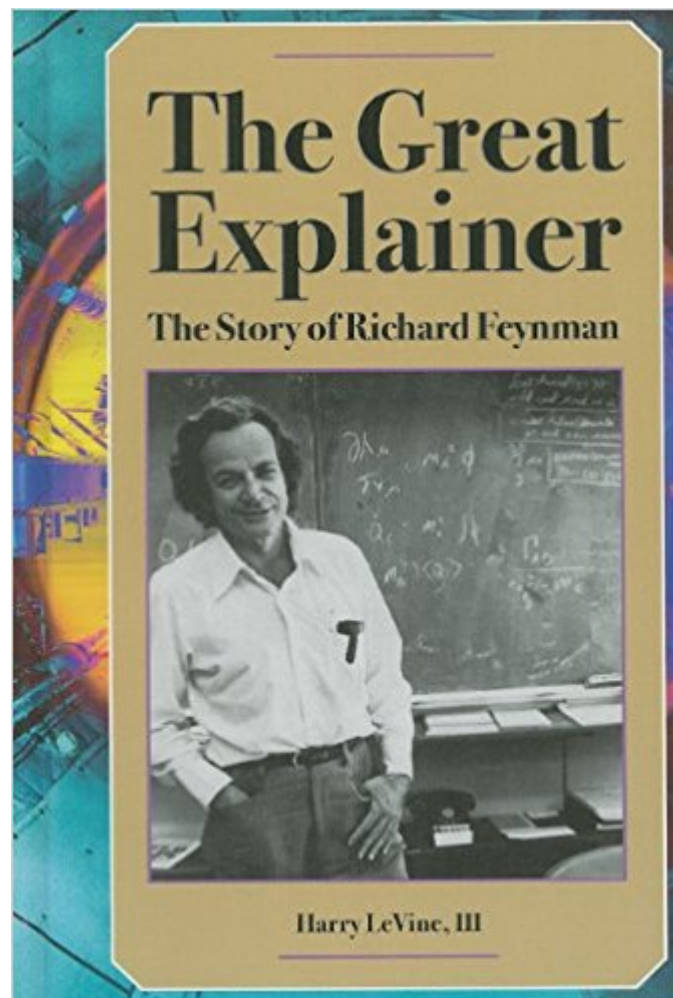




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The Great Explainer: The Story Of Richard Feynman (Profiles In Science)



Synopsis

A young adult biography of American physicist Richard Feynman

Book Information

Library Binding: 144 pages

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Age Range: 12 - 15 years

Grade Level: 7 - 10

Customer Reviews

Grade 7-10 • Feynman was instrumental in the development of the atomic bomb, but he may be best known for serving on the Presidential Commission that investigated the Challenger shuttle disaster. Information is presented on his life from his childhood in New York City to his death in California. Levine balances details of Feynman's scientific work with the forces that hold nuclei together with his personal life. The layout is appealing, featuring photographs and illustrations on most spreads. This title would be a solid addition to most collections as there is little written about the physicist for this audience. • Maren Ostergard, King County Library System, Issaquah, WA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Despite writing best-sellers and winning a Nobel Prize, Richard Feynman is not a household name. Those who study, teach, and write about physics often aren't. But Feynman was a particularly fascinating fellow who was involved in everything from building the atomic bomb at Los Alamos to constructing the first computers to figuring out why the Space Shuttle Challenger crashed. Children who might have trouble with the specifics of physics will be drawn in by

Feynman's personal story. LeVine begins (and ends) with the physicist's involvement in the Challenger investigation, then wisely spends a good deal of time on his childhood and the ways he invented to teach himself about the natural world. Throughout there is a very personal feel, and when the science becomes difficult to understand, readers will still want to learn more about Feynman and his restless, sometimes chaotic search for knowledge. The bibliography includes books by and about Feynman, one appropriately titled *No Ordinary Genius* (1994). Time line and notes also appended. Grades 6-9. --Ilene Cooper

I bought this for my grandkids, but only one is now old enough to appreciate it. This is an eight year old who got about halfway through before she bogged down. I'd recommend it for 10 to 12 year olds unless they are especially good readers. It is extremely well written and covers complex subjects in an understandable manner. The way the author covered the science impressed me, a retired engineer. Feynman is not only the "great explainer." so is the author. Bravo!

I'm an adult without a physics background and I found the book an interesting, informative read. LeVine does a great job of bringing Feynman to life for the reader, sharing fascinating details, and helping us appreciate what an amazing man Feynman was. I recommend the book not only for young people, but also for adults who want to know about one of the most important scientists of the 20th century, but who don't have enough physics knowledge for a more technical treatment of the subject.

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