

Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom
Discussion Guide
Grades K – 3rd

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

- Watch [this](#) video from the New York Historical Society to introduce your students to Wu Chien Shiung.
- Discuss with your class the theme of **determination**. Think, Pair, Share: *Have you ever been determined to achieve a goal? What were some of your actions? What were the outcomes? Be specific in your examples.*
- Frontload vocabulary: *courageous, physics, capture, determination, flourish, reputation, hypothesis, prejudice*

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

- How did Chien Shiung get her name?
- What **sacrifices** did Chien Shiung's family make to support her in achieving her dreams?
- In what ways did Chien Shiung's classmates look up to her?
- How was Chien Shiung a leader?
- Why do you think Chien Shiung didn't win the Noble Prizes that she deserved to win?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- Many people looked up to Chien Shiung throughout her lifetime. What character traits made her a successful leader?
- Chien Shiung faced many obstacles and challenges throughout her life. How was she able to overcome them? How does her legacy live on today?
- Consider using RIF's Historic Figures Activity Guides to allow for students to make connections and expand on what they have learned.

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 with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.