

Lesson 1

READ THIS STORY #2, Basic

The Nobel Prize

Alfred Nobel was a Swedish munitions dealer who became a millionaire by inventing dynamite. But when he read a review of his work in a newspaper column, he was stunned to see himself characterized as “The Merchant of Death.” He didn’t want people to think of him that way. He wanted to be remembered as a generous and optimistic person.

So in his will, Alfred Nobel established the Nobel Prize. Every year, a Nobel Prize is awarded for worldwide leadership and achievement in Physics, Chemistry, Literature, Economics, Medicine and Physiology, and for Peace. The prizes are awarded in Sweden, and they include cash as well as a trophy. Winners often become famous and are held in high esteem by their peers.

Only one person has ever won the Nobel Prize in two different science categories. Madam Curie, the most famous woman scientist at that time, was awarded the Nobel prize in both Chemistry and Physics. She was born in Poland, married a Frenchman, and worked with him to discover a radioactive element called Radium. Unfortunately, she died from overexposure to that dangerous radioactive element.