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Lives of the Scientists: Experiments, Explosions (and What the Neighbors Thought)

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Book Review

Title: Lives of the Scientists: Experiments, Explosions (and What the Neighbors Thought)

Author: Kathleen Krull

Illustrator: Kathryn Hewitt

Reviewer: Aylea Stephens

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers

Publication Year: 2013

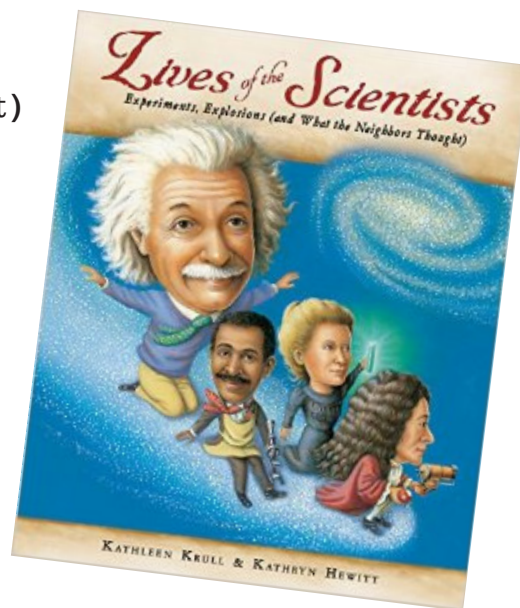
ISBN: 9780152059095

Number of Pages: 96

Interest Level: Primary

Rating: Excellent

Review



Scientists have made discoveries that change our world, but they were also real people who irritated their neighbors and had favorite foods. The book details lives of scientists Zhang Heng, Ibn Sina, Galileo, Isaac Newton, William and Caroline Herschel, Charles Darwin, Louis Pasteur, Ivan Pavlov, George Washington Carver, Marie Curie, Albert Einstein, Edwin Hubble, Barbara McClintock, Grace Murray Hopper, Rachel Carson, Chien-Shiung Wu, James D. Watson and Francis Crick, and Jane Goodall. In each short biography, it shows an illustration of the scientist, details what contributions that scientist made to the world, and interesting things about them that will interest readers and remind them that scientists are real people too.

This is an excellent resource to introduce children to the accomplishments of several scientists while also showing how human they were. It talks about amusing things like how Galileo was lectured by the Roman Inquisition for disrespecting his mother and how Albert Einstein collected joke books. It includes several minorities, with 7 biographies being about women and 5 of the scientists were not Caucasian. Some of the scientists are well-known, but Krull also includes ancient scientists that aren't as famous. The details about their accomplishments and the emphasis on what these men and women were like as people will help children be interested in scientists in ways they might not have been before.