the quirky humor and authentic characters should have wide appeal." *Publishers Weekly*

"Sprinkled with science facts . . . the narrative will have readers cheering for the misfit kid." *The Horn Book Guide*



Sciency Fiction: Not Just the Facts



Jacqueline Houtman, PhD

Freelance Science Writer

Award-Winning Children's Novelist

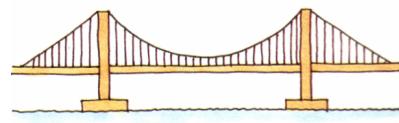
Science is a way of thinking much more than it is a body of knowledge.

---Carl Sagan

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What is Sciency Fiction?

I like science,
but I don't
like novels



I like a good
story, but I don't
like science class

Sciency Fiction is fiction in which accurate, non-speculative current science is integral to the story. It can be a bridge to fictional narrative for those students who read primarily non-fiction and a bridge to science for those who prefer novels.

I highly recommend Ms. Houtman as a presenter. Her presentation was the most engaging of any book talk I have heard.

Paula Bauch, Teacher
Randall Elementary School
Madison, WI

Whether it's nuclear physics or ecology, astronomy or botany, these books make science an integral part of a compelling story, satisfying both avid lovers of science and ravenous readers of novels.

Because they are not speculative, like science fiction, they needed a new label, so Jacqueline Houtman calls them "Sciency Fiction."

Jacqueline shares some of her favorite sciency fiction titles. She shows how authors include science in their novels through setting, characters, plot, theme and metaphor and suggests ways to use sciency fiction in the classroom.

We need more programs like this! Our kids were engaged and excited by Dr. Houtman's presentation. She did an awesome job getting them interested in reading and science in one swoop!

Beth Carreno, Education Coordinator
Bookworm Gardens, Sheboygan, WI

Science is more than facts

Characters in sciency novels for children may not call themselves scientists, but many think and act like scientists.

They're smart, inquisitive, and observant.

They make connections and draw conclusions.

They use scientific method (even if they don't call it that).



I learned so much about children's literature related to science. Now I am always on the "lookout" for new sciency fiction to share with students!

Jean Elvekrog, Librarian
Waunakee, WI