

ONE STORY A DAY

WHERE SCIENCE MEETS EVERYDAY STORIES!

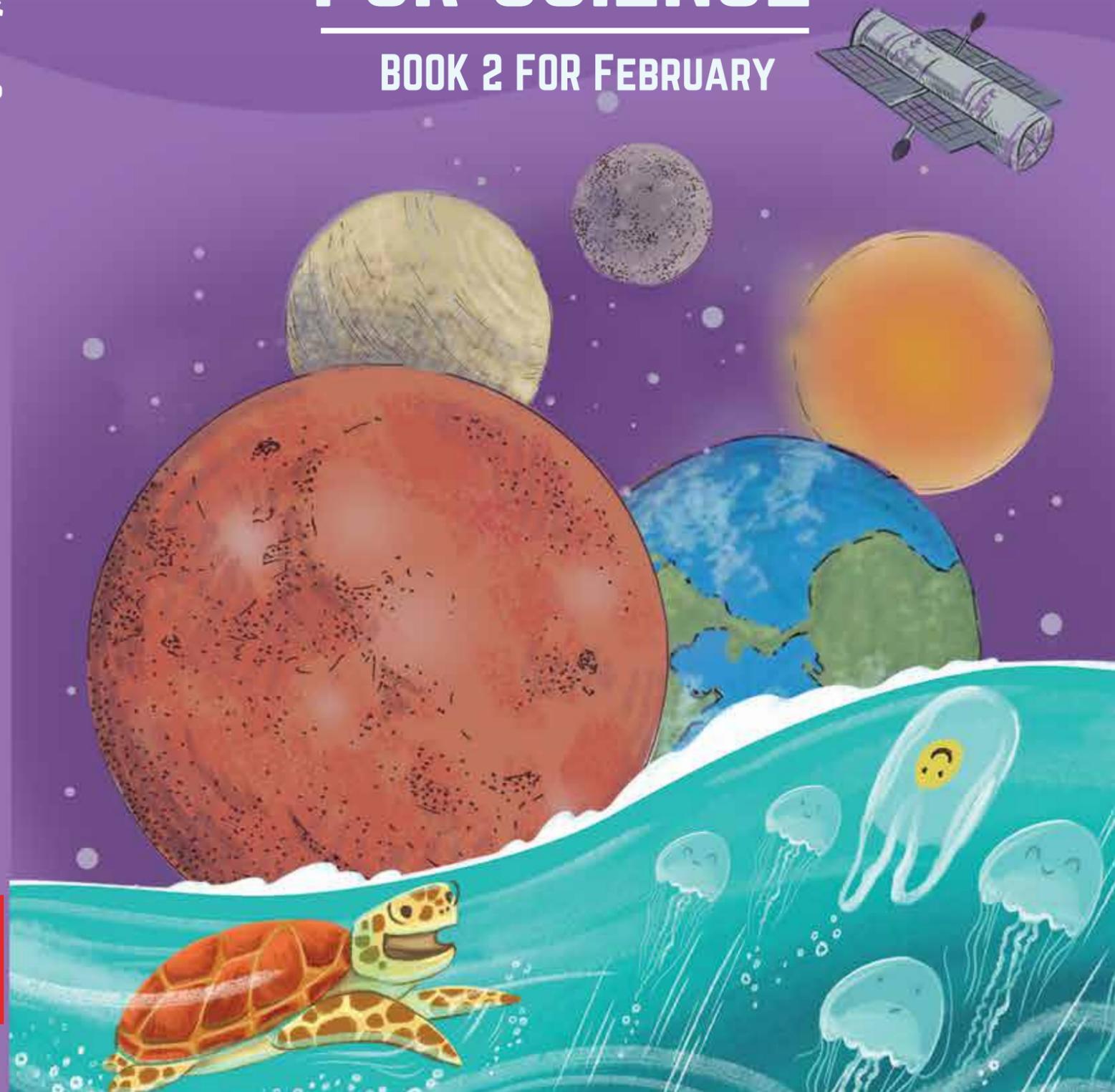


ONE STORY A DAY FOR SCIENCE

BOOK 2 — February

ONE STORY A DAY • FOR SCIENCE •

BOOK 2 FOR FEBRUARY



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Look at a Leaf

It was a beautiful autumn afternoon. Stephan and his dad sat under a tree and counted the leaves as they fell.

First, they counted one by one, then two by two and three by three. Then a gust of wind came up, the branches shook, and a flurry of leaves flew off.

They tossed about – too many to count – a burst of orange, red, and brown. Leaves scattered and swirled in the air, then touched down on the boy.

The pile of leaves grew so high that it covered him from head to toe. The boy jumped up, gasped for breath, and kicked the leaves away. “I couldn’t breathe in there,” he said.

His dad looked on and simply said, “Did you know that leaves breathe too?” He picked a green leaf from the tree and handed it to his son.

The boy was puzzled. That couldn’t be true. He picked up the green leaf and studied it closely.

“How do they breathe?” he asked.

“Come. Let’s have a look.”

The father went inside the house. He took out a magnifying glass and said, “We’ll need to look closely.”

Stephan looked very closely at the leaf. “Dad, I just can’t see how leaves breathe.”

“Here. Do you see these tiny, tiny lines? They’re the breathing tubes.”

“Yes. I see them.”

“Leaves take in air through those tubes. They use the carbon dioxide and release oxygen back into the air.”

“Wow!” Stephan took a deep breath and said, “So trees are busy sending oxygen into the air for us to breathe. Right, Dad?”

“Yes, indeed!” said his dad.



Glossary

autumn — one of the seasons, also called 'fall'

burst — break out suddenly

flurry — a small swirling mass of something, moved by wind

magnifying glass — a glass device that makes things appear bigger when you look through it

release — let go

toss — throw



Write the glossary words in alphabetical order.

Discovering Words

Punctuation marks are used to clarify meaning in writing. Let's first learn some of the names of the punctuation marks.

period or full stop .

comma ,

question mark ?

exclamation mark !

Properly punctuate this passage.

○ Well__ look at the leaves in autumn__ What do you see__

○ The leaves change into many colours__ Aren't trees amazing__

More about Leaves!

There is a plant in the Amazon called the Giant Water Lily. Its leaves are BIG, really big. How big? Two metres across.

Some trees drop their leaves every year and grow new ones in spring. These are deciduous trees.

Some trees keep their leaves year-round. These are conifer trees.

A cypress tree has the most leaves of any tree. This tree can have over 50 million leaves—on one tree. Wow!

It's Your Turn!

Another Way to Look at Leaves

Pick a green leaf from a tree. Fill a glass bowl with water. Put the leaf in the bowl of water. Put something like a little rock on top of the leaf to keep it under the

water. Put the bowl in a sunny spot. Go and play and come back a few hours later. Now look! What do you see?

Quick Quiz

Check Your Understanding.

- Leaves take in _____.
 - carbon dioxide
 - oxygen
 - water
- The tiny lines on the leaves are for _____.
 - breathing
 - sunlight
 - water

Answer: 1. Leaves take in carbon dioxide 2. breathing