

GRAPHIC  
BIOGRAPHY

# Marie Curie



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# Saddleback's Graphic Biographies



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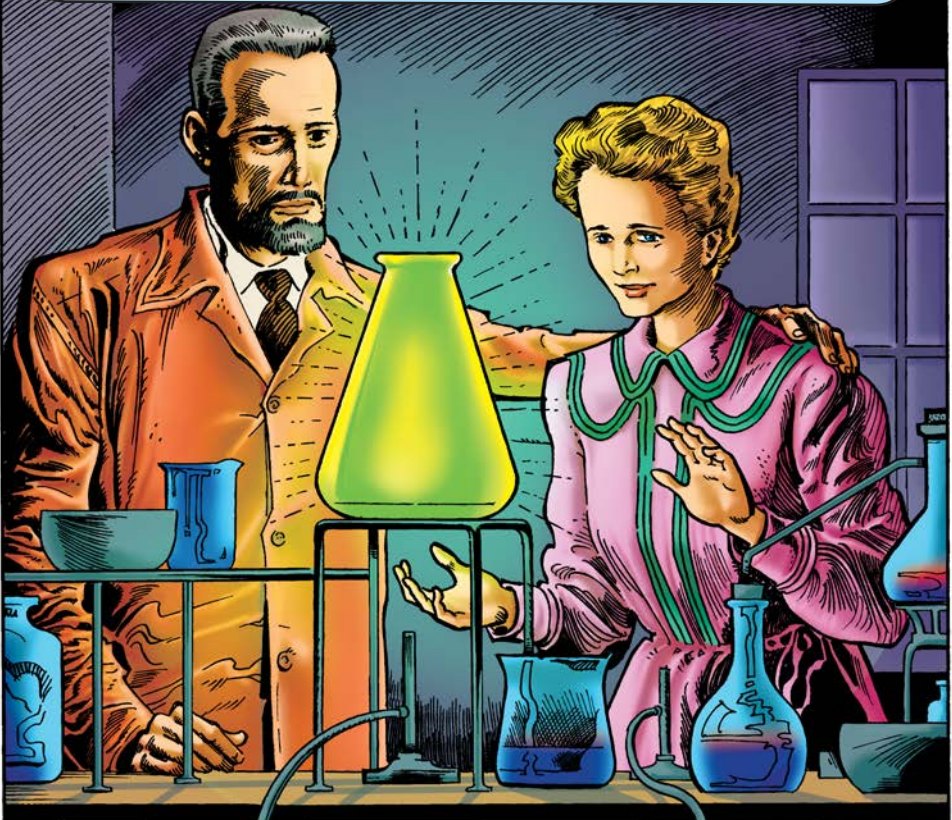
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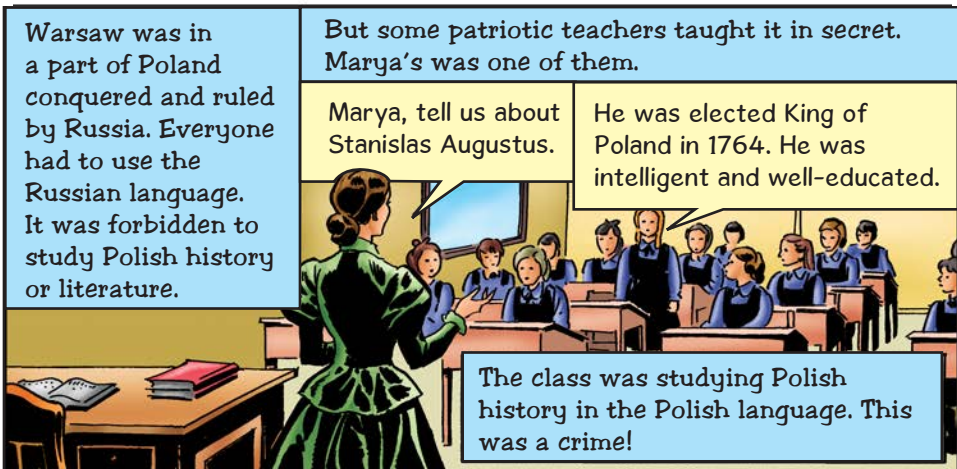
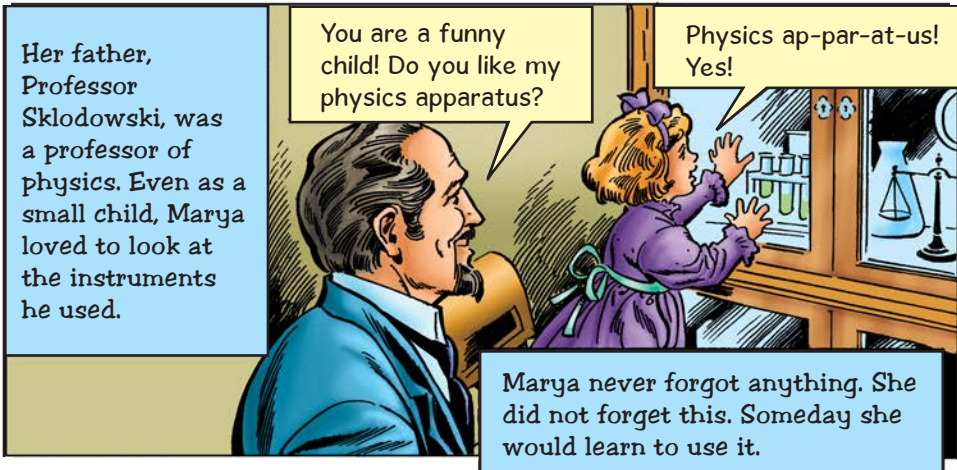




On a May night in 1902, in Paris, Marie and Pierre Curie went to the old shed where Marie had spent many years of hard work. In the darkness, they saw a beautiful light. No one had ever seen it before. It was the glow of radium.



Marie Curie, the discoverer of radium, was the first great woman scientist—and the first person ever to win two Nobel prizes. She gave the world a new branch of science and a new medical treatment.





Suddenly a bell rang. The class froze.

The signal!  
Quick, girls!



Four girls ran along the aisles collecting books and papers.



They ran with them to another room.



Get out your sewing!

They returned to their seats as the door opened. It was the headmistress with the Russian school inspector.

This is a sewing class. While the girls work, I read them Russian fairy tales!

H'm ... I see.



The inspector opened one desk lid. He found nothing.



I want to question one of your pupils.

Very well. Marya Skłodowska, please stand.

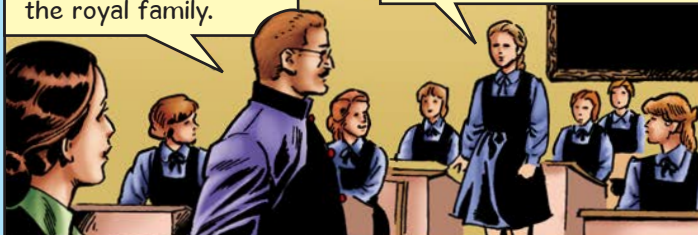


Marya had prayed not to be called on, but she always was. She spoke perfect Russian and was the best student, though also the youngest.

Now she answered perfectly the inspectors many questions.

Name the tsars who have reigned since Catherine II. Tell the names and titles of the royal family.

Paul I, Alexander I, Nicholas I, Her Majesty the Empress, His Imperial Majesty ...



Later, Professor Skłodowski was given a much poorer job. Marya talked to her older sister, Bronya.

I've won a scholarship to the high school. Should I go there? It is a Russian school. They are our bitter enemies!

Of course you should go!



The Russians want to keep us ignorant. We must learn everything we can! And you most of all because you are so smart!





So Marya went to the high school. And in June of 1883, there were graduation ceremonies.



The gold medal for the best student goes to Marya Skłodowska!

Her father was very proud.

We have many relatives in the country who want you to visit them. You must spend the next year enjoying yourself!

But papa, I expected to go to work!



You are only fifteen years old. You spent most of your life studying hard! Now you must have fun!



So Marya went visiting. Her aunts stuffed her with good food. Her uncles taught her to ride horseback. Her cousins took her to parties.

Look, tonight I danced through the soles of my shoes!



Wait until there is a kulig,\* you will dance for two days and nights!

\* kulig, an old Polish winter tradition sleigh ride party moving from house to house



Then the night of a kulig came. The girls in their costumes climbed into sleighs. Their escorts rode beside them.



They rode from village to village, where other sleighs joined them. Musicians rode in front, playing as they went.



Here and there at a big house they stopped, were greeted with trays of food, and danced.



But the kulig ended at last. And so did Marya's wonderful holiday. In September she returned to Warsaw.

I want to earn my living helping you to study medicine.

You are a dear, but how will you earn this money?



I have written out these cards to send out: *Lessons in arithmetic, geometry, French, by young lady with diploma.*



But not many people wanted lessons. And those who did made it hard for Marya.

My son needs a tutor. You are much too young.



Sonny needs reading lessons, but he doesn't want them.

Yaaaa! I won't learn to read. So there!

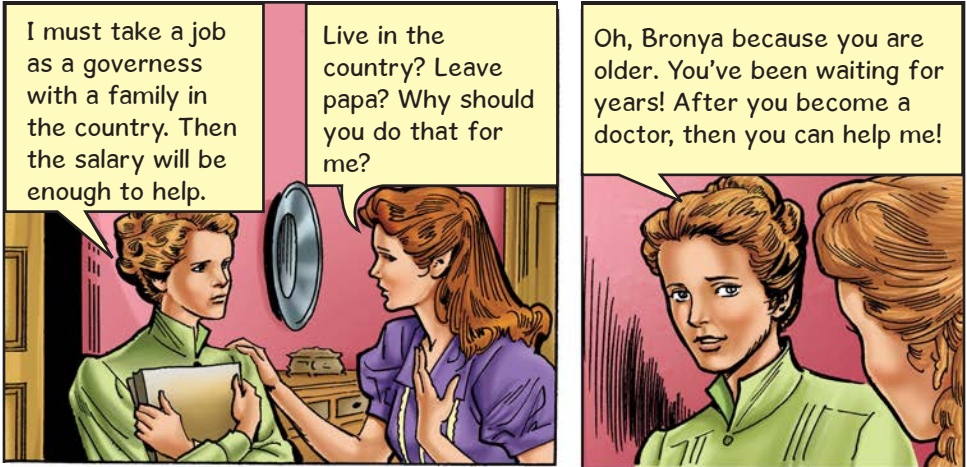


I forgot to ask my husband for your money. I'll surely have it for you next week.



She seemed to spend her time tramping around Warsaw in bad weather. She made very little money.



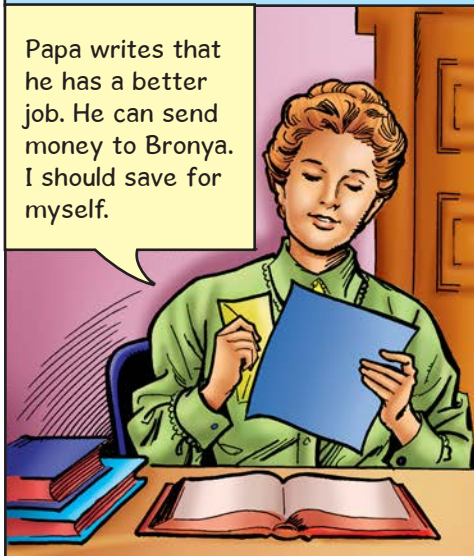






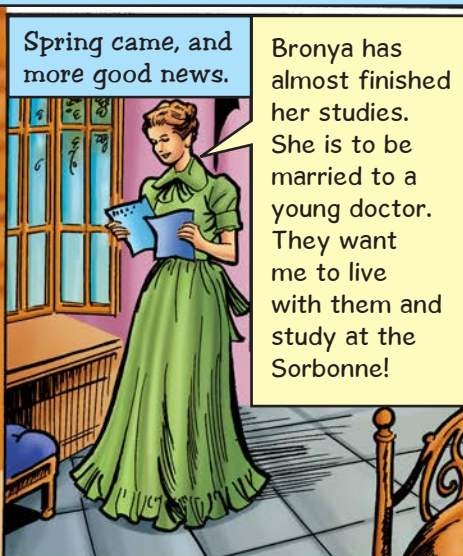
For three years, Marya worked with her pupils. In her spare time she studied. Whatever books she could find on physics, mathematics, and chemistry. When she had almost given up hope, things began to change for the better.

Papa writes that he has a better job. He can send money to Bronya. I should save for myself.



Spring came, and more good news.

Bronya has almost finished her studies. She is to be married to a young doctor. They want me to live with them and study at the Sorbonne!



It is too late for me. I am too stupid. Too many years have passed.



But at least she could return to Warsaw. She took a new job with a family there. She saw her father often. And in the evenings she visited a cousin.

The Museum of Industry and Agriculture! That sounds very important!



That is only to fool the Russians! The important thing is our small laboratory back here!

