

# Science Literacy at Hoboken Charter School

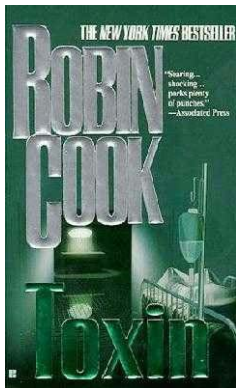
September 2009

Welcome to the Science Department for the Calendar Year 2009-2010!

*Each year, all of the science courses read two novels related to science in a continuing effort to promote literacy and to underscore the use of science in popular fiction. As this program begins its third year, we will be reading two novels in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Anatomy/ Physiology. Students will be given chapter assignments on a bi-weekly basis and will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of the story line and will be required to debate the veracity and probability of all of the events depicted.*



Airframe, by Michael Crichton is a novel about the manufacture and operation of complex machines, most notably, jet airplanes. Dr. Crichton (he is a medical doctor) uses real information about how the body of an airplane is made and how the parts of this body make the airplane move. The book begins with an in-flight disaster and continues to explore why it happened and where the fault lies. Although the book contains much technical data regarding the computer systems which run airplanes, the excitement builds as the main protagonist faces threats from unknown sources as she tries to find out why the airplane reacted in a deadly manner during its flight.



Robin Cook, like Michael Crichton, is a medical doctor who has written a novel. His novel, Toxin, focuses on the meat packing industry and the possible use of contaminated beef in the making of prepackaged hamburger meat. His scenario regarding an illness which is spread by the improper cooking of a hamburger will have you checking all of the fast food you eat for years to come. Death and intrigue round out this fast paced novel which has real science at its core.