

BOOK REVIEW

Chemistry in the Marketplace

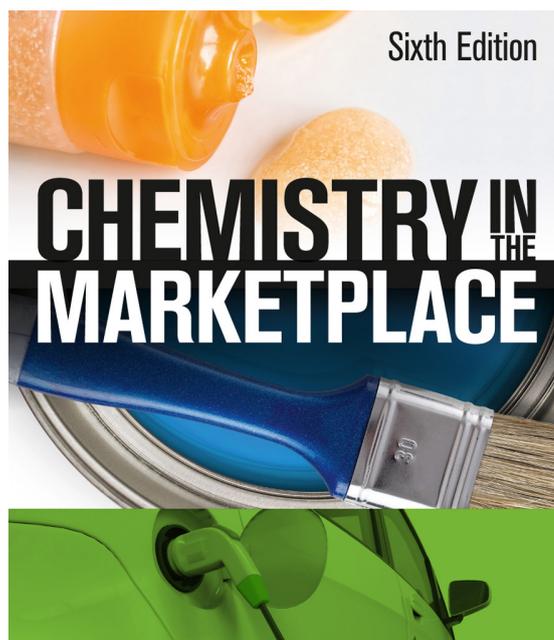
(Sixth edition)

Authors: Ben Selinger and Russell Barrow**Publisher:** CSIRO Publishing**ISBN:** 978-1-486-30332-8**Reviewed by** Zsahni Karagiannis,
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It is no secret that students need to see the relevance of the work they are undertaking to engage and actively participate in their learning. The curriculum also expects students to explore subject matter in a real-world context. There are some topics for which this context and relevance is easily found, but at times this can be difficult, especially for those new to the profession. For students, the exploration can be complex, with many not knowing where to start or lacking understanding of the terms used. Furthermore, many students don't see the relevance of chemistry to everyday life. The book *Chemistry in the Marketplace* contains 24 chapters of interesting facts and information that help to address these problems.

Chemistry in the Marketplace is a great resource for students and teachers as it provides clear, concise information while supporting understanding through its appendices (which are referred to throughout its chapters). Although the book contains 500 pages, it is made reader-friendly by breaking up the content into many well-named chapters like, 'Chemistry in the dining room' and 'Biochemistry of metabolism and sport'. The book also contains a glossary of terms to further assist in the understanding of the content and with vocabulary development. Some information in the publication would be best understood by students in Year 10 and beyond, however, there is still a lot that is relevant to middle school students. Furthermore, the way the book is laid out scaffolds the junior reader, or the layperson, in their journey towards developing a better understanding.

Throughout the book, there are relevant and well-placed graphs, tables, pictures and diagrams that support the text and

**BEN SELINGER AND RUSSELL BARROW**

help readers to understand the content. Each section includes web-based and hard copy references, making the book a solid resource for developing understanding or as a springboard to further learning. There is also a useful chapter of 24 short experiments and demonstrations, most suitable for middle school science, but which could be adapted for senior school. These include testing the ingredients of antiperspirants, and making a polymer bouncy ball. There are additional experiments dotted through the chapters which provide some opportunity for practical application of the content.

Had I been given this book early in my career, it would have certainly made my life easier when developing chemistry units for my students and searching for real-world links. Fourteen years on, it is still going to be useful. There are many examples that I will be able to extract and use in different ways. It will be useful to facilitate inquiry-based learning as well, assisting in highlighting the relevance of chemistry in everyday life. Having this book as a resource also means not having to wade through a lot of internet resources that can be rather repetitive, contain errors, or are hard to locate. Overall, this is a useful book for new teachers as well as the experienced practitioner.