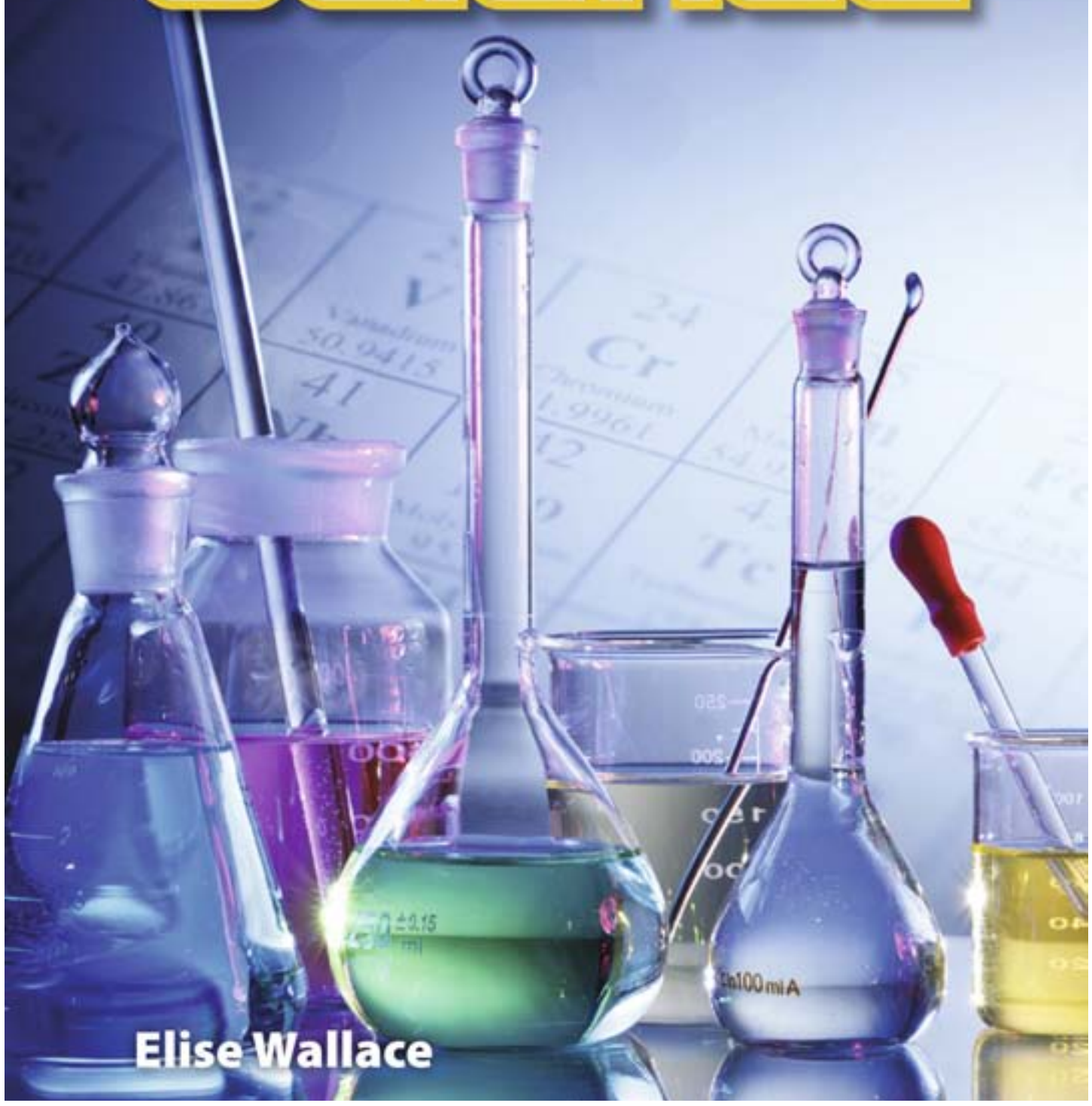


Unsung
Heroes

TIME

Pioneers in Science



Elise Wallace

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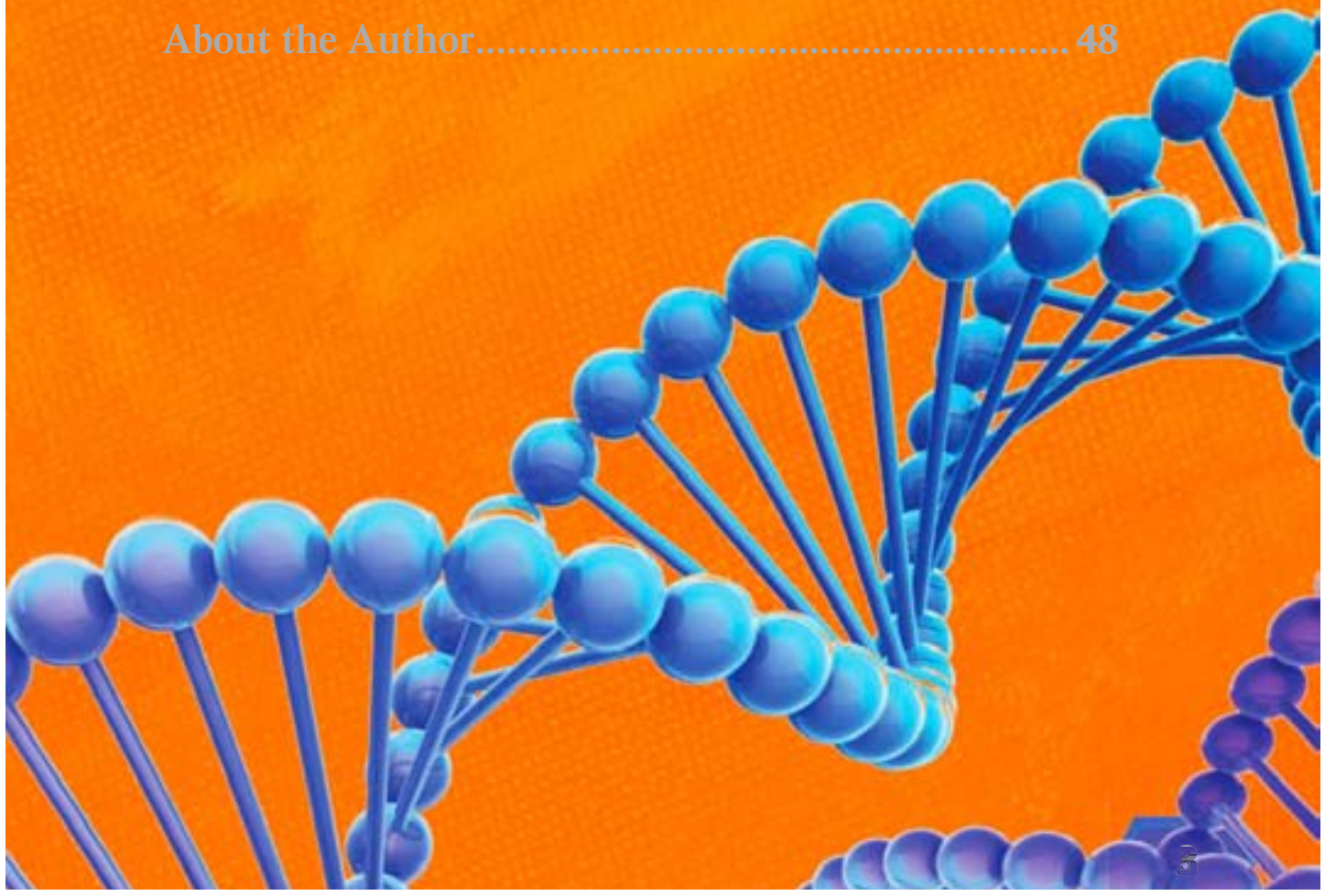
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Celebrating “New” Heroes

Some scientists are recognized by everyone. We have heard their names again and again. We know Isaac Newton and his three laws of motion. We have heard about Albert Einstein and his famous equation, $E = mc^2$. But what about Rosalind Franklin or Fazlur Khan (FAHZ-luhr KAHN)? Franklin was essential to the discovery of the structure of DNA, and Khan was a revolutionary **engineer** of skyscrapers. Yet their names are hardly known and rarely covered in history books.

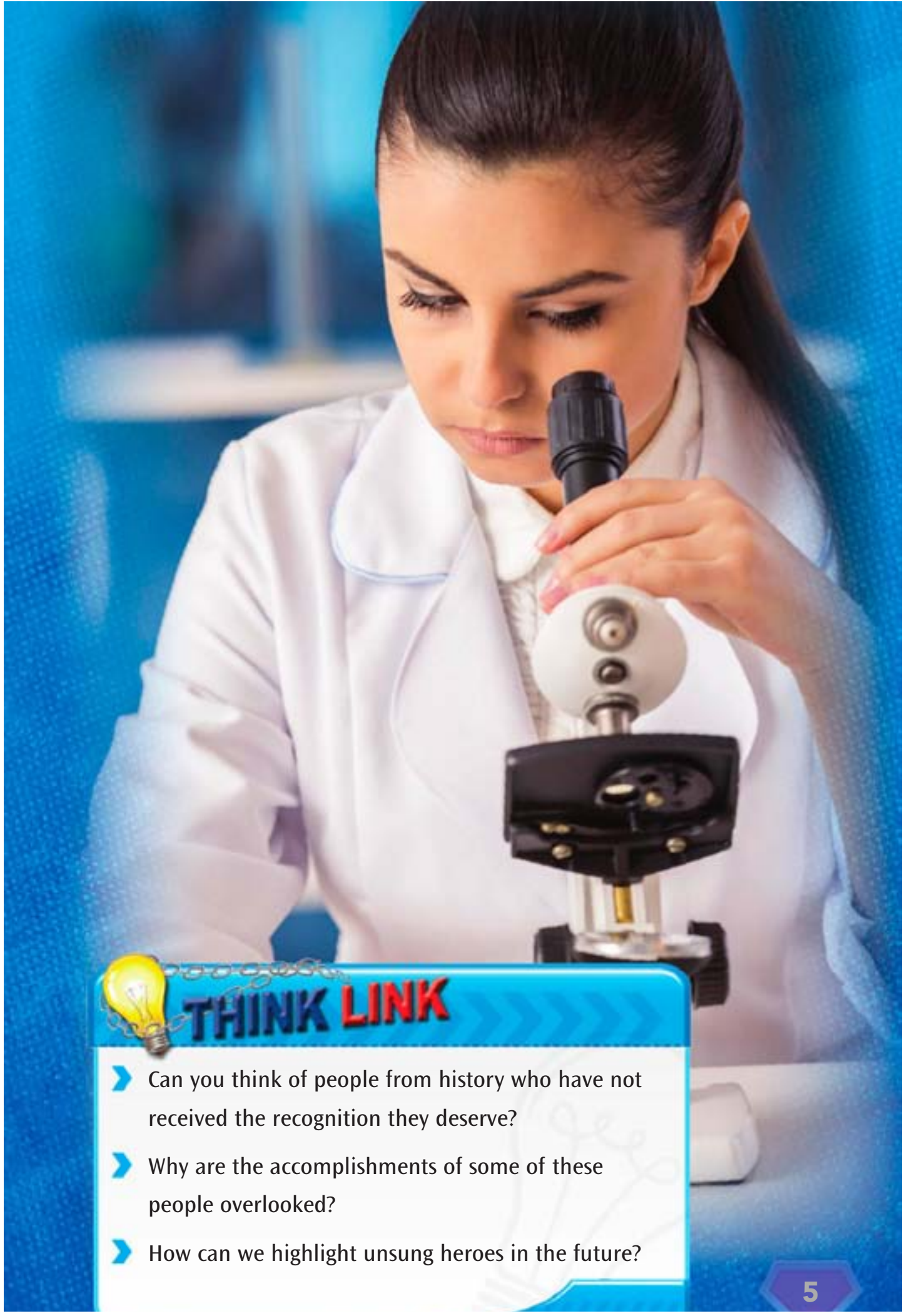
For the scientists featured in this book, recognition was difficult to obtain. Even attempting careers in their chosen fields, whether astronomy or engineering, was an uphill battle. But these unsung heroes kept fighting. They refused to be held back by the prejudice of others.

Each inventor in this book made great contributions to his or her field. Though they made their discoveries decades ago, many will likely be new to you. So, let's celebrate these “new” heroes of science!



Brilliant Botanist

Ynes Mexia was a Mexican American botanist. Born in 1870, she was an avid explorer. She traveled the world, studying and collecting plants. During her life, she discovered over 500 plant species!



THINK LINK

- Can you think of people from history who have not received the recognition they deserve?
- Why are the accomplishments of some of these people overlooked?
- How can we highlight unsung heroes in the future?

Beyond the Stars

In the 1950s and '60s, women supported NASA as mathematicians. They were not treated with respect. These women, called *computers*, were tasked with checking calculations. No matter their accomplishments, there was little chance of promotion, simply because of their **gender**. But they did not give up. These women made huge impacts in the field of astronomy, whether others liked it or not!

Katherine Johnson

Thanks to the success of the film *Hidden Figures*, Katherine Johnson's name has gained recognition. She was one of the computers who worked at NASA during its early years. But Johnson was so much more than that. She was responsible for calculating the **flight paths** of some of the most historic NASA missions.

Space Race

NASA stands for "National Aeronautics and Space Administration." It was established in the late 1950s, when the United States was competing with Russia. Each country was eager to be the first to put a man on the moon. Johnson was working at NASA during this exciting era.



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