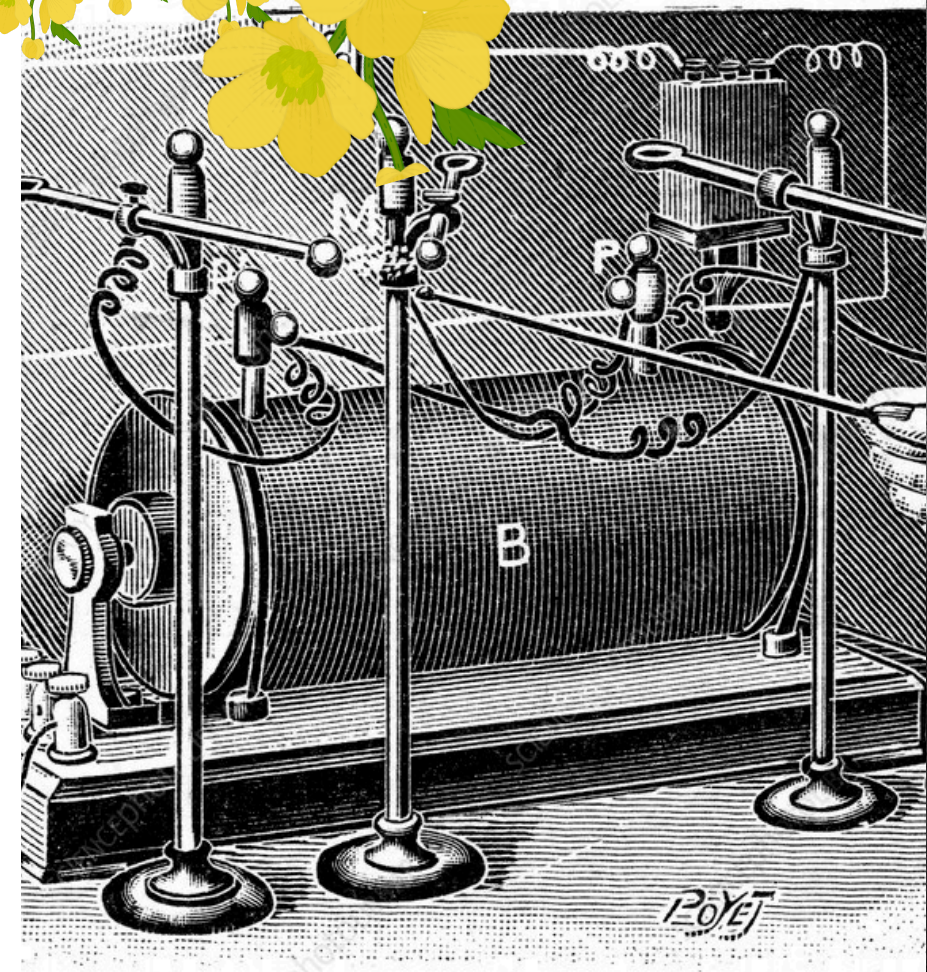
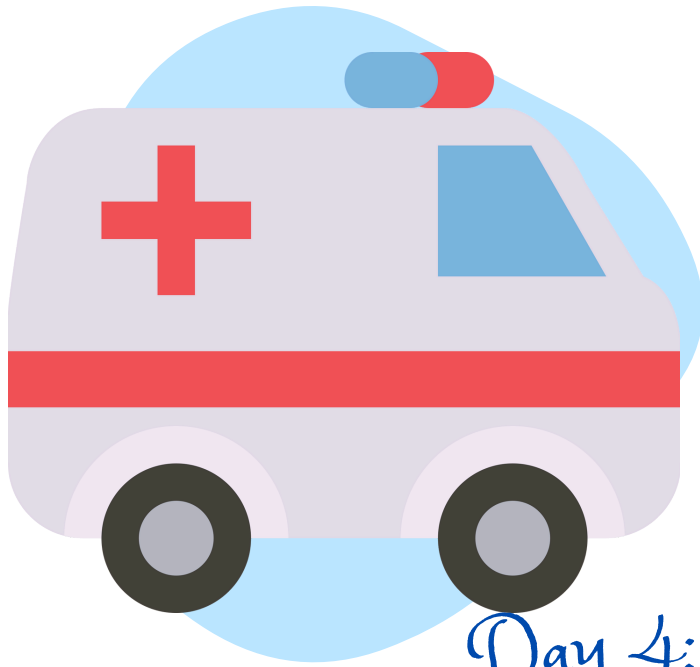


Day 4: Family





Day 4: Family

Marie and Pierre Curie Interactive Story Ideas!



Background scene:

Play this video muted in the background on a big screen, smart board, or laptop. Paris 1900 in color, Exposition Universelle [60fps, Remastered] w/sound design added: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqIFMdiSH3k>).



Storytelling Role-Play: 1-5 sand dollars each

(2 Students to help cut out props and 6 students to role play)

Ask for 2 boy and 2 girl volunteers to depict Marie, Irene, Eugene, a woman learning how to operate the X-ray machine and a soldier speaking about the Petite Curies.

Let students listen for their part and act out what is happening in the story.



New word: 1-5 sand dollars

Imminent: When something seems imminent, it means it is unavoidable and is about to happen.

*Remind the students that they can earn a sand dollar if they tell you at the end of the story what the new word means. If they get it wrong remind them of the definition and have them try again in a few minutes.

Day 4: Marie and Pierre Curie

As city sirens and newspapers blare with announcements of the advancing war, Paris falls quiet.

Now more than ever, it is important to her to protect what is here. Things are different. In a tragic accident, Pierre has passed away in 1906, struck by a horse-drawn carriage as he crossed the road.

He didn't live to see Marie being awarded the second Nobel Prize—this time in Chemistry, making her the only person to be recognized in two different fields of science. Little Eve, their younger daughter, was only two years old when he passed. Irene, their elder daughter, was nine. Pierre's father, Eugene, comes to help take care of his grand-daughters. His presence helps Marie continue working, and also gives her strength. Marie and Eugene are joined by a common grief, but also a shared resolve to safeguard the legacies Pierre has left behind so abruptly. The moment Eugene was told of the accident, his immediate question was: "What was he dreaming of this time?"

Later, Marie would write of the moment she found out, "In the study room to which he was never to return, the water buttercups he had brought from the country were still fresh."

Still, Marie knows she must continue their scientific work for the sake of helping humanity. Pierre would have wanted her to—just like he would have been proud to see her fill his position at the Sorbonne, becoming the first woman to be a professor in the institution's six century history.

When war begins to seem **imminent**, Marie gets on a train with a small, lead-lined box. Marie has a firm resolve to guard what is most precious—her tiny vial of earthly stars, glimmering with the potential to change the world. She brings the precious cargo to the city of Bordeaux 600 miles away. **(Box prompt, carry your treasure carefully)** Throughout the journey, she sees snaking lines of motor cars carrying their worried owners away from the capital. Marie, on the other hand, is itching to come back as soon as her mission is accomplished, because she wants to help her country's soldiers.

She places her radium in a safe space in Bourdeaux, then manages to take a military train back to Paris the same evening. This time, the lines of motor cars are going in the opposite direction, and it seems odd to onlookers that Marie is so intent on returning to the heart of danger.

Day 4: Marie and Pierre Curie

It is 1914, the midst of World War I, and Marie stands guard—frail but mighty—with her mobile X-ray unit. She has worked intensely and at lightning speed to convince French manufacturers to donate vehicles that she equips with X-ray equipment. The cars can be driven to the frontlines of the battlefield, where soldiers need them most. Irene, her daughter, is now 17 and studying to become a nurse. She has grown to be a brave accomplice, helping her mother treat soldiers. (Nurse caps, help treat the wounded soldiers.)

By examining wounded soldiers, Marie and Irene can help doctors see where and if they should operate. The X-ray reveals if there is a broken bone or something lodged in the wounded soldiers' bodies. (X-ray prompt, hold it up to the light and examine it.)

Marie has taught herself all about the human body, offered her pure gold Nobel medals to be melted to help the war effort, learned how to operate an X-ray machine, how to drive a car and fix it.

What's more, she has taught many, many more women as well. (Blackboard prompt, Marie teaches other women.) Soldiers begin calling the little X-ray cars 'Petite Curies'. As Marie's fundraising and training continues, she develops a formidable network of over 20 Petite Curies, and this technology will save nearly a million soldiers' lives.

As the grisly war draws to a close, Marie brings back the vial of radium and returns to her scientific research, setting up a new lab and teaching students. She sets up an institute for the study of radium, and works closely with hospitals to help others heal. Throughout it all, she carries her prized 'earthly star' with her, often tucking it in her coat pocket.



Questions/Reading discussion: 1-5 sand dollars

(Students can earn a sand dollar for discussion participation)

Ask: Where did Marie hide the radium?

Example: Bourdeaux

Ask: How is Irene similar to her parents?

Example: She enjoys science, studies at the Sorbonne and is helping her mother in the war.

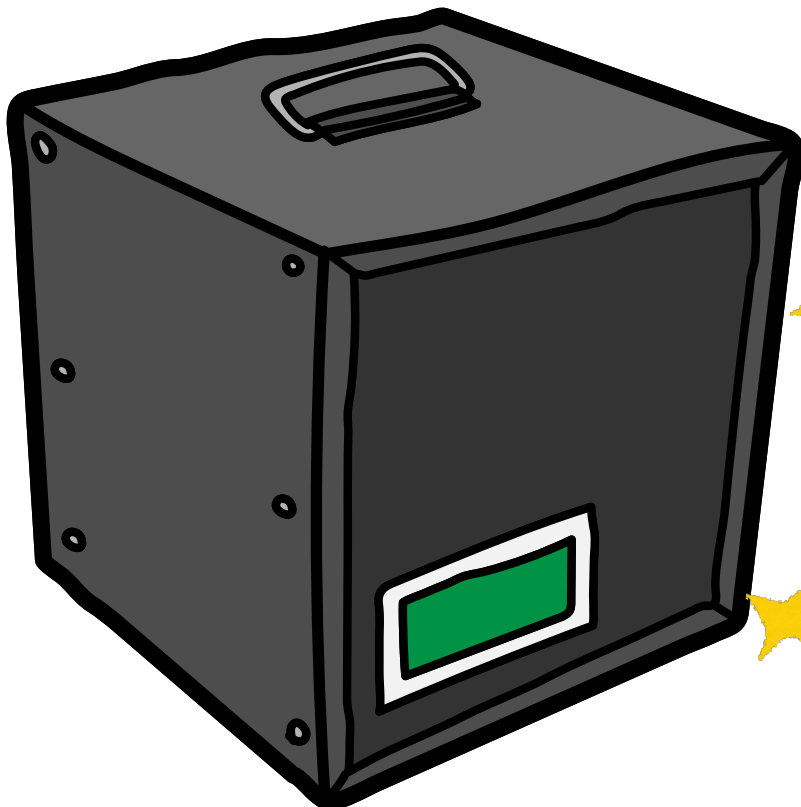
Ask: How is it helpful for Eugene to live with Marie?

Example: He and Marie support each other through grief, and he helps take care of his grand daughters. It helps him feel better when he misses his son, Pierre.

✂ Cut out the X-ray for Marie to take and study.



✂ Cut out Marie's Nobel Peace Prize medals for her to be awarded and also offer to melt them to help soldiers.



✂ Cut out this box for Marie to transport her radium in.

Marie: Hold this X-ray up to the light and study it. Pass it to Irene and say, "Please show the doctor!"

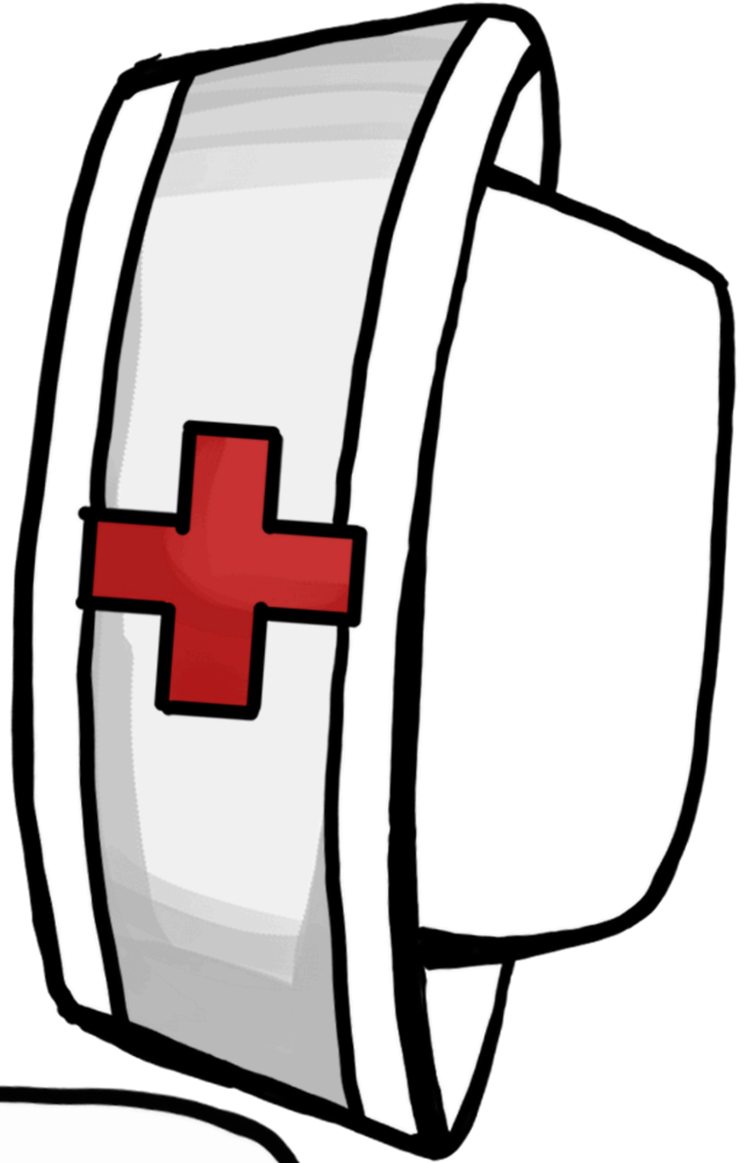
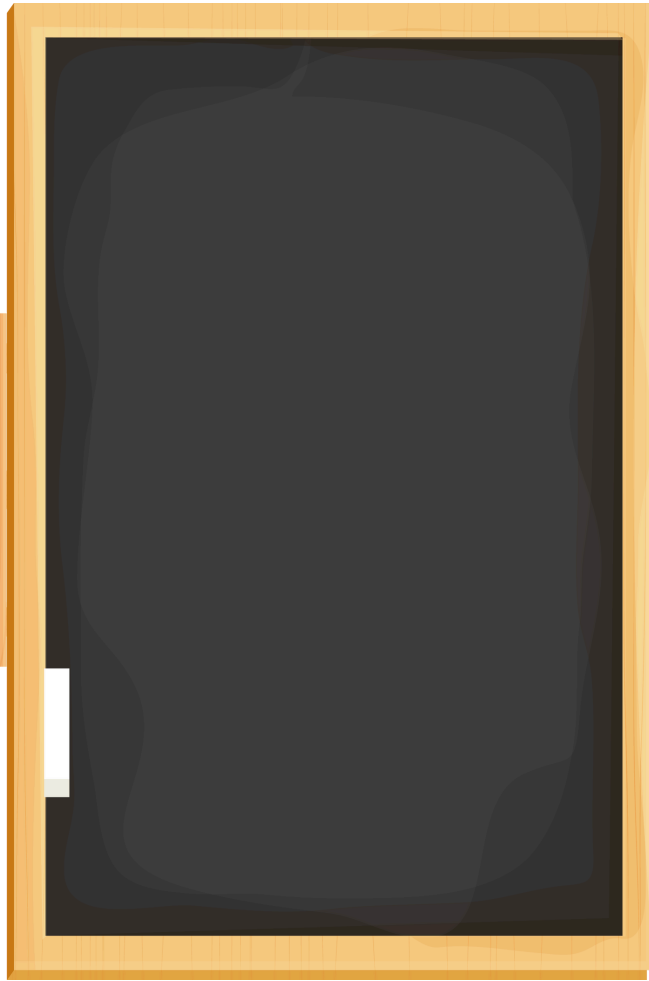
Marie: Wear both medals taped to your chest but take them off and offer to have them melted for the war.

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Marie: Carry this box with your precious vial inside like a secret agent carrying treasure. Make a train sound.



Cut out the hats for Marie and Irene.



Cut out the blackboard for Marie to teach other women how to use the X-ray machine.



Marie: Teach your students about radium. Say: "Radium is a newly discovered element. It is very, very special."

Marie and Irene: Wear your nurse caps and run around the battlefield driving your Petite Curies and helping soldiers.

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