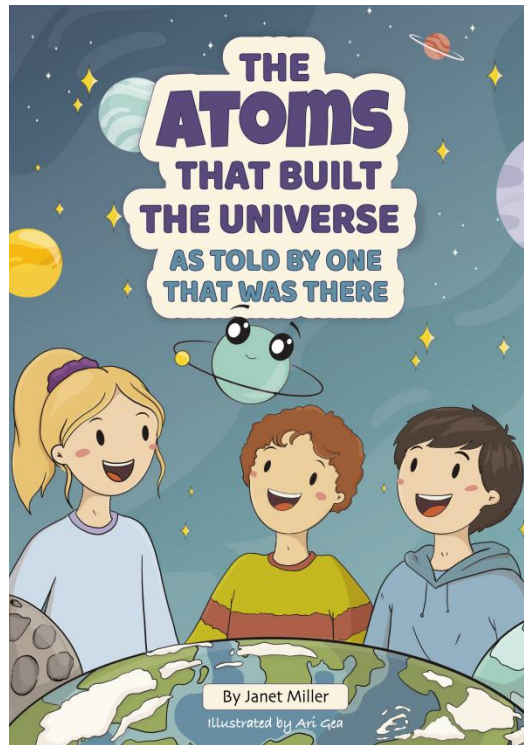


THE ATOMS THAT BUILT THE UNIVERSE

As Told By One That Was There

By Janet Miller



SCRIPT

SETTING AND CHARACTERS 1: The lively Carina Middle School Cafeteria at lunchtime

STELLA: Enthusiastic, full of questions, and leads the lunchtime conversation.

NASH: Has dark hair and can be arrogant and confrontational. He moves quickly and is constantly looking around him.

LEO: Catches on quickly. He has wavy brown hair and his eyes are open and wide awake, although he appears calm.

SETTING AND CHARACTERS 2: Outer space, where we watch Flighty journey through 13.8 billion years as the universe begins in blackness and evolves as atoms form, then stars, and then galaxies and life.

HYDROGEN ATOMS: (Flighty, Hoopla, Spunk, others) The simplest of all atoms, with one proton and one electron, hydrogen atoms react with the atoms of many elements, as they are friendly and adventurous.

FLIGHTY HYDROGEN: Our tour guide through the universe: a hydrogen atom, 13.8 billion years old. Friendly and adventurous, Flighty floats through space, mostly alone, for billions of

years so is always excited to bump into other atoms and chat, however briefly.

HELIUM ATOMS: All helium atoms are unsociable: Helium atoms seldom react with other atoms, not even other helium atoms.

OXYGEN ATOMS: Atoms of oxygen, an element that combines easily with other elements, are essential for life and for combustion. They are energetic non-stop talkers.

NITROGEN ATOMS: Quiet and indifferent.

CARBON ATOMS: Carbon atoms are strong and quirky. They are the fundamental components of life.

OTHERS as encountered.

CHAPTER 1 TITLE PAGE

Chapter title page image: on a plate filled with French fries, Flighty Hydrogen, a hydrogen atom in one of the fries, is looking around curiously, eyes wide open.

1. TITLE: CHAPTER 1
2. SUBTITLE: What's It Made Of?

PAGE 1

SCHOOL CAFETERIA - LUNCHTIME

Row 1, Panel 1: ESTABLISHING SHOT of the middle school building from outside.

Row 2, Panel 2: The cafeteria, large enough for about 200 students, showing kids with lunch trays on the table in front of them, chatting away.

Stella is at the lunch counter. Students have lots of energy. NO TEXT

Row 3, Panel 3: Stella arrives at the table with Leo and Nash. She puts her tray on the table. It holds a typical school lunch. The food can vary, except there MUST be a pile of French fries on her plate. Leo's finished his lunch and Nash has a lunch tray in front of him with food left, but he's eating his last fry and looks longingly at Stella's.

1. NASH: Hi!
2. STELLA: Hi!
3. LEO: Hi!

Row 3, Panel 4: Nash reaches for one of Stella's fries.

4. NASH: Good fries today!
5. STELLA: Nash!

Row 3, Panel 5: Stella protects her fries with her hands.

6. STELLA: Don't even ask. You can't have my fries.

Row 4, Panel 6: Stella waves one of her fries.

7. STELLA: Not even **this one**. But look at it...

Row 4, Panel 7: Stella stares at the fry in her hand.

8. STELLA: What do you think it's made of?

Row 4, Panel 8: Nash considers the question.

9. NASH: Hm...Potatoes?

PAGE 2

STELLA'S QUESTION

Row 1, Panel 1: Stella still holds the fry.

1. STELLA: I know, potatoes, Nash.

Row 1, Panel 2: Now Stella's studying the fry.

2. STELLA: But what's a potato made of?

Row 1, Panel 3: The answer continues. The illustration shows Nash and Leo.

3. LEO: They're made from proteins and fats and carbohydrates. Like all food.

Row 1, Panel 4: Show Nash and Leo and various items made from fats, proteins, and carbohydrates.

4. LEO: Even strawberry ice cream.

Row 2, Panel 1: Stella is still staring at the fry in her hand, thinking.

5. STELLA: Sure, Leo, and we're told those are made of atoms. But...

Row 2, Panel 2: Flighty Hydrogen, a visible, marble-sized hydrogen atom with eyes, comes toward the kids from the direction of the fry. Nash, Leo, and Stella stare. And Flighty talks!

6. STELLA: How can I believe everything's made from things too small to see?

Row 3, Panel 1: Flighty Hydrogen, tiny but visible, comes out of a fry in Stella's dish.

7. FLIGHTY: Hi!

Row 3, Panel 2: Nash, Leo, and Stella stare.

8. STELLA, LEO, NASH: ??!

Row3, Panel 3: Stella, Nash, and Leo continue staring at the fries as Flighty addresses their concerns.

9. FLIGHTY: I don't blame you for not believing everything's made of atoms. But everything IS made of atoms.

Row 3, Panel 4: Flight, larger now, cheerfully continues.

10. FLIGHTY: But everything **IS** made of atoms.

PAGE 3

TALKING TO A HYDROGEN ATOM?

Row 1, Panel 1: Stella, Nash, and Leo stare and they have plenty of questions.

1. STELLA: Yikes! Who are you? What are you?

2. LEO: You look like an atom from our textbook.

3. NASH: Wow!

Row 1, Panels 2 and 3: Nash keeps talking!

4. NASH: But you can't be.

5. NASH: Atoms are things that are too small to see.

Row 1, Panel 4: More from Nash.

6. NASH: And they sure don't talk.

Row 2, Panel 1: Flighty continues the conversation.

7. FLIGHTY: Yup. I'm an atom.

8. BANNER UNDER
FLIGHTY: Flighty: The Hydrogen Atom

9. FLIGHTY: That's me. I came to answer your questions.

Row 2, Panels 2-3-4: Flighty continues explaining, getting smaller and smaller until disappearing into one of the fries.

10. FLIGHTY: After that, I'll get on with my normal life...too small to see.

Row 2, Panel 5: Nash, eyes wide open, expresses the craziness of the situation.

11. NASH: Stella, Leo, are we going crazy? We're talking to a talking atom?