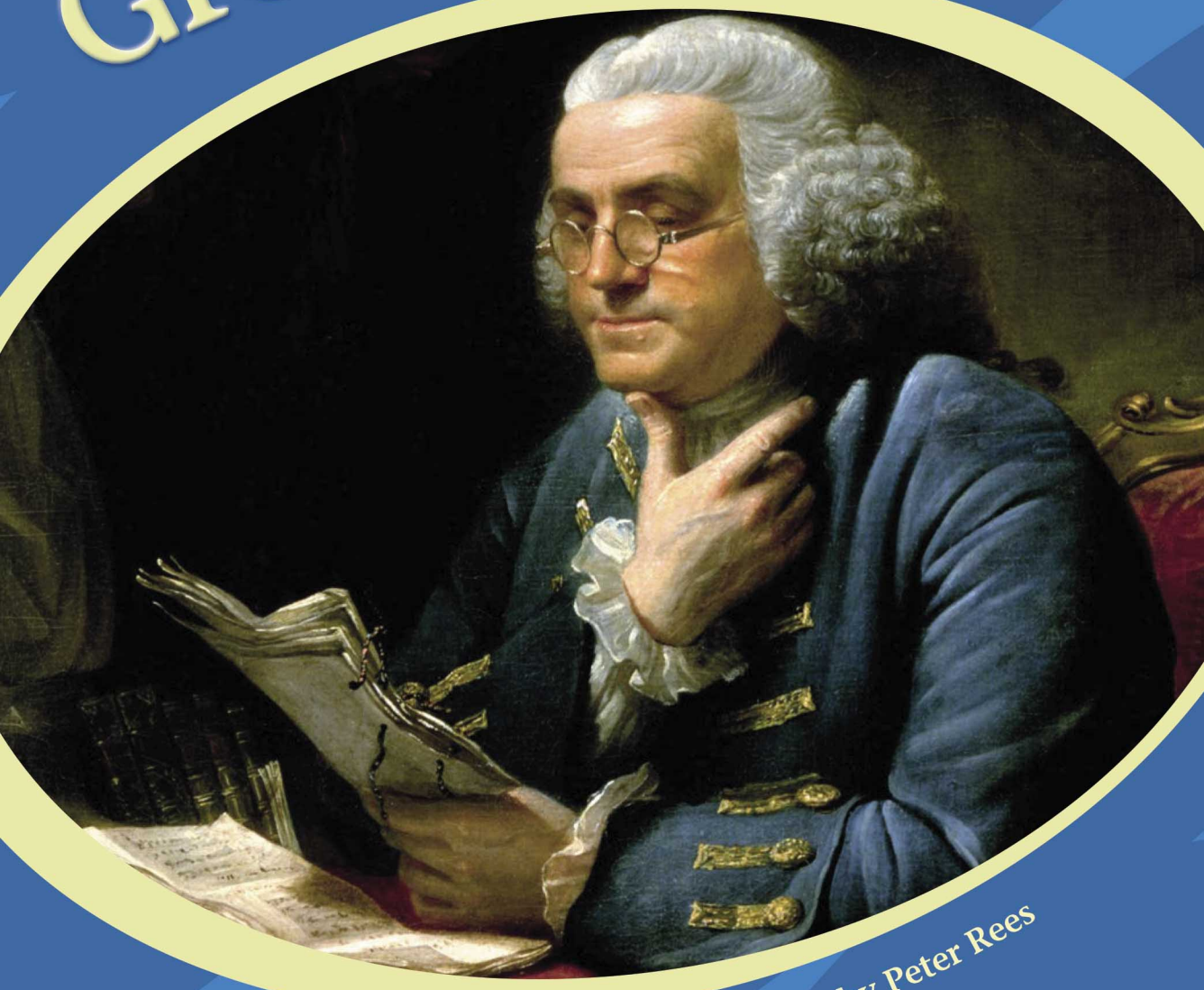
TALK ABOUT TEXTS

Great Inventors



Written by Peter Rees

Great Inventors



For Review Only

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Great Inventions and Great Inventors

An invention is something new that works in a unique way. Great inventions can change our lives for the better. For every great invention, there is a great inventor.

Inventors invent for many reasons. Some do it for fun. Others do it to solve a problem. Some inventors invent things by accident!

In this book, you will meet great inventors and learn what made them tick. And you will discover the stories of curiosity and courage behind some of history's greatest inventions.

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An Accidental Inventor

In 1826, John Walker was scraping dried chemicals off a stirring stick, when it burst into flame. The first friction match was born!



A friction match works by two different kinds of dried chemicals rubbing against each other.

Galileo Builds on Lippershey's Idea

Many people know that Galileo Galilei invented the telescope in 1609. But, did you know that Galileo got his idea from a Dutch man called Hans Lippershey?

Lippershey had built his 'Dutch perspective glass' a year earlier. However, he wasn't given a **patent** for his invention. A patent is a licence or special permission from the government. It protects an inventor from having their ideas stolen or copied by others.

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Galileo's telescope was similar to Lippershey's, but more powerful.

Hans Lippershey, pictured working on his telescope

Galileo was already an **astronomer**, mathematician and scientist. He heard about Lippershey's idea, made it better and called it a telescope. Lippershey's telescope was used to see over long distances on Earth. Galileo turned his invention to the stars.

In 1610, Galileo used his telescope to discover a group of moons around Jupiter. These moons became known as the Galilean moons.

Lippershey's contribution to astronomy was honoured when a crater on Earth's moon was named after him.

Replicas of Galileo's telescopes, like this one, are useful for research, teaching and display.



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Benjamin Franklin Flies a Kite

It was June, 1752. The sky was dark. Lightning flashes lit up the storm clouds above. Benjamin Franklin watched as his kite soared higher in the gusting wind …

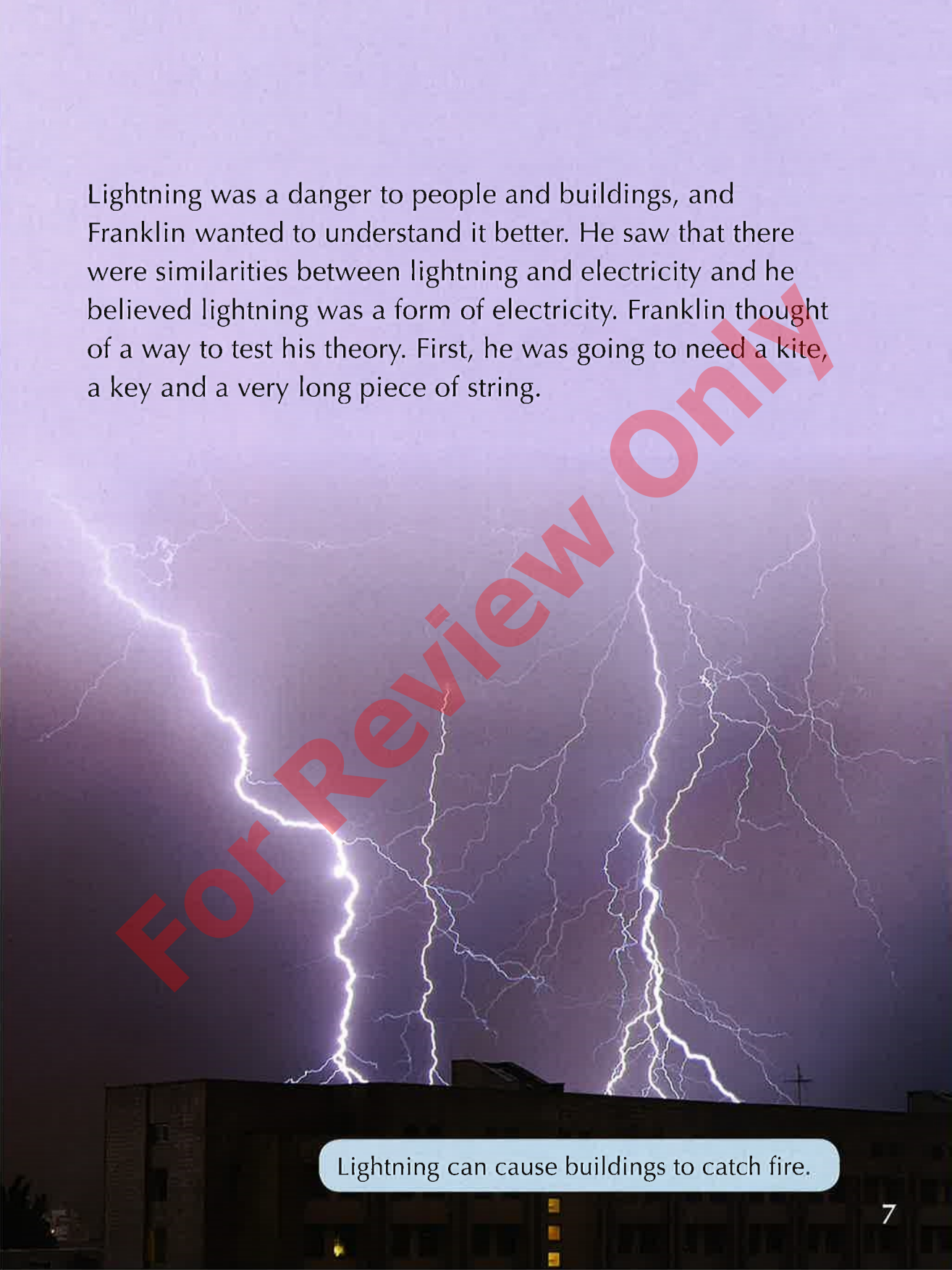
Today, most people would never fly a kite in a thunderstorm, but lightning fascinated Franklin. He had a great curiosity about the world.



Benjamin Franklin, pictured in his study as lightning strikes outside

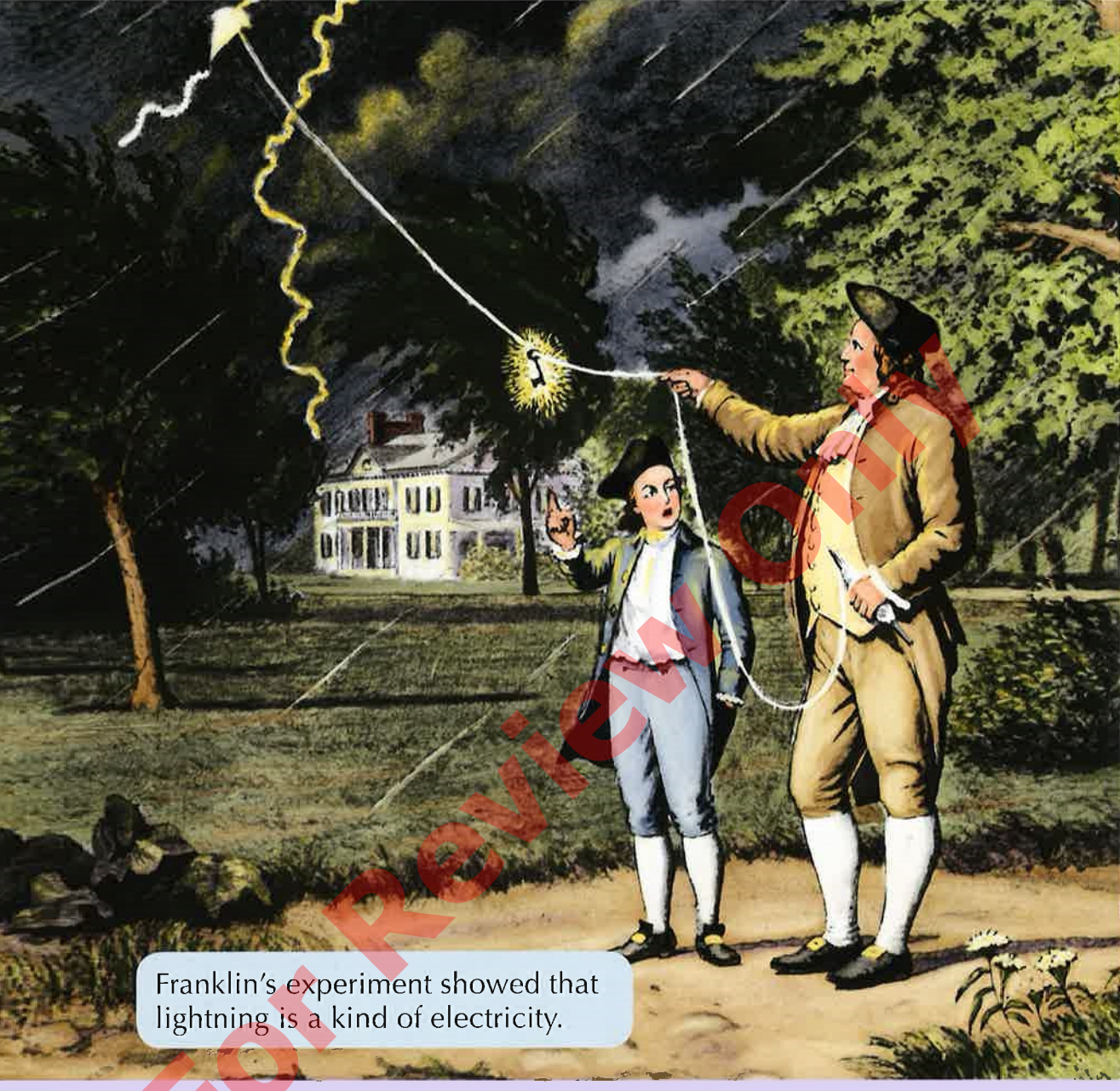
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Lightning was a danger to people and buildings, and Franklin wanted to understand it better. He saw that there were similarities between lightning and electricity and he believed lightning was a form of electricity. Franklin thought of a way to test his theory. First, he was going to need a kite, a key and a very long piece of string.



Lightning can cause buildings to catch fire.

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Franklin's experiment showed that lightning is a kind of electricity.

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As the storm came closer, Franklin's kite string began to fluff up like a cat's tail. When he touched the key that was tied to the string, an electric shock cracked through him. His hunch had been right – lightning was electrical!