

Biographical Resources

Scientist	Book	Controversial event	Correlation with science content	Student agency
Robert Hooke	Jardine, L. 2003. <i>The curious life of Robert Hooke: the man who measured London</i> . New York: HarperCollins.	He was a controversial character. His confrontation with Newton affected his figuration in the history of science.	- Cell theory	Students restore, at least for the moment, the image of Hooke by producing a portrait based on the physical description provided in the letter.
Lise Meitner	Sime, R.L. 1996. <i>Lise Meitner: A life in physics</i> . Vol. 11. Oakland, CA: University of California Press.	As a Jew and female scientist, she was discriminated against. Although she collaborated with Otto Hahn in the discovery of nuclear fission, her name is not associated with this work. Hahn was awarded the Noble Prize after Meitner was forced to leave Germany because of her Jewish ancestry.	- Atomic structure	Students write a letter to the Swedish and Norwegian Committee petitioning that Lise Meitner's name be reinstated as a Nobel Prize winner.
Rosalind Franklin	Sayre, A. 2000. <i>Rosalind Franklin and DNA</i> . New York: W.W. Norton.	Her work on crystallography was crucial for James Watson and Francis Crick to elucidate DNA structure. Franklin's contribution has not had the proper recognition.	- Cell theory - Genetics	Students write a newspaper article announcing the discovery of DNA structure. In the article, students include the name of Rosalind Franklin and describe her contributions.

Another excellent resource is the Story Behind the Science website developed by Michael Clough and his colleagues at Iowa State University. Some of those stories (e.g., Wallace vs. Darwin) could be used in the drafting of biographical letters. Go to:

www.storybehindthescience.org/biology.html.