

The Disappearing Spoon (Young Readers edition)

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The young readers edition of *The Disappearing Spoon* is about the discoveries of the elements of the periodic table, the actions of the chemists associated with them, and also gives a general overview of how the periodic table works and why it is so important to chemistry. It is a collection of nonfiction stories mixed with explanations of elementary chemistry, including why the periodic table is arranged as it is. The stories are grouped into chapters based on how the elements or chemists who discovered the elements involved behave. For instance, chapter 13 is about the use of chemical elements as money, and chapter 5 is about the uses of the elements in war. The title, *The Disappearing Spoon*, comes from a common trick: to use gallium to create a spoon, and have it melt into tea when stirred. It has a glossary with the definitions of uncommon, scientific words that are used in the book. They are defined well in the text, but it is always there if the reader needs to check the definition again. The glossary also contains a copy of the periodic table in it, and the book has witty images mixed into the chapters that help engage the reader.

The Disappearing Spoon is light-hearted and fun, but also very tactful when discussing topics such as war or the deaths of chemists. It easily keeps readers engaged, and covers a lot of material quickly while also giving the reader an excellent understanding of the content. It is simple and to-the-point, and is a great gift for aspiring chemists.

The book does not go too deep into the chemistry itself, but that is very understandable for a book designed to engage young readers and encourage them to learn more on their own. *The Disappearing Spoon* is appropriate for readers that are 10 years old or older.

Recommended titles:

The Radium Girls (Young Readers Edition), Kate Moore

Who was Marie Curie?, Megan Stine

Science of Harry Potter: The Spellbinding Science Behind the Magic, Gadgets, Potions, and More!, Mark Brake