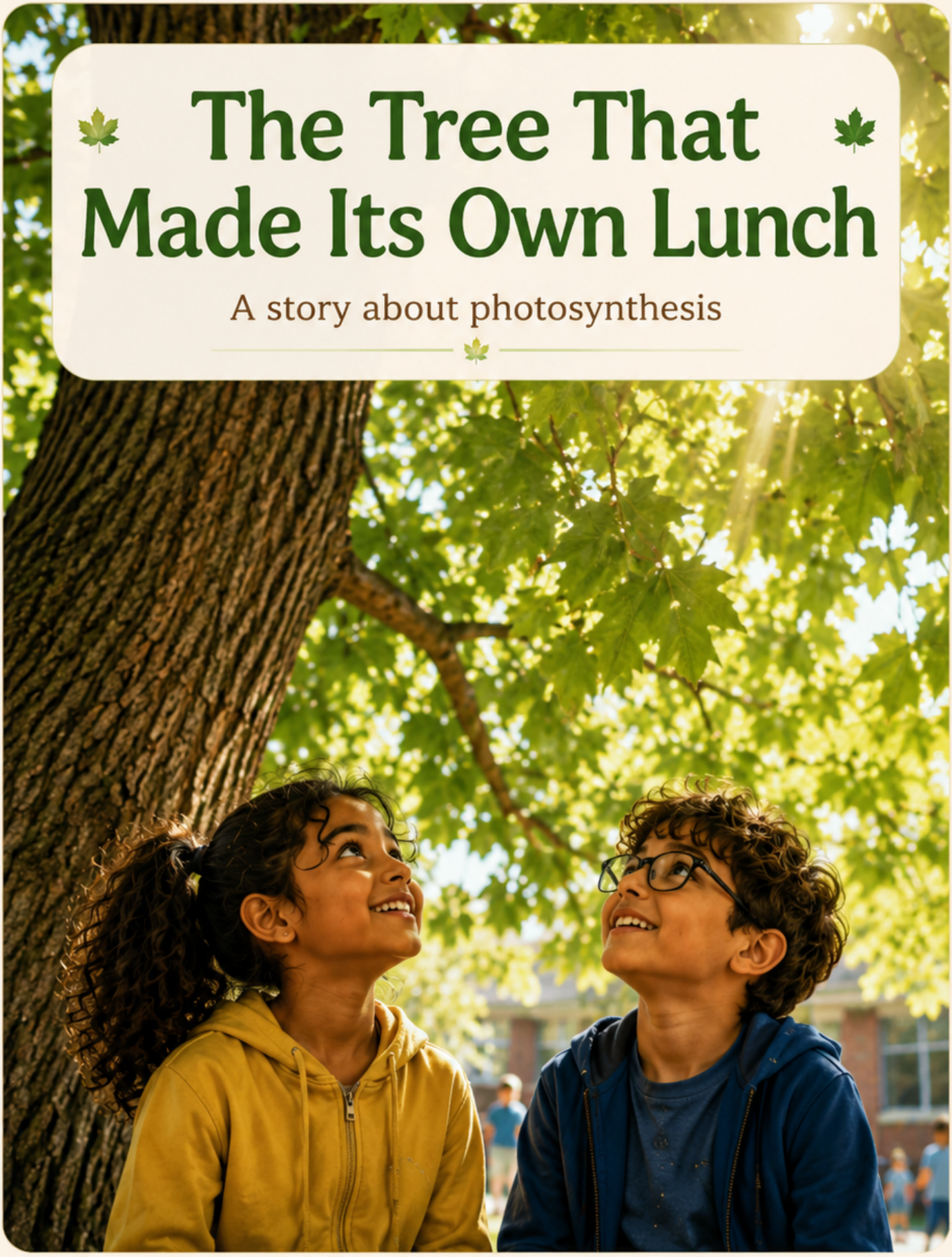
The Tree That Made Its Own Lunch

A story about photosynthesis



A science story for young readers

Science Fables



Asha and Noah sat under the big maple tree during lunch.

Noah opened his sandwich. Asha opened her fruit box.

Above them, the tree’s green leaves shimmered in the sunlight.

Asha looked up. ‘Noah, do trees eat lunch?’

Noah laughed. ‘I don’t think trees have lunchboxes.’

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Just then, Mrs. Patel walked by and smiled.

‘Plants do not eat dirt,’ she said. ‘They make their own food.’

Asha’s eyes widened. ‘Make their own food?’

Mrs. Patel held up a fallen leaf. ‘This leaf is like a tiny food factory.’

Noah leaned closer. ‘A food factory?’

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Mrs. Patel held the leaf toward the sunlight. ‘Inside this leaf are tiny green parts that help the plant catch light,’ she explained. ‘That green color comes from chlorophyll.’

Asha touched the leaf gently. ‘So the green helps the tree catch sunlight?’

‘Exactly,’ Mrs. Patel said. ‘The leaf is like a tiny food factory powered by the Sun.’



Then Mrs. Patel pointed to the ground. ‘The roots take in water from the soil,’ she said. ‘And the leaves take in carbon dioxide from the air.’

Noah looked around. ‘So the tree uses sunlight, water, and air?’

Mrs. Patel nodded. ‘Yes. That special process is called photosynthesis.’

Asha whispered the long word slowly. ‘Photo-syn-the-sis.’

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‘Photosynthesis helps the tree make sugar, which is its food,’ Mrs. Patel said. ‘And while it makes food, it also releases oxygen into the air.’

Noah took a deep breath. ‘So the tree helps us breathe?’

‘It does,’ said Mrs. Patel.

Asha smiled up at the leaves. ‘While we eat lunch under the tree, the tree is making lunch with sunlight.’

‘The coolest cafeteria ever,’ Noah said.

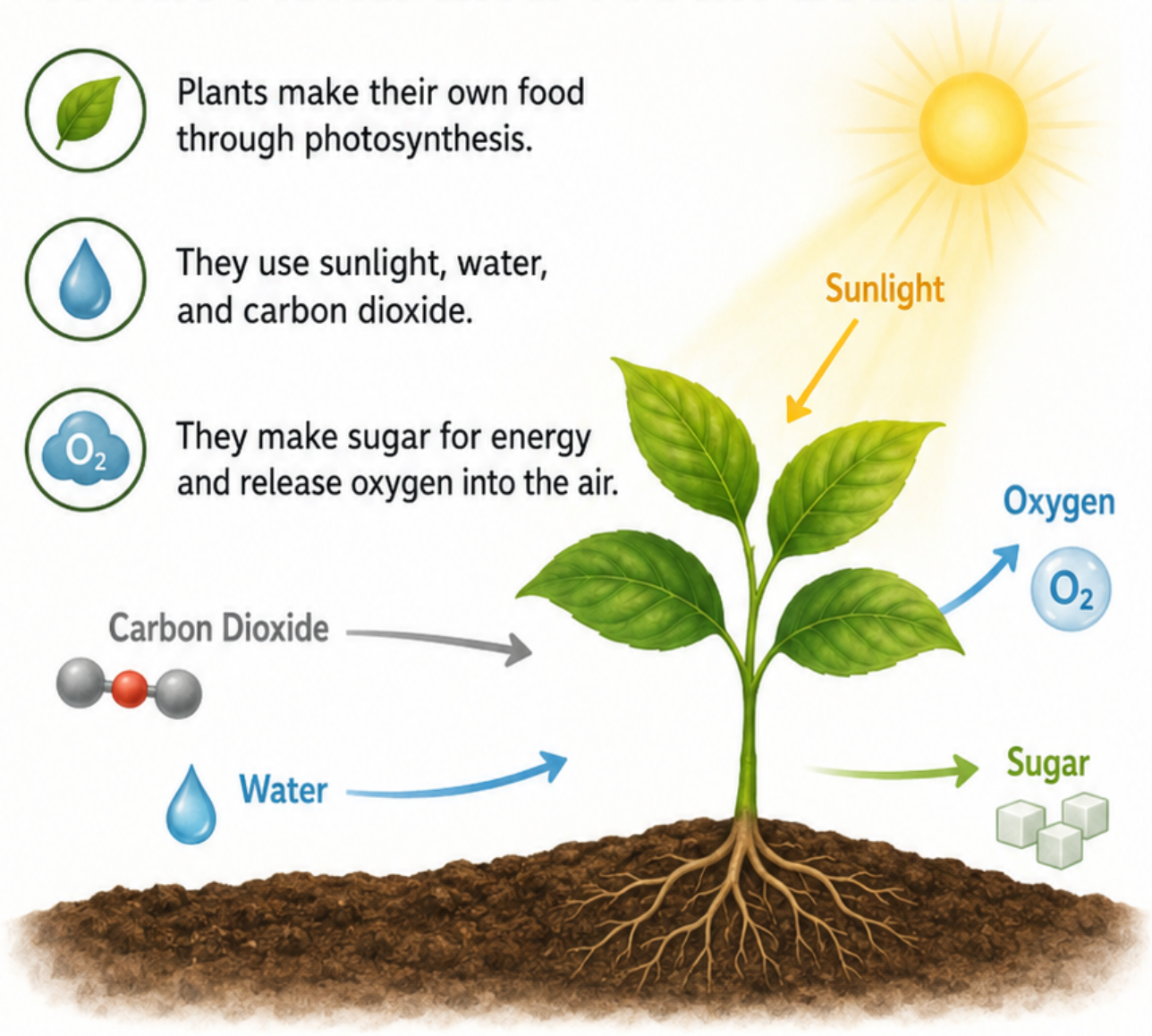
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What Asha and Noah Learned

Plants make their own food through photosynthesis.

They use sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide.

They make sugar for energy and release oxygen into the air.



sunlight + water + carbon dioxide → sugar + oxygen

Photosynthesis helps plants grow and helps people breathe.

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Later that afternoon, Asha drew a picture in her notebook. She drew sunlight shining on leaves, roots drinking water, and fresh air reaching the tree. At the bottom she wrote, ‘Plants are not just standing still. They are busy making food from sunlight.’

Noah looked at her picture and grinned.

‘Trees really do make their own lunch.’

THE END

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