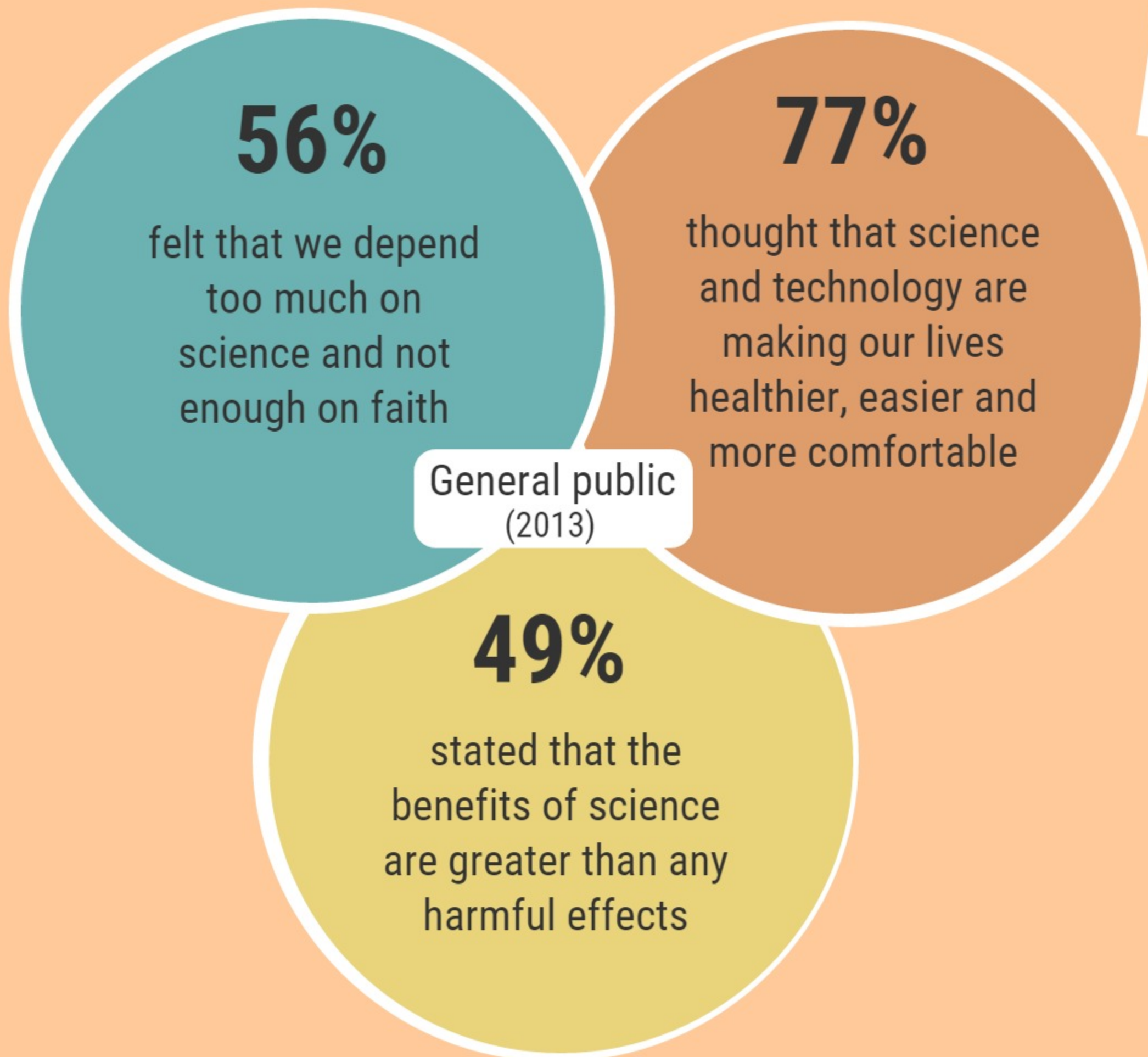
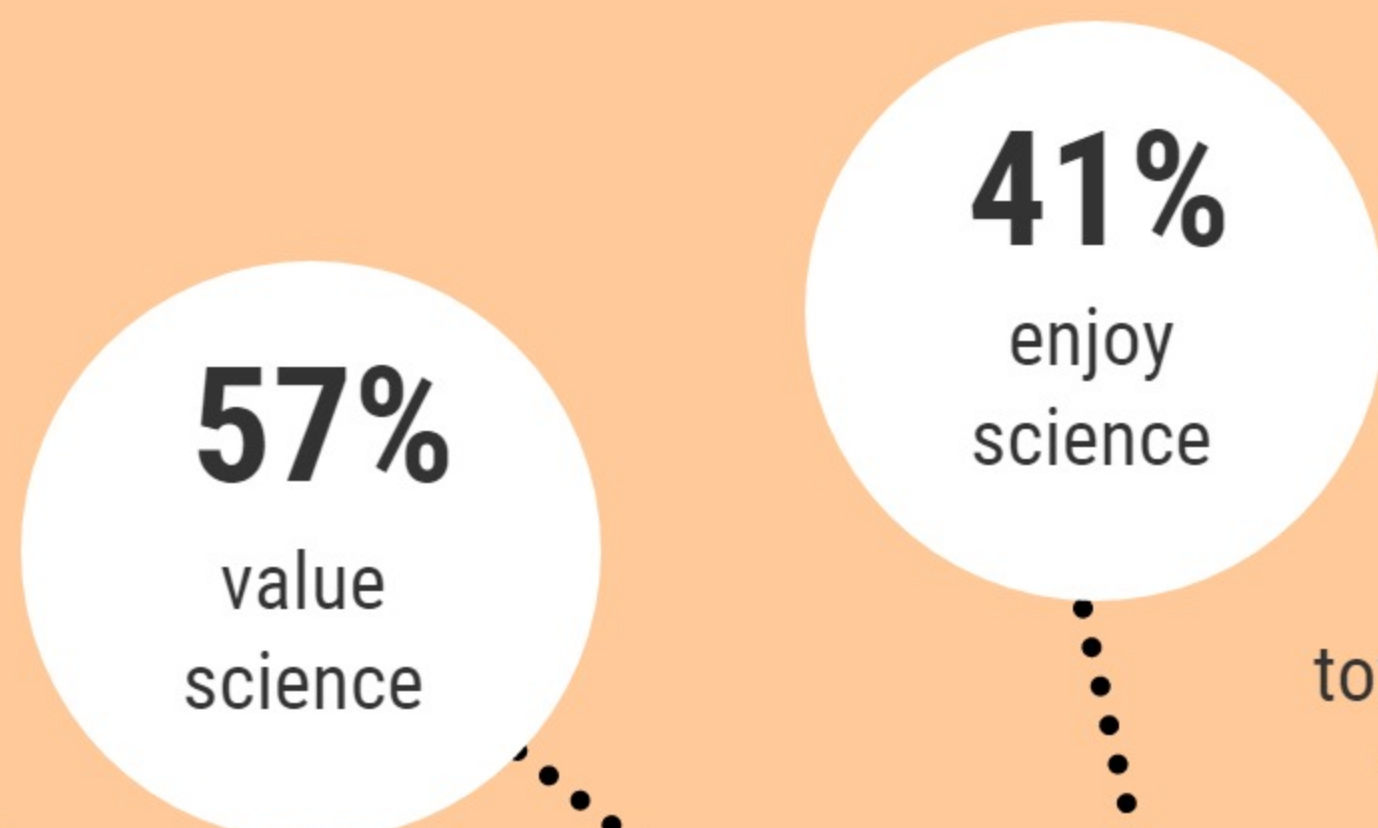
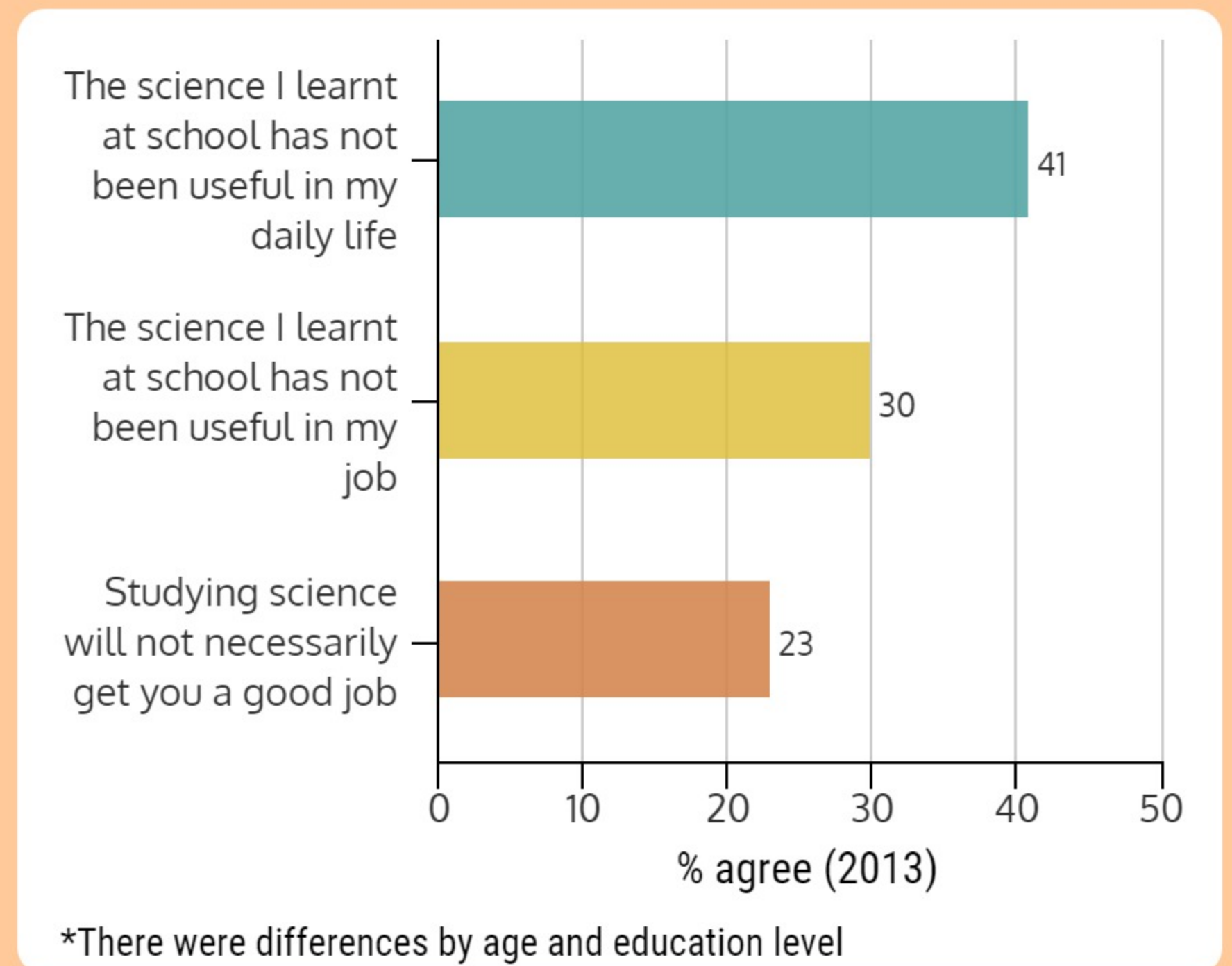


Attitudes towards science in South Africa

There is an assumption that a positive relationship between the public, and science and technology, can support economic, personal and social development, as well as strengthen democracy and citizenship. Using data from the 2013 South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) and the 2011 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), we examine South Africans' attitudes towards science.

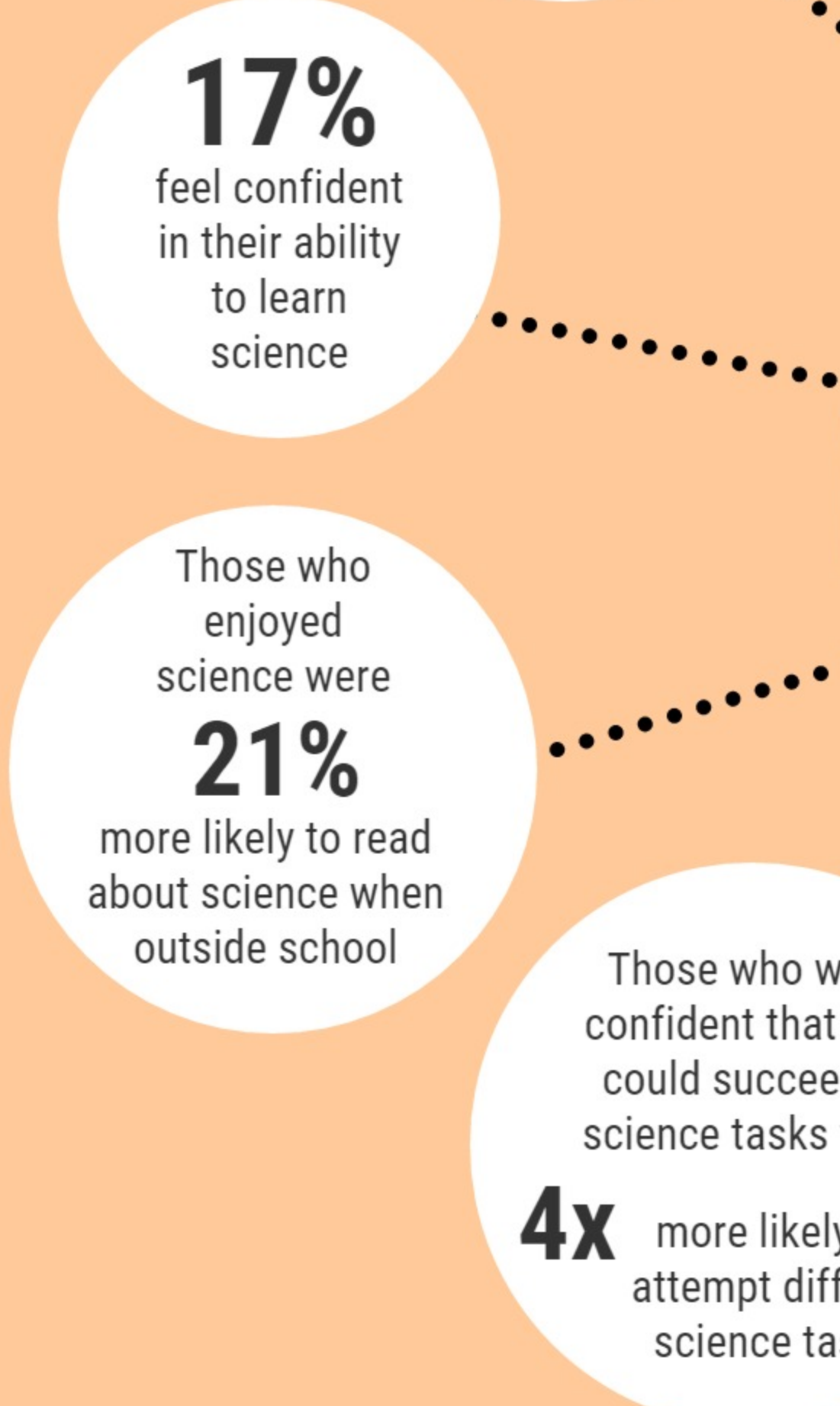


But the general public's attitudes towards the science learnt at school are less positive



At the school level, grade 9 learners tend to exhibit less positive attitudes towards science. Those learners that do have positive attitudes towards science tend to engage in behaviours such as reading about science and attempting difficult science tasks.

TIMSS (2011)



Therefore...

Schools can play a role in shaping positive views about the role of science in society. This will lead to more scientifically literate and engaged citizens within society.