



PARTICIPATORY STORY

Maria Skłodowska (Marie Curie) (9-10 years old)

This story consists of 4 sheets which become more narratively complex as children progress. By moving from one level (sheet) to another and working in small groups or pairs, children will enrich the story of Maria Skłodowska/Marie Curie with adjectives, adverbs of place, dialogues, and finally create their own ending to the story.

STORY BASE

Key words: research, science, woman, Nobel prize

Maria was born on November 7, 1867. She was an observant girl. She loved spending time with her grandparents in the countryside. She felt happy there. The girl was happy to go to school. Maria was the

most talented student. She devoted a lot of time to studying. She passed her final exams best, obtaining the highest grade. She won a medal for that.

After three years of work, she saved money with which she could go to continue her studies at the university. As always, she was the best in her class there. She won an academic scholarship.

One day she heard about Professor Pierre Curie, who was conducting experiments with his brother. Fascinated by the world of science, Maria met Pierre, who was not only a scientist, but a modern man. He believed that women were equal and their contribution to science could be important. On the first day of their acquaintance, Pierre asked Maria to marry him. She agreed. Together they were walking the streets of Paris, discussing their research.

After the birth of her first daughter, Maria, more determined than ever, continued her work. The topic of her research was X-rays, recently discovered by another scientist. With the help of the university, Maria and Pierre managed to get some uranium. They placed it in test tubes because they wanted to demonstrate its ability to conduct electricity. Maria, interested in research, got up at night to observe her glowing test tubes. Every day she came up with new experiments. They named the discovered element radium. It was the beginning of a new era in science and medicine.

In 1902, Pierre was selected for the Nobel Prize. He protested that the discovery of radium was the result of the work of both. In this situation, the committee dedicated the award to Maria and Pierre. Thus, Maria was the first woman to receive it. They both continued to pursue their studies and research. Their second daughter was born.

After this happy time, tragedy occurred. Pierre died and Maria raised her daughters alone.

Appreciating Maria's work and bravery, the Sorbonne University offered her the teaching position held by her husband. In 1911, Maria Skłodowska-Curie was the first in history to win the second Nobel Prize in the field of chemistry. Albert Einstein himself had extraordinary respect for her. She died in 1934 in Haute-Savoie.

LEVEL 1: WHAT ARE THEY LIKE? (ADJECTIVES)

Working in groups and pairs, students should enrich the story with adjectives. The words in **blue** are suggestions - depending on your students' proficiency level, decide how many adjectives you want to add before each target noun. We recommend that children choose at least 1 adjective.

Maria was born on November 7, 1867. She was an observant girl. She loved spending time at **beloved/caring/warm-hearted** grandparents in the countryside. She felt happy there. The **cheerful/curious/open-minded** girl was happy to go to her new/dream school. Maria was the most talented student. She devoted a lot of time to studying. She passed her final exams best, obtaining the highest grade. For this she won a **well-deserved/valuable/precious** medal.

After three years of work, she saved money with which she could go to continue her studies at the **desired/dream** university. As always, she was the best in her class here. She won an academic scholarship.

One day she heard about the **famous/wise/young** professor Pierre Curie, who was conducting interesting experiments with his brother. Fascinated by the world of science, the **quick/determined** Maria met the **quiet/slow** Pierre, who was not only a scientist, but a modern man. He believed that women were equal and their contribution to science could be important. On the first day of their acquaintance, Pierre asked Maria to marry him. She agreed. Together they walked the streets of **amazing/big/beautiful** Paris, discussing their important/interesting research.

After the birth of her first daughter, Maria, more determined than ever, continued her **ambitious/demanding/important** work. The topic of her research was X-rays, recently discovered by

another scientist. With the help of the university, Maria and Pierre managed to obtain some uranium. They placed it in test tubes because they wanted to demonstrate its ability to conduct electricity. Maria, interested in research, got up at night to observe her **glowing/mysterious** test tubes. Every day she came up with new experiments. They named the discovered element radium. It was the beginning of a new era in science and medicine.

In 1902, Pierre was selected for the **prestigious/valuable** Nobel Prize. He protested that the discovery of radium was the result of the work of both. In this situation, the committee dedicated an **important/unusual** award to Maria and Pierre. Thus, the **modest/brave/hardworking/stubborn** Maria was the first woman to receive it. They both continued to pursue their studies and research. Their second daughter was born.

After this happy time, tragedy occurred. Pierre died **unexpectedly/suddenly**, and Maria raised her **beloved/wonderful** daughters alone.

Appreciating Maria's work and bravery, the Sorbonne University offered her the teaching position held by her husband. In 1911, Maria Skłodowska-Curie was the first in history to win the second Nobel Prize in the field of chemistry. The **famous/well-known** Albert Einstein himself had extraordinary respect for her. She died in 1934 in Haute-Savoie.

LEVEL 2: WHERE IS IT? (ADVERBS OF PLACE)

Working in groups or pairs, students should now enrich the text with adverbs of place. Help your children write and read them along with the adjectives they have already written on the Level 1 worksheet. The words in **green** are suggestions - depending on your students' level, we recommend that they write at least 1 adverb.

Maria was born on November 7, 1867 **in Poland/in the countryside/on a ship**. She was an observant girl. She loved spending time at **beloved/caring/warm-hearted** grandparents in the countryside. She felt happy there. The **cheerful/curious/open-minded** girl was happy to go to her new/dream school. Maria was the most talented student. She devoted a lot of time to studying. She passed her final exams best, obtaining the highest grade **at school/in math class/in the grade**. For this she won a **well-deserved/valuable/precious** medal.

After three years of work, she saved money with which she could go to continue her studies at the **desired/dream** university **in France/overseas/far away**. As always, she was the best in her class here. She won an academic scholarship.

One day she heard about the **famous/wise/young** professor Pierre Curie, who was conducting interesting experiments with his brother **in a laboratory/underground/in tunnels**. Fascinated by the world of science, the **quick/determined** Maria met the **quiet/slow** Pierre, who was not only a scientist, but a modern man. He believed that women were equal and their contribution to science could be important. On the first day of their acquaintance, **at a café/in the park/on a walk**, Pierre asked Maria to marry him. She agreed. Together they walked the streets of **amazing/big/beautiful** Paris, discussing their important/interesting research.

After the birth of her first daughter, Maria, more determined than ever, continued her **ambitious/demanding/important** work **in a laboratory/at a university/at home**. The topic of her research was X-rays, recently discovered by another scientist. With the help of the university, Maria and Pierre managed to obtain some uranium. They placed it in test tubes because they wanted to demonstrate its ability to conduct electricity. Maria, interested in research, got up at night to observe her **glowing/mysterious** test tubes. Every day she came up with new experiments. They named the discovered element radium. It was the beginning of a new era in science and medicine.

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important/unusual award to Maria and Pierre. Thus, the **modest/brave/hardworking/stubborn** Maria was the first woman to receive it. They both continued to pursue their studies and research. Their second daughter was born **in a hospital/in Poland/in a laboratory**.

After this happy time, tragedy occurred. Pierre died **unexpectedly/suddenly**, and Maria raised her **beloved/wonderful** daughters alone.

Appreciating Maria's work and bravery, the Sorbonne University offered her the teaching position held by her husband. In 1911, Maria Skłodowska-Curie was the first in history to win the second Nobel Prize in the field of chemistry. The **famous/well-known** Albert Einstein himself had extraordinary respect for her. She died in 1934 in Haute-Savoie.

LEVEL 3: WHAT ARE THEY SAYING? (DIALOGUE)

Working in their group or pair, students should now enrich the text with dialogue. Help children write and read them along with the adjectives and adverbs they have already written for the Level 1 and Level 2 worksheets. The words in **orange** are suggestions - depending on your students' skill level, we recommend that children write at least 1 sentence of dialogue.

Maria was born on November 7, 1867 **in Poland/in the countryside/on a ship**. She was an observant girl. She loved spending time at **beloved/caring/warm-hearted** grandparents in the countryside. **They would say: “You will be a great scientist one day!”**. She felt happy there. The **cheerful/curious/open-minded** girl was happy to go to her new/dream school. Maria was the most talented student. She devoted a lot of time to studying. She passed her final exams best, obtaining the highest grade **at school/in math class/in the grade**. For this she won a **well-deserved/valuable/precious** medal. After three years of work, she saved money with which she could go to continue her studies at the **desired/dream** university **in France/overseas/far away**. **She told her loved ones: “See you! I will come back to help our country!”** As always, she was the best in her class here. She won an academic scholarship.

One day she heard about the **famous/wise/young** professor Pierre Curie, who was conducting interesting experiments with his brother **in a laboratory/underground/in tunnels**. Fascinated by the world of science, the **quick/determined** Maria met the **quiet/slow** Pierre, who was not only a scientist, but a modern man. He believed that women were equal and their contribution to science could be important. On the first day of their acquaintance, **at a café/in the park/on a walk**, Pierre asked Maria to marry him. **“Maria, will you become my wife?”, Pierre asked**. She agreed **and said, “Of course I will!”**

Together they walked the streets of **amazing/big/beautiful** Paris, discussing their important/interesting research.

After the birth of her first daughter, Maria, more determined than ever, continued her **ambitious/demanding/important** work **in a laboratory/at a university/at home**. The topic of her research was X-rays, recently discovered by another scientist. With the help of the university, Maria and Pierre managed to obtain some uranium. **Maria suggested, "Pierre, let's put them in our laboratory!"** They placed it in test tubes because they wanted to demonstrate its ability to conduct electricity. Maria, interested in research, got up at night to observe her **glowing/mysterious** test tubes. Every day she came up with new experiments. They named the discovered element radium. It was the beginning of a new era in science and medicine.

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LEVEL 4: HOW DOES IT END? (YOUR OWN ENDING)

Working in their group or pairs, students should now enrich the text by developing the ending. Help your children write and read the final sentence(s) along with the adjectives, adverbs and dialogues they have already written for the Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 worksheets. The sentences in **purple** are suggestions - depending on your students' skill level, we recommend that children wrote at least 1 sentence to enrich the ending.

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Together they walked the streets of **amazing/big/beautiful** Paris, discussing their important/interesting research.

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The whole world has suffered a great loss. Everyone is full of admiration for her achievements. It ushered in a new era in the field of medicine and science. Everyone knows the figure of this outstanding scientist, even children.

The end!