LITERATURE CONNECTIONS

There are many books that can complement your visit to World of Speed — or just be enjoyed on their own. The following are some books that we recommend for students to help them discover the beauty, creativity, importance, and history of vehicles, learn about science and technology, and more. If there are resources that you have used in the classroom that focus on cars, innovation, engineering, or STEM topics in general, please feel free to share them with us at education@worldofspeed.org.

PRE-K – GRADE 1

**Amazing Machines: Cool Cars**
By Tony Milton
A picture dictionary in rhyming prose, this book identifies car parts and builds vocabulary to make learning about cars even more fun.

**Hot Rod Hamster**
By Cynthia Lord
An endearing, rhythmic, rip-roaring race to the finish line, where a hamster creates a sizzling hot rod with a little help from his new furry friends — and you! Provides ample opportunities for interactivity with students.

**Richard Scarry’s Cars and Trucks and Things That Go**
By Richard Scarry
As the pig family heads to the beach for a picnic, they encounter every vehicle known, from the forklift to the locomotive, and many vehicles that are not quite as common, like the pumpkin car or the broom-o-cycle. Detailed drawings provide tremendous opportunity to make up stories and describe situations.

**The Kids’ Book of Simple Machines: Cool Projects and Activities That Make Science Fun!**
By Kelly Doudna
Wheel and axle, wedge, and screw; lever and pulley and inclined plane, too! Through exciting science projects and activities kids can easily do at home or school, tomorrow’s scientists and engineers will have a blast learning about simple machines and how they make daily life easier.

GRADES 2–3

**Car Science**
By Richard Hammond
Physics comes alive with this user-friendly science book featuring kids’ favorite cars and containing experiments that readers can try at home or in the classroom.

**How Cars Work: The Interactive Guide to Mechanisms That Make a Car Move**
By Nick Arnold
Kids’ passion for cars has always run fast and furious, and this interactive book and kit gives enthusiastic young gearheads the opportunity to build the essential parts of a car easily and independently.
If I Built a Car
By Chris Van Dusen
Jack has designed the ultimate fantasy car. Inspired by zeppelins and trains, Cadillacs and old planes, with brilliant colors and lots of shiny chrome, this far-out vision is ready to cruise! Bold and imaginative, this book connects well to engineering and design.

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Tia Isa Wants a Car
By Meg Medina
A simple, genuine story about keeping in mind those who are far away as Tia Isa and her niece begin a quest to save money to purchase a car for a family trip. The book is written in lyrical prose and highlights the ability a car has to bring people together and create memories.

Amazing Cars for Kids
By Melissa Ackerman
Did you know that the Lamborghini cars are named after fighting bulls? More trivia and fascinating information about cars is featured in this book, which is especially made for young learners. Great images!

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GRADES 6–8

Drive! Henry Ford, George Selden and the Race to Invent the Auto Age
By Lawrence Goldstone
A true story of the birth of the American automotive industry, focusing on the innovation and competition of the visionaries and financiers — and even the hustlers and swindlers — who created the industry, and who still impact work being done today.

How Cars Work
By Tom Newton
An illustrated guide to 250 car parts that are vital to making a vehicle operational. Great for exploring systems and parts of systems.

Lyn St. James: An Incredible Journey
By Lyn St. James
World speed records, racing wins, crashes, and failures — racing icon Lyn St. James has experienced it all. She raced in the Indy 500 seven times, was awarded the Indy Rookie of the Year in 1992 and was named one of the top 100 female athletes of the 20th Century by Sports Illustrated for Women. This autobiography tells Lyn’s story and the incredible journey it’s been for this female trailblazer.

The Car
By Gary Paulsen
Neglected by his parents, fourteen-year-old Terry Anders manages to assemble a car kit by himself. When the car is finished, Terry sets off from Cleveland to Portland in search of an uncle he barely remembers. Along the way, he is joined by a wise Vietnam vet who turns his journey into an adventure in learning. NOTE: Reader’s Guide available.

GRADES 9–12

How Cars Work
By Tom Newton
An illustrated guide to 250 car parts that are vital to making a vehicle operational. Great for exploring systems and parts of systems.

Car: The Definitive Visual History of the Automobile
By DK
The book traces the history of the automobile, from the first prototypes to the supercars of today, covering the technological developments and the enduring impact the car has had on society for curiosity, luxury, and necessity.

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Ingenious: A True Story of Invention, Automotive Daring, and the Race to Revive America
By Jason Fagone
The book follows four teams who are competing for a $10 million prize for engineering a safe, mass-produced car that can travel 100 miles on the energy equivalent of one gallon of gasoline!

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