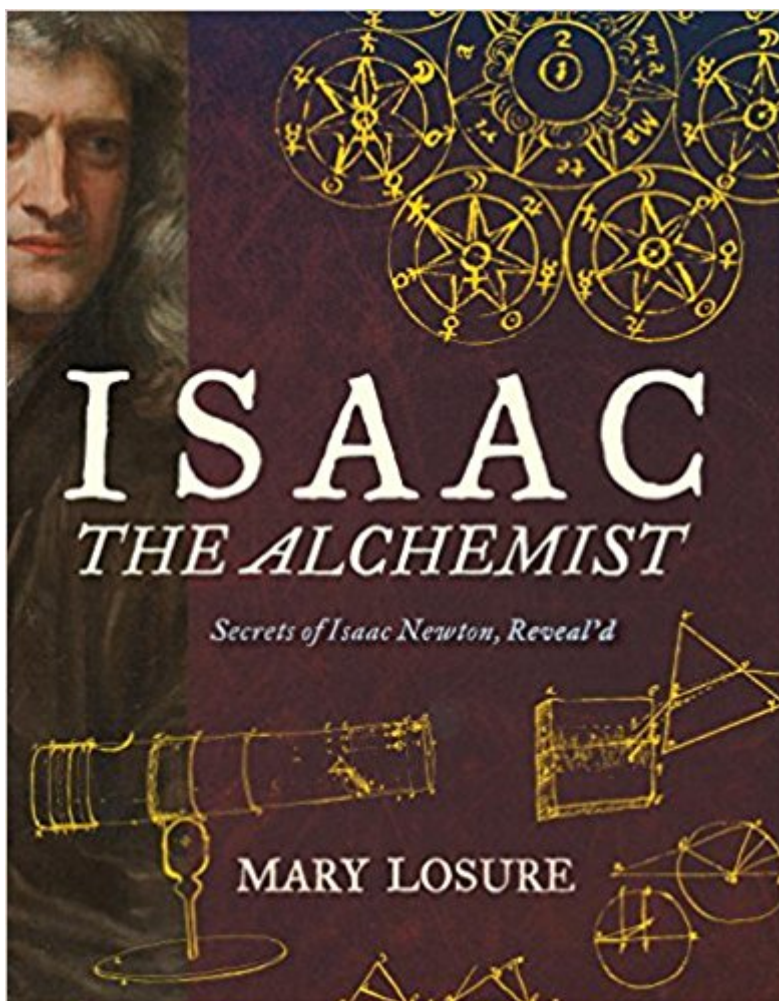


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Isaac The Alchemist: Secrets Of Isaac Newton, Reveal'd



Synopsis

A surprising true story of Isaac Newton's boyhood suggests an intellectual development owing as much to magic as science. Before Isaac Newton became the father of physics, an accomplished mathematician, or a leader of the scientific revolution, he was a boy living in an apothecary's house, observing and experimenting, recording his observations of the world in a tiny notebook. As a young genius living in a time before science as we know it existed, Isaac studied the few books he could get his hands on, built handmade machines, and experimented with alchemy—a process of chemical reactions that seemed, at the time, to be magical. Mary Losure's riveting narrative nonfiction account of Isaac's early life traces his development as a thinker from his childhood, in friendly prose that will capture the attention of today's budding scientists—as if by magic. Back matter includes an afterword, an author's note, source notes, a bibliography, and an index.

Book Information

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Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 6—Losure brings a world-renowned scientist to life. Isaac Newton's story, from his tough formative years through the end of his life, is ably told and peppered with a mix of Old English and scientific terms. Fascinating details, such as experiments with mercury that involved

him tasting the poisonous element, humanize him and will keep reader interest high. Losure adeptly presents the complex subjects of chemistry, math, and physics, along with alchemy-related recipes, by breaking up the narrative with engrossing images from Newton's published and private works and other books that he used or referred to in his research. The back matter includes excerpts from Newton's journals and other contemporaneous texts and an author's note that explains how Losure researched and used these materials. — an excellent addition to reinforce lessons on how to find and use primary sources. VERDICT Losure has written a volume that both informs and excites. Highly recommended for middle school science biography sections. — Hilary Writt, Sullivan University, Lexington, KY

Much about Newton's life has to be conjecture, but the author adds details from history and from her understanding of human behavior that make this splendid story both convincing and accessible to her readers. Illustrations, engravings from the time and pages from his notes, and interesting afterwords add to the appeal. Narrative nonfiction at its best and most convincing. — Kirkus Reviews (starred review) Losure adeptly presents the complex subjects of chemistry, math, and physics, along with alchemy-related recipes...an excellent addition to reinforce lessons on how to find and use primary sources. Losure has written a volume that both informs and excites. Highly recommended for middle school science biography sections. — School Library Journal (starred review) Perhaps even more impressive than her re-creation of Newton's world, however, is her re-creation of the man himself — or rather, the boy who became the man — without embellishing the historical record with speculation and conjecture. Thus, the reader is left with the bare facts of Newton's life — his difficult and troubled childhood, his prodigious talent at Cambridge, his prickly and reclusive nature, and his famous Laws of Motion — but more importantly, Losure has communicated his very essence, recalling Albert Einstein's assertion that "imagination is more important than knowledge." — Horn Book (starred review) In this charming biography of Isaac Newton (1642–1727), Losure (Wild Boy) posits that "this last sorcerer — this greatest of all alchemists — was the same man who banished magic from the scientific world." ... Period images and afterwords with curiosity-spiking headings such as "Stinks, Bangs & More Chymical Secrets" bring additional depth and interest to this study of Newton's surprising pursuits. — Publishers Weekly Losure's treatment of those investigations is no arcane intellectual exercise but a biography that, in a manner similar to Kathleen Krull's lively Isaac Newton (BCCB 5/06), delights in her subject's curmudgeonly quirks and intellectual

prowess...Losure's "Most Amazing Addendum" offers excerpts from period notebooks and writings that readers won't want to miss, as well as the expected citations, sources, and index.

- Bulletin of the Center for Children's BooksConcise and direct, this biography of Isaac Newton makes optimal use of primary sources...A useful book on all counts.
- School Library ConnectionMary Losure dilates on [the] private quirks of the future mathematician and physicist in 'Isaac the Alchemist,' a highly enjoyable work of narrative nonfiction for 9- to 15-year-olds.
- The Wall Street Journal

Awesome!!!! My 5th grade class loves this book----but it is also quite interesting as an adult read too----if you understand the "secrets".

I liked it.

This was a warm, wonderful, extremely interesting book. The life of Isaac is told in an engaging manner; AND Steven Crossley, who is one of my very favorite readers, reads the book as though relating a story to his friends in the comfort of his home. Fabulous and informative! I highly recommend!

A riveting portrayal of Isaac Newton's childhood, written in a way that will appeal to all readers. This true story includes never-before published images from Newton's journal and shows how science had its beginnings in alchemy, which was seen as magical. This is a great read for all budding scientists, and valuable material for all school libraries.

This intelligently written biography traces the life of Sir Isaac Newton from a lonely little boy with a mischievous streak to the scientist that changed the way we see the world. I especially loved the excerpts from his "tiny notebook" and others he kept all his life to record his ponderings. Geared toward middle graders, but suitable for anyone ten and up!

Mary Losure has done it again! Impeccably researched non-fiction combined with a fascinating story of Isaac Newton's younger years. Excellent book for older elementary students interested in science, biographies, history.

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