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Mesmerized: How Ben Franklin Solved a Mystery that Baffled All of France

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Book Review

Title: Mesmerized: How Ben Franklin Solved a Mystery that Baffled All of France

Author: Mara Rockliff

Illustrator: Iacopo Bruno

Reviewer: Aylea Stephens

Publisher: Candlewick Press

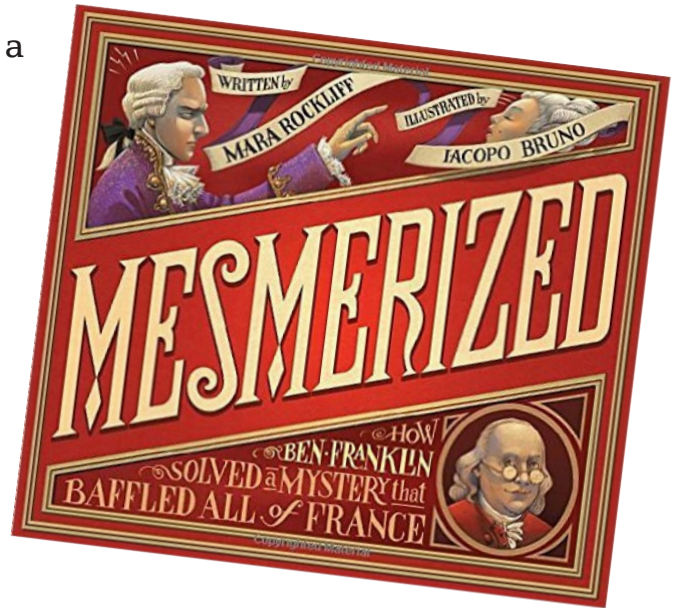
Publication Year: 2015

ISBN: 9780763663513

Number of Pages: 48

Interest Level: Primary

Rating: Outstanding



Review

When the American Revolution was going strong, Benjamin Franklin went to France to charm Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette into sending help to the Americans fighting the war. When he arrived, the Parisians were obsessed with the idea of science and a man named Dr. Mesmer. Dr. Mesmer was flamboyant and mysterious, making impossible things happen and curing people of their diseases. Some people wondered if all the people were being fooled. Ben used the scientific method to discover what the secrets were behind Dr. Mesmer's act and managed to get help from the French government to assist in winning the war.

This educational book is brilliantly illustrated and cleverly explained. There are explanations of the history of the time, the steps of the scientific method, and a section after the story to explain more about the events described in the book. This book is an excellent introduction to a key part of American history and how the scientific method can be used to disprove things scientifically. Teachers will love having this resource to show their students these concepts with the beautiful illustrations, and young science lovers will enjoy this true story about how Benjamin Franklin used science to help save America and stop people from being fooled.