



THE GIRL WHO TESTED THE WATERS

Ellen Swallow, Environmental Specialist

PATRICIA DANIELE ILLUSTRATED BY JUNYI WU

Discover the eye-opening story of the first woman student at MIT—a pioneering environmental chemist sure to inspire the next generation of trailblazers in science.

Use *The Girl Who Tested the Waters* in your classroom to learn more about the importance of clean water and perseverance.

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THE GIRL WHO TESTED THE WATERS

- Discuss the importance Ellen and her parents placed on education. Ask your students what they do to get the most out of school. What do they think of Ellen being put in a basement room to work alone instead of being in a classroom? Can they imagine what it would be like to not get to go to school?
- Invite a member of your board of health or local water authority to the classroom to discuss the water in your area and how it is kept clean.
- Have the students design posters advocating for clean water and the environment inspired by Ellen's passion for her work.
- Conduct a basic water purifying activity involving sand/gravel, a water bottle, and filter paper to demonstrate how water can be cleaned.
- Ellen Swallow was a pioneer in the field of ecology. What does ecology mean, and why is it important?
- At the end of the book is this quote from Jerome B. Wiesner, president of MIT from 1971 to 1980: "She was among the first to realize the necessity for technology to counteract its own effects." Discuss with your students what they think this means. Are there effects of technology that they think should be counteracted?



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