Answer Key: Spellbound Episode 6 Nancy Jackson: Video Questions

Instructions
While watching the video, answer the following questions:

1. What was unusual about Nancy’s grandmothers that influenced her education?
   Both of her grandmothers got their master’s degrees in the 1920’s, so she was expected to get an education and be involved in the world.

2. What was Nancy’s original major in college?
   Political Science

3. What convinced Nancy to change her major to chemistry?
   A mentor, her chemistry professor, convinced her to change her major to chemistry because he said she could probably make a bigger impact in policy as a scientist than if she majored in political science.

4. What did Nancy like about being in the lab?
   She enjoyed making things change, making things happen in the lab.

5. What class challenged Nancy in college?
   Pre-calculus

6. Who was Nancy’s mentor while she worked at the American Chemical Society and how did he influence her career?
   Harry Gray; he believed Nancy would be happy getting her Ph.D., so she went back to graduate school and got her Ph.D. in chemical engineering.

7. What work did Nancy do with the Department of State?
   She manages the international chemical threat reduction department, solving problems related to international chemical security.

8. How does Nancy encourage young scientists from minority backgrounds?
   Serving as a mentor, being involved in the ACS Younger Chemists Committee and the Committee on Minority Affairs.

After you watch the video, reflect on the following questions:

9. Nancy thought she had to choose between political science and chemistry, and she ended up choosing to study chemistry in college. However, she was able to use her scientific knowledge to influence policy later in life. Think of two of your interests that seem very different and come up with a way to connect them – be creative!
   Answers will vary.
10. Nancy was so shaken by her poor performance in a math class that she dropped out of college for a while. However, she went back to school, retook the class and ultimately got her Ph.D. in chemistry. Think of a time when you experienced a setback (in school, your personal life, in a job, etc.) – how did you respond to it? How might you respond differently now?

*Answers will vary.*

11. If you had the opportunity to ask Nancy one question (about anything – her work, her life, etc.), what would it be?

*Answers will vary.*