Sisters in Science
Discussion Guide
Grades Pre-K – 3rd

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- This book tells the true story of sisters Marie and Bronia as they support each other and create their own paths in science. Help your students activate prior knowledge, build curiosity, and set a purpose for reading by having them complete the *Sisters in Science* Anticipation Guide before you begin reading.
- Introduce vocabulary: atoms, chemistry, radiation, X-ray machine

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- Why did Marie and Bronia have to teach themselves? How were they able to teach themselves?
- What is the Flying University? Why did their school need to be a secret?
- How did Marie and Bronia help each other attend university?
- What did Marie study in Paris? What did she learn about atoms?
- Who was Pierre Curie?
- What did Marie Curie discover about radiation?
- What elements did Marie and Pierre discover?
- How do you think Marie Curie felt when she won the Nobel Prize? Use details to explain your thinking.
- How did both Marie and Bronia help soldiers in Poland?
- What do you think the author means that Marie and Bronia are one of the world's best examples of the power of science and the power of sisters?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- In this book, real life sisters Marie and Bronia help each other to get an education and achieve their dreams during a time when it was challenging for girls and women to go to school. Build connections by asking your students if they have any siblings and how they help one another.
- The text is a narrative nonfiction, help your students analyze how and why individuals develop and interact over time with RIF's Time= Parts graphic organizer.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books about women in STEM such as *The Girl Who Thought in Pictures* or *Counting on Katherine*.