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Marie Curie: A Brilliant Life

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MacLeod, Elizabeth. *Marie Curie: A Brilliant Life*. Kids Can Press, 2004. ISBN 155337570X. \$14.95. 32 pp.

Reviewer: Betsy Spackman

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Informational Books;

Subject: Curie, Marie, 1867-1934-Juvenile literature; Chemists-Poland-Biography-Juvenile literature; Book-Reviews;

After a brief introduction, this engaging book outlines the major events and scientific discoveries in the life of Marie Curie. MacLeod chronicles Marie's life as she grew up in Poland and worked her way to the Sorbonne in Paris where she received her university education. The text includes information about Marie's health and personal life as well as her scientific work on radioactivity and radium. The author concludes by describing Marie's long-term contributions to science and medicine, including a timeline of Marie's life. The book features a variety of photographs of Marie and her family, the Curies' laboratories, and Marie's lab notebooks.

This biography about one of the world's greatest scientists is well-written and understandable, and reaches a satisfying balance between describing Marie's life and her science. Quotes and photographs help the reader become acquainted with Marie Curie as a person, not just a scientist. For example, readers learn that Marie ate mostly radishes and bread while attending the Sorbonne, because everything else was too expensive. This engrossing book will inspire the scientists of the future.