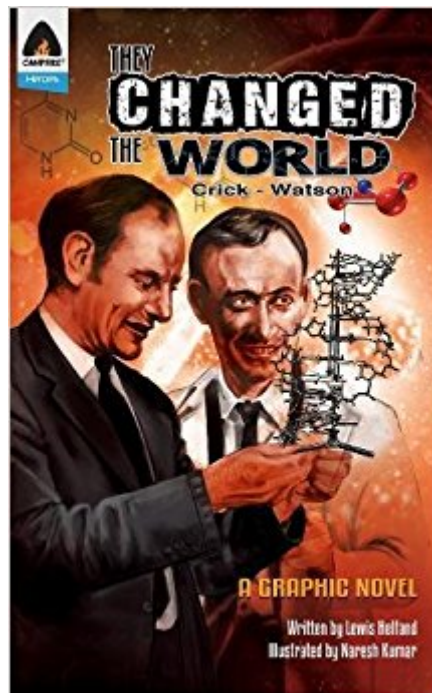




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They Changed The World: Crick & Watson - The Discovery Of DNA (Campfire Graphic Novels)



Synopsis

Since the dawn of civilization, we have searched for answers to what makes life possible, and in the mid-twentieth century we found them through the persistent efforts of James Watson and Francis Crick. Although the groundwork for the discovery had already been laid out, it was Watson and Crick's derivation of the three-dimensional, double-helical model for the structure of DNA that solved the final piece of the puzzle and won them the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1962. That is only a single moment of triumph, though, and the journey they took to get there was a long and arduous one. Find out how Crick and Watson beat their rivals to unlock the secrets of life itself as they unravelled the mystery behind DNA and changed not only science but the world we live in.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 7-10 • Tackling James Watson and Francis Crick's Nobel Prize-winning discovery that DNA is comprised of a double helix, this second entry in the series presents the quest to answer one of the biggest questions: What is life? The author stresses how scientific advancements build upon one another, not only highlighting the formative experiences of Watson and Crick but also discussing the work of Gregor Mendel and Friedrich Miescher, both of whom were studying DNA nearly 100 years earlier. The action is balanced by biographical information about scientists Linus Pauling, Rosalind Franklin, and Maurice Wilkins, whose work contributed

greatly to Watson and Crick's breakthrough. Helfand emphasizes that Watson and Crick benefitted from the open exchange of ideas, while Wilkins and Franklin were negatively impacted by their lack of communication. The artwork is photorealistic, working well with the emotional range of the text and often featuring panels that overlap, giving each illustration a snapshotlike quality. The text ends with a final look at the landmark work of Watson and Crick and lists the advancements that have occurred in DNA science since, including DNA fingerprinting, cloning, and genetic screening. Back matter contains brief paragraphs of information about DNA, cloned sheep, the origin of genetics, and biochemistry. VERDICT A worthwhile addition for middle school and public library collections, especially those looking to expand their STEM offerings. —Samantha Lumetta, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, OH

"What shines through the text is the fact that Crick and Watson could not have achieved their discovery without the ground work of co-operating scientists such as Rosalind Franklin and with additional input from Linus Pauling and Maurice Wilkins. This results in a clear message that great scientific discoveries are built upon the work of a team and that the altruism in sharing steps along the way leads to effective results." —The School Librarian (UK)

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